

Farm Notes

By DON BERRY
County Extension Agent

The excellent weather we have had lately certainly brings spring fever to the home gardeners. A last minute tip for home owners this morning is the spraying for scale on evergreen trees and shrubs.

While they seldom kill entire plants, scale insects when accumulated in numbers on plants will kill twigs and limbs and cause the leaves to fall as well as making the plants look deformed and shaggy.

On needle evergreens look for small white flecks on the needles or twigs. Many pine trees are affected with needle scale and junipers of all types are often seriously attacked by this pest. The scale itself is often no bigger than a pin head but may go up to 1/4 of an inch or more in length.

On English laurel, home owners are complaining that the San Jose scale has invaded their hedges in recent years. If you have ragged, unsightly places developing in your laurel hedges, look closely for tiny circular dark colored scale on the leaves or twigs.

Also on English laurel as well as holly and camellias and other broadleaved evergreens a different kind of scale causes a sticky honeydew to form on the plants. A sooty mold grows on this honeydew and causes the foliage to turn black and sooty. Sometimes home owners think this black material on the leaves of their evergreen shrubs is soot from orchard heating. Actually scale is the culprit.

Scale Insect Problem

Certainly scale insects on needle evergreens like pine or juniper, as well as broadleaved shrubs offers a problem. The insecticide must be caustic enough to kill the insects and gentle enough not to harm the plants. On pine, fir and juniper, scale is controlled by spraying with summer oil just before new growth starts in the spring.

Three gallons of summer oil per hundred gallons of water, or one pint of summer oil in three gallons of water, is recommended. Remember, however, do not apply if daytime temperatures approach 80 degrees as some burning may occur on the plants. Some burn may occur even if the temperatures are not excessive, but by spraying just before new growth starts, slight injury is soon covered with new foliage.

Oil sprays are often used on many of the broadleaved evergreens like laurel or camellia. Here the oil is applied during the dormant and also sometimes in the summer. The strength of spray varies with the time of application, so be sure to read labels carefully.

Besides oil, Malathion is used to control various bugs including scales. Malathion has the advantage of being safer on plant foliage, and while it is not quite as effective as oil for scale control, repeat applications do a satisfactory job. Many growers apply a dormant oil spray and then follow with one or two Malathion sprays for complete cleanup.

Several sprays during the growing season to control heavy infestations of scale are sometimes necessary and thorough wetting of the plant is required.

Remember then, now is the time to check your ornamental evergreens and apply an oil spray for scale control if this pest is a problem. If you are not able to identify the scale insects yourself, feel free to snip a twig or a branch off and bring it in to our office and we will be glad to help you decide if a scale spray is necessary.

The Fish and Wildlife Service suggests that dog food is a potential market for fish. In a recent report by its research branch, the service asked fish merchandisers if enough of their business is "going to the dogs." The researchers pointed out that the dog food industry is a vast and, as yet, only partially exploited market.

Washington—UPI—The agriculture department has prepared an up to date food guide for families with school age children to aid the homemaker in food planning and budgeting.

The guide recommends amounts to buy and gives suggestions for using 11 food groups in planning weekly menus for a family of six, including four children ranging from 8 to 16 years of age.

The agricultural marketing service estimates that food is the biggest industry in the United States. Sales of food by wholesalers, retail stores, and restaurants now add up to 70 billion dollars annually. The average value of food consumed in 1960 including that raised by farmers for home consumption, has been estimated by AMS at about \$400 per person.

Food prices have been relatively stable in recent years, averaging about 2 per cent higher in January, 1960, than in January, 1952, as compared with an average increase of almost 15 per cent in other cost of living items over the same period, and an increase of 28 per cent in average per capita disposable income.

A new method of testing range cattle is resulting in major savings to beef producers in their efforts to eradicate brucellosis, a major livestock disease.

The method is based on use of a screening-type blood test of cull and dry cows on the way to or during slaughter. The reduction in ranch testing saves the majority of beef producers the expense and labor of handling cattle, as well as eliminating the possibility of injury to the animals themselves.

Washington—UPI—The American farmer, given good weather, today was on the way to producing another beautiful harvest of record or near-record proportions this fall.

An agriculture department report on farmers' planting intentions as of March 1 estimated that this year's crop would be grown on about 337 million acres, about one million acres below 1959. Last year's output tied the record of 1958 when the harvest rose 11 per cent above previous bumper crops.

Washington—UPI—A Farm Bureau spokesman said today federal regulation of wages paid farm labor will hurt many small farmers.

Matt Triggs, assistant legislative director of the organization, said large farmers can "substitute capital for labor, but the small farmer cannot, because he does not have the volume of production to permit economic allocation of the costs of the expensive machinery required."

Triggs cited a California farm management study showing that a small farmer could perform virtually all of the labor on 20 acres of tomatoes during the pre-harvest period. "But his total labor contribution to harvesting his tomatoes during a 6-9 week period is negligible," Triggs said.

"He is just as dependent upon a migratory labor supply as his larger neighbor."

Washington—UPI—The agriculture department's livestock division is looking into the possibility of revising the present grading system for beef. In effect, the revision would take some of the excess fat off beef sold at the retail meat counter.

The department, taking note of increasing consumer aversion to excess fat on meat, said a study is under way to help bring to market high-quality beef with a minimum of fat.

The livestock division conducts the government meat grading service which has provided food shoppers with a reliable guide to meat quality for years.

Americans Safe On Downed Plane

Cairo—UPI—A missing seaplane with eight Americans and one other passenger aboard has been found with, all safe, the United Arab Republic Air Force reported today.

The American Catalina was reported missing Tuesday night. It carried members of the Kendall family of LaVerne, Calif., believed to include Thomas Kendall, a producer of Travel Films, and Mr. and Mrs. Shearer Kendall. The ninth passenger was Italian cameraman David Lorenzo.

The U.A.R. said the plane was found in the international zone along the Jordan-Saudi Arabian border, where the two nations meet at the Gulf of Aqaba.

The plane apparently was the same one that caused an international incident between Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Lumber Industry Future Promising

Portland—UPI—There is no adequate substitute for lumber so the future of the industry is as promising as the future of the country as a whole, a lumber executive said Wednesday.

Thomas J. McHugh, Boston, president of the National Lumber Manufacturers Association, said "No one has yet invented—and no one ever will invent—a material with the remarkable composition, constitution and versatility of wood."

He addressed the West Coast Lumbermen's Association at its annual stockholders meeting.

Nitrogen Fertilizers Boost Farm Incomes

Corvallis—Use of nitrogen fertilizer adds about \$30,000,000 to Oregon farmers' pocketbooks each year, reports Dr. H. B. Cheney, head of the Oregon State college soils department.

Nitrogen fertilizer continues to be a "best buy" even though farmers practically never get 100 per cent recovery of added nitrogen in the crop to which it's applied, he notes. Research at OSC and in other states indicates that 70 per cent recovery of the nitrogen applied is real good.

What happens to the rest of the nitrogen? Dr. T. L. Jackson, OSC soils specialist, explained that some nitrogen may be lost by leaching; some may escape into the air under certain conditions; and some will be incorporated into soil organic matter.

OSC soil scientists have found little basis for claiming superiority of one kind of nitrogen fertilizer over another. In 65 field experiments in Oregon, no one nitrogen fertilizer was consistently better than another when the fertilizer was applied properly. Fertilizers compared included: ammonium nitrate, urea, ammonium sulfate, calcium nitrate, anhydrous ammonia, and aqua ammonia.

Regardless of the type of nitrogen fertilizer used, Oregon farmers can expect less than 5 per cent loss of nitrogen to the air when the fertilizer is applied properly to the soil, Jackson said.

Situations Listed

He listed three situations when farmers should expect loss to the air:

When nitrate nitrogen is applied to soils wet enough to have a poor supply of oxygen; when ammonium forms of nitrogen and urea are left on the surface of soils with a pH above 7.0; and when high rates of urea are left on the surface of acid, sandy-textured, moist soils at high temperatures (vegetative cover will reduce this urea loss).

Losses from urea should not be expected when irrigation or rain immediately follow application. Cheney suggests farmers consult their county extension agent for detailed information about these factors affecting loss.

Researchers found some experiments where one source of nitrogen gave better results than other sources. But in every case there were other experiments where this source of nitrogen wasn't superior, Cheney pointed out.

On the basis of the study, OSC researchers came to this conclusion—the nitrogen fertilizer that costs the least for each pound of actual nitrogen applied to the soil is usually the best. Costs of transportation, handling, and application should be included in figuring cost.

Of course, there are items other than cost to keep in mind. The value of other plant nutrients—such as sulfur—in some nitrogen fertilizers should be recognized, but only if that plant nutrient is needed in the soil on which the fertilizer is to be applied.

Dairy Calf Care Explained by Feed Field Man

By KEITH HOCKERSMITH
Grange Cooperative Supply Association Field Man

Several reports have been written on the most suitable way to raise dairy heifers to assure long life and greater production.

Most of these reports agree that overfeeding a dairy heifer is the least desirable since the animal's productive life is shortened and her production lessened.

Underfeeding slows development and reduces size but the animals recover considerably when given good care after calving.

Normal feeding to keep the animal thrifty and growing reasonably seems to be the best course for most animals since age of maturity, condition and production life seem to be optimum when the animal is neither underfed or overfed.

Good roughage, either pasture or good quality hay will generally provide adequate nutrition for the heifer after the animals are six to eight months old. Salt and mineral supplement should be made available.

The suggestion was made that dairy heifers should be bred at the second estrous period rather than at a predetermined age in months.

STOCK BROKER DIES
Ridgewood, N.J.—UPI—Henry H. Balfour, 54, senior partner of Orvis Brothers & Co. stock brokerage firm, died Wednesday.

MARKET NEWS

Red Bluff Livestock Auction Report, Tuesday, March 22, 1960.
CATTLE: Salable 350, including around 200 calves. Around 90 percent of supply stocker cattle and calves, the remainder mainly slaughter cows. Auction only moderately active, slaughter steers and heifers scarce; slaughter cows about steady; slaughter bulls and calves scarce; stock steer calves weak to \$1.00 lower, other replacement about steady. Bulk of supply of northern California origin.
SLAUGHTER CATTLE: Several individual Standard 800-1000 lbs. \$19.50-20.90, individual Utility and Commercial 850-1200 lbs. \$15.50-19.00, Canners and Cutters \$11.00-15.00.
STOCKER AND FEEDER STEERS: Few penlots and individual Good and Choice 350-525 lb. calves \$26.00-29.20, individual Common and Medium calves \$18.00-25.50. Small lots Good and Choice 350-850 lb. yearlings \$25.00-26.80, individual Common and Medium 550-800 lbs. \$15.00-22.00.
STOCKER AND FEEDER HEIFERS: Individuals and small lots Good and Choice 350-500 lb. calves \$25.00-26.25, Common and Medium calves \$18.00-24.50.
STOCK COWS: Small lots Common and Medium with young calves at side \$17.00-22.00 per pair, small lot good with young calves at side \$26.00 per pair.
HOGS: Salable 37. Supply mainly feeder pigs; market steady to strong. Feeder pigs: Small lots Good and Choice under 50 lbs. \$3.50-6.00 per head.
SHEEP: Salable 37. Supply mainly feeder old crop lambs.
FEEDER LAMBS: One lot Good and Choice 89 lbs. old crop \$15.80, one lot Good 91 lbs. \$14.50.
Paul H. Lehigh
Federal-State Market News Service

Allergen Compound Research Findings Reported by OSC

Corvallis—Significant new findings about allergen compounds in grass pollen and house dust have been reported by a team of Oregon State college research scientists.

The OSC workers have proved the existence of a previously unknown pollen compound that although inactive itself is similar—and likely related—to the allergen compound that causes trouble. The inter-relationship of the two compounds will be investigated during coming months and could provide new insight into the complex allergy problem.

The scientists also believe they may have isolated in pure form, for the first time, the allergen compounds from grass pollen and house dust. Greater understanding of the nature and chemical makeup of the allergens and more precise knowledge of their reactions with body tissue should aid scientists in finding more effective treatments and preventives, Dr. Arthur Lietz, project leader, explained.

Approximately one person out of 10 is affected by allergies in this country, it is estimated. In western Oregon, house dust and grass pollen account for most of the inhalant asthma and hay fever. Almost unbelievably small amounts of the allergy compounds will bring reactions in some persons.

Helping support the OSC studies are research grants from the U.S. public health service, the Mathews Fund for Asthma Research at the University of Oregon medical school, and the Allergy Foundation.

Three County Chapters Take Both Honors, Offices

Representatives of the three Jackson county Future Farmers of America chapters took both offices and honors during the 32nd annual state convention held in Pendleton March 16-19, chapter advisors reported.

Twenty-six members of the three chapters were among the 500 members from 89 Oregon chapters present. Two Crater chapter members and two Phoenix chapter members were presented the State Farmer degree during the colorful ceremony. Those receiving the degree were David Foote and Jim Frink, both of Crater chapter; and Bill Rasmussen and Leon Small, both of Phoenix chapter. This honor can be awarded to 2 per cent of the state FFA members. The four from Jackson county were among 76 awarded during the convention.

During the parliamentary procedure contest Phoenix chapter took fourth place, representing the Rogue-Umpqua district. Those on the parliamentary team were Leon Small, chairman; Bill Rasmussen, Don Whiteside, Mike Lowery, Ernie Bolz, Jim Martin, and alternates, Chet Caster and Jim Schwieter. Leon Small of Phoenix chapter also placed fourth in public speaking. Leon's speech was on "Farming—Past, Present, and Future."

Don Carnes, Eagle Point, took first place in the Talent contest with an accordion solo. Crater chapter's Rogue Ramblers placed third. Members of this combo group are Dennis Samples, Leon Sherman, Dan Mattson.

Eagle Point and Crater chapters also received master chapter ratings. This is designed to create and increase member interest, stimulate cooperative effort and crystallize chapter programs. Chapters are selected on the basis of outstanding programs of work and accomplishments.

The chapters also took honors with the secretary's book submitted by Don Ryan, Crater, the treasurer's book submitted by Chet Caster, Phoenix, and the advanced project record book submitted by Pete Melsted, Crater.

Don Bohnert, Central Point, was one of the 11 honorary state farmers named. Bohnert was recognized for being very active in promotion of FFA and agricultural activities and the fact that he also holds the honorary chapter farmer degree.

County delegates were John Caster and Don Ryan, both of Crater chapter; Bill Rasmussen and Mike Lowry, both of Phoenix chapter; and Edvin Hawkins and Don Pestka, Eagle Point. Alternates were Steve Geren and Dal Vaughn.

Elvin Hawkins, Eagle Point, was asked to serve on the state dairy farming committee. This is just one of the many committees formed during the state convention. The job of this committee was to interview the boys trying for the State Dairy Farmer degree.

Dave Foote, Crater, was named state reporter. Leon Small, Phoenix, was on the nominating committee to select candidates for state treasurer.

John Caster, Crater chapter, was on the national convention travel committee, and Bill Rasmussen, Phoenix, on the farm electrification committee.

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