

GARDENING TIPS

By DON BERRY
County Extension Agent
Home owners interested in putting in new lawns or renovating old ones should get them started as soon as the ground is dry enough to prepare a good seed bed.

There are many methods for planting new lawns and much controversy as to which is the best. Certain fundamental practices, however, are used and principles such as preparing a good seed bed, letting it settle, and bringing it to a good grade prior to planting, along with applying fertilizers and working organic materials into the ground as a preplanting practice are universally approved.

The types and varieties of grasses and methods of handling weeds are two of the most argumentative points. Three new pamphlets are available at the county agents' office covering "Starting New Lawns," "Lawn Pests," and "Lawn Care." These are available to anyone who would like to stop by and pick them up, or telephone and have them mailed to you.

People who are interested in solving specific problems would no doubt like to attend the lawn clinic which will be held Thursday, April 7 at 2 p.m. on the front lawn of the Medford High school. Dr. Norman Goetze, turf specialist from the college, will be on hand to discuss lawn problems with home gardeners as well as professional turf people.

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This meeting is open to the public with no charge so anyone interested in lawns or lawn care is welcome to attend. If it should be raining Thursday, it will be in the auditorium of the senior high school.

FLYING ANTS

Small flying ants are appearing in migratory swarms now that the warm spring weather has come.

These ants are clear-winged with dark bodies and about an eighth inch or a little more in length. They often are a nuisance in and around homes.

Robert L. Every, Oregon State college extension entomologist, says these ants, which are narrow waisted, should not be confused with termites which are not. Neither should they be confused with larger carpenter ants. Both termites and carpenter ants usually swarm later in the spring.

Presence of small flying ants may help in locating ant nests around the home, usually rather difficult to do, by watching where they're coming from. The ant nests can be treated with chlordane or dieldrin dust or spray. This is one of the most effective ways to control ant infestations.

FIRE IN TULIPS

Two diseases, each known as fire are fairly common to tulips and daffodils.

Each disease does not spread from tulips to daffodils or vice versa although the symptoms are similar—misshapen leaves and shoots, spotting of leaves and flowers, large dry areas on leaves (tulips), rotting of affected parts, and other symptoms. In tulips, a fuzzy gray mold growth is seen on blighted areas.

Control of the two diseases is essentially the same. Remove, carry away in paper bag and burn all affected leaves, shoots and flowers. Spray with 2 tablespoons of ferban per one gallon of water (add spreader-sticker) every 7 to 10 days. Where the disease is present, dig and replant (healthy bulbs only) in a new location next year.

EARLY VEGETABLE START
Best way to extend the growing season for vegetable

crops is to plant seed in small containers in greenhouses, hotbeds, or coldframes about 4 to 6 weeks before transplanting to field or garden.

Vegetables that transplant well include tomatoes, peppers, cabbage and lettuce.

Other vegetables, including squash, cantaloupes, watermelons, cucumbers, and other sweet corn need more care if transplanted. Chances of success are much greater if the original container is of pressed peat which can be planted along with the vegetable plant at transplanting time. This way, the plant's roots aren't disturbed.

Small squares of inverted sod, instead of paper or wood veneer containers have been used successfully, also.

ASPARAGUS WARNING

Setting a disk or spring-tooth harrow too deeply during early spring cultivations of asparagus beds can seriously damage asparagus crowns and lower yields. Before working up an asparagus field dig down or poke with a steel rod to find out exactly how far the asparagus crowns are below the soil surface. Then set the harrow accordingly.

Even with careful setting, a harrow may sink too deeply in soft spots and seriously damage some asparagus crowns.

CUCUMBER SUGGESTION

When cucumbers are planted in heavier loam soils, or in soils that aren't well drained, germination and early growth are improved by planting on soil ridges or beds 4 to 6 inches above normal ground level.

Plows or discs can be used to make the ridges, which should be about 2 feet wide on top. The ridge is similar to a back furrow that is firm and leveled on top by dragging or rolling.

The ridges or elevated beds provide better drainage, aeration and warmth.

About the only way rain will hurt rhubarb is by leaching nutrients out of the soil. An early spring application of nitrogen, about 50 pounds per acre, will promote more vigorous growth and higher yields.

Ammoniated phosphate is probably better than straight nitrogen fertilizer.

RED ROBIN ROSE
Advertising this of this hedge

rose is creating much interest. While these advertisements are written to sell a product they are generally quite true. Possibly, the profusion of bloom is not usually up to that advertised, but really is quite satisfactory.

This is a hardy southern rose, not a multiflora as some think, and is used for hedge plantings and as an understock for many southern grown roses.

It can be grown as a narrow hedge row. Main thing to remember is to cut it low at the beginning and to continue to cut back to the point where you need branching. It will make a hedge a little faster than private, possibly. Those roses bloom from early summer until late fall.

NEW BORDER PLANT

The only All-American medal winner for 1959 is the new pink heather alyssum. It is a soft lavender pink which is a shade deeper in color in the shade or in cool climates. It is a very delicate shade of pink in mid-summer and in warmer areas. It grows compactly, about 6 inches tall and has a profusion of bloom until late fall.

PLANTING TIPS

This time of year even the laziest gardener is apt to get enthusiastic over the approaching season!

Pictures in the seed catalogs make gardening appear simple. And besides, what tastes better than free vegetables fresh from the garden? Even the person who doesn't want to be tied down to a summer program of watering and weeding can enjoy some fresh vegetables from his own garden if the garden is a border of leaf lettuce.

Remember the luxury of a variety of leaf lettuces—fresh and tender from the garden? It's yours with almost no effort if you edge some of your flower borders with quick growing leaf lettuce.

Read catalogs carefully. You can select leaves to complement your late spring and early summer flower bed.

Plant at different times so that you won't have all the crop at one time. Another trick is to leave a small space every 18 inches for annuals. Then when the lettuce is too big it can be pulled and the colorful annual such as petunias and marigolds will soon spread to fill the gap.

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

The way things are the local peargrowers should be in the lemon business. Somebody is always putting the squeeze on them for something or other.

Perhaps one reason the fruitgrowers organized a Farm Bureau center in Medford is the fight which the national Farm Bureau organization has promised against Labor Secretary James P. Mitchell's proposal for a federal minimum wage law covering migrant farm workers.

John C. Lynn, legislative director for the American Farm Federation, remarked Saturday that farmers have voluntarily made "great advances" in raising wages and working conditions of migrant workers. This has raised farm costs, also, he said. The labor secretary is proposing a minimum wage for hired farm workers. He claims the country's 500,000 migrant farmhands need a minimum wage protection. They can expect to earn, he said, less than \$900 a year. Medford area employs about 2,300 migrant workers during the picking season. The average wage received is \$13 a day for the season, we learned from official sources.

One of the small fruitgrowers in the valley disclosed the other day that he used to be a fruit tramp. This, he said, helps him to understand the migrant laborers' problems. He employs five or six pickers, both local and from California. These return year after year. This small fruit-grower pays three cents more a box than average rates, but expects that much more work, too, he told us.

There's a vast difference between employing five or six pickers and over 100 as the larger orchards have to do. But, perhaps they would take any and all percentage of good, steady help if they could reach a better understanding with the fruit pickers on working conditions and wages.

Surplus wheat and programs to ease the surplus wheat problem are one big election issue. It affects everybody who eats and pays taxes. On June 30, 1959 there were larger stocks of wheat on hand than ever before at the end of a crop year. Many wheat programs have been developed, introduced in Congress and several have been put into operation. Oregon wheat growers have been busy promoting sales of wheat overseas. In fact, increasingly larger sums are spent trying to sell or give wheat to other countries. We can only judge then that no really workable plan for taking care of this surplus has been found.

General programs or philosophies on this current farm problem are: Government should get out of action programs at once. Supports, subsidies and action programs should be gradually eliminated. Finally, a third group believes some action program is necessary to ensure equitable incomes for farmers.

Those favoring a hands-off program think the forces of supply and demand will solve the problem. Those farmers who cannot make a living without government aid will quit. And the more who quit the stronger will be those remaining.

The second group believes a sudden halt on action programs would cause severe economic hardship to farmers and those who serve the farmer. A gradual elimination of government help would mean that in 5 or 10 years agriculture would be free to operate and sell without government interference.

A part of the third group believes that unless agriculture is prosperous the nation won't be. Others think farmers would be forced to live indefinitely on a lower plane than city dwellers who would continue to have very high living levels. Some apparently think this difference would be all right to the general public, but others think farmers are entitled to money incomes about equal to comparable workers in urban life.

These are the different opinions held by just plain citizens and prominent men in agriculture. It shows the confusion and disagreement about objectives for United States agriculture since World War I. This means people are groping their way toward a stable agriculture. At the same time the country urgently needs to know what is actually wanted and how to get it.

One big difficulty in making a scientific objective decision on what kind of program is needed is that there is not enough accurate information on agricultural income and assets on a national basis to learn how well off or how poorly off the farmers are, as a whole. This would apply to areas, types of farm business, sizes and characteristics of ownership and management, according to Harold F. Hollands, OSC agricultural economist.

Measuring income is a second difficulty. Just how much money does the farmer make? And how does he value this income or would he rather farm than do anything else because he places a higher value on his working happiness, rural life, home, etc.

A third difficulty in making a scientific evaluation of the problem is in the extent and types of competition in various parts of the economy. Without government help would farmers sell their goods in highly competitive markets and buy goods and hire labor in much less competitive markets?

People who are not farmers must remember that farming is different from big business. Most farms are family farms, the agricultural economists say. The number of farmers producing commercially any one commodity is large compared to industry. The volume of each is small compared to the total food supply. Production or price policy of one farmer or a group of farmers in a state or county would not materially change the overall price of that commodity.

Two important questions remain. How satisfactory are money incomes from comparing incomes of farm and non-farm people? Will commercial farmers obtain about the same size money incomes as comparable nonfarm businessmen during the next 20 years or so without government help?

Planning meetings will be held soon on the Oregon Cattlemen's association annual convention to be held here this summer. One thing sure the plans will be extensive. Everybody in the county and particularly in the city of Medford will know the cattlemen are in town even if they have to run a mass of cattle down Main st.

Rogue Soil Conservation district people and interested cattlemen will be making a tour soon over the Applegate areas which were used for the Fiecco plow demonstration in September. That was, if you will remember, when the Caterpillar Tractor company through Crater Lake Machinery company here brought in a huge sodusting, brush-ripping plow and tractor to see if brushy areas couldn't be reclaimed for pasture and range land.

Two things are still hanging over the heads of farmers in this area as well as in others. One is the wilderness area bill and the other is the movement toward creating more access across private land to public recreation areas. Not long ago J. H. Van Winkle, Oregon City, member of the Oregon state game commission, told the state natural resources committee that "preservation and development of access to federal lands is a national problem and responsibility."

An Oregon Farm Bureau representative suggested farmers would be more willing to allow hunters and fishermen access across their lands if the state would adopt a program for increased patrols and some form of insurance against damage. Whatever happened to the "Frontiers, Inc." program which local members of the Isaak Walton League were thing of trying here. This was an insurance program which was being tried in eastern Oregon to insure farmers against hunter damage.

Farm Fish Ponds Fun, Profitable

Corvallis—Back yard fishing is a source of both fun and profit for farmers who manage their farm fish ponds well, reports Andrew Landforce, Oregon State college extension wildlife management specialist.

As many as 500 adult medium-size fish can be grown in a one-acre pond stocked with largemouth bass and bluegill sunfish. That's plenty of good fishing for family, guests and neighbors.

A new Oregon State college bulletin tells how to manage warm water game fish ponds in Oregon. The bulletin suggests the best combinations of bass and bluegills for various parts of the state; tells where

to buy fish for stocking ponds; comments on pond size, plants and fertilizer; and suggests three good ways to catch bass and bluegills.

Oregon residents can get a free copy of "Managing Oregon Warm Water Game Fish Ponds" from their local county extension office, or from the OSC bulletin clerk, Corvallis.

Washington—UPI—The government has announced it will pay about 10 million dollars to cranberry growers who suffered losses through no fault of their own during last fall's cranberry-cancer controversy.

The White House said the

Pointing out that a minimum of 500,000 acres of public land was blocked by private land closures during 1958, Van Winkle made these recommendations:

An appraisal of all tracts of public land administered by the bureau of land management should be made to classify certain recreation areas for retention in public ownership. Federal holdings in these areas should be consolidated through land exchange or purchase. A permanent multi-purpose road system should be built to serve the selected areas.

Some Applegate farmers had been bothered by this recreation access problem. They had an earthfill dam across the river for irrigation purposes. This made an ideal swimming hole, also. A number of people were using it. Then when the Jackson county parks and recreation commission was considering adjacent land for a county recreation area the public swarmed in and threatened to destroy the dam. However, since that land has been placed under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service the farmers hope tighter control will be maintained.

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or.
Tuesday, April 12, 1960

indemnity payments would be made by the agriculture department and would approximate \$8 per barrel for cleaned, marketable cranberries.



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"WE BEAT SCAB WITH CYPREX"

Oregon pear grower obtained excellent scab control with Cyprex 65-W fungicide

Hob Deuel, Jr. is the owner-operator of Del Rio orchards at Gold Hill near Medford. He has 94 acres of pears in production and 28 acres of pears in new trees. Varieties raised are: d'Anjou, Seckles, Bartletts, Comice. Like other growers in the area, Mr. Deuel has had a scab problem.

He says: "We have always had to battle to control scab because of the location of our orchards." The orchards are on low ground along the Rogue River and there is an old abandoned pear orchard to the west across the river (upwind side). In the spring, there are early morning fogs and mists and the humidity is very high. Last spring was especially warm and humid. "Like a hot house," says Mr. Deuel, "really good weather for scab."

"Cyprex was a big help in our scab control program. In past years we have used up to five scab sprays on Seckles. This year we used only three sprays. The first two were non-Cyprex sprays—one at 90% bud separation and one at advanced popcorn. The two sprays were about five to seven days apart. This standard program was not holding so we put on Cyprex at advanced calyx. That stopped the infection."

Mr. Deuel applies a 400-gallon tank on 1½ acres on all sprays at a ground speed of 2½ m.p.h.



"Cyprex is a must for us in 1960," says Hob Deuel, Jr.

"Some fungicides give our pears a rough finish. Cyprex does not. It goes into solution easily," says Mr. Deuel.

How Cyprex works to give long-term protection PLUS eradication

Cyprex is an entirely new fungicide chemical that has proved its value in hundreds of tests over a 3-year period. It works as a protectant and an eradicant in control of scab fungus. It is equally effective against apple scab and pear scab and also controls cherry leaf spot.

Applied as a standard spray, it spreads a tough fungicidal barrier on leaves and fruit that gives top scab control even through heavy rains. Cyprex has built-in spreader-sticker action. Some Cyprex actually "moves around" during rains to cover adjoining new growth, while the original tissue remains protected. Cyprex penetrates throughout the leaf where it works from the inside out—killing scab spores that land. This is called local-systemic action. Even when Cyprex is sprayed after scab infection begins and spores

begin to germinate, Cyprex can knock out the infection inside the leaf. The spray also has deposited a protectant covering on the leaf. The next time it rains, this stick-tight fungicide will be ready to knock out new spores before they penetrate.

No fungicide in common use can give you the protection, plus extra-long eradicant action, you get with Cyprex. Cyprex is compatible with most commonly used insecticides and other fungicides. It's non-caustic, low in toxicity to orchard workers.

All the extra advantages you get with Cyprex give you that margin of control that can make the difference between fair and excellent crops. However, none of them eliminates the need for proper timing, good coverage, and a sound schedule.

Consult your local agricultural authorities for further information. Or write for leaflet PE 5061, American Cyanamid Company, Agricultural Division, Los Angeles 54, California.

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