

Virus Symptoms Varies Oregon State C. Reports

Carvallo—When you come down with a virus, certain symptoms—sore throat, headache, runny nose, or rash—make you aware of the infection. But when your prize dahlia, or any other plant gets a virus, symptoms often are not so obvious.

When you get a virus, you can complain to your doctor. But a plant has no way of explaining what it aches. Virus infection have been common in plants for thousands of years. Some viruses produce no visual effect; others are easy to detect.

Dr. John Milbrath, Oregon State College plant pathologist, is studying ways to detect hidden viruses in plants, particularly fruit trees. He has developed a quick (6-week) test to discover disease-free trees for nursery stock. Earlier, it took two or more years to complete tests detecting viruses in normal appearing trees.

Virus symptoms in plants may include stunted growth, curled leaves, dead or yellow spots, underdeveloped fruit, low yield, or sometimes death.

One pie cherry grower in Yamhill county reported that his virus-free trees produced as much fruit when they were four years old as infected trees produced during their seventh year.

Potatoes Infected

Nearly all potatoes are infected with a virus, which is harmless to those who eat the vegetable, but which reduces crop yield about 20 per cent. The virus-infected potato displays no symptoms, but the same virus will damage tomatoes. If tobacco mosaic virus also reaches the tomato, the combination of the two viruses will kill the tomato plant. Smoking is forbidden in greenhouses for tobacco mosaic is readily passed from the cigarette to the smoker's hands, and on to the plant.

Another potato virus causes the tuber to grow above ground. At first thought this appears handy for the potato picker, but Milbrath hastened to explain that sunlight causes purple-green potatoes which aren't palatable.

Another difference between plant viruses and human viruses is that people can take medicine, develop antibodies, and recover. But once a plant becomes infected, the infection's there to stay. Sprays or other treatments can't cure it.

Milbrath mentioned three ways to help prevent virus infections: (1) Be sure the plant doesn't have a virus when you buy it. (2) Control insects for they carry viruses. (3) Get rid of infected plants before they transmit the virus to another plant.

Viruses are fickle. A certain virus will affect one plant one way, another plant a different way. Sometimes a plant can carry a virus without symptoms but can transmit the virus to another plant that will become seriously affected.

Dahlias Carry Virus
The plant pathologist pointed out that most dahlias carry a virus which affects tomatoes, so it's foolish to try to grow these two plants in the same garden. You shouldn't grow cucumbers or beans near gladiolus either, he cautions. Glads carry viruses that will

Baker Herds Said Free of Scab State Men Report

Salem—Only one of the herds exposed to scab in the Baker county outbreak last January 1, still held under quarantine, according to the state and federal veterinarians' offices at Salem.

All Baker county herds have been dipped and released. The one remaining herd is in Umatilla county; this herd was treated earlier but not under official supervision so arrangements have been made for retreatment in the near future.

(California still has an embargo against beef cattle movement into that state from Baker and adjoining Union, Grant, Malheur and Wallowa counties. Entry may be made from anywhere else in Oregon on an official health examination and veterinarian's certification.)

Herds Quarantined
Thirty-one herds of cattle were under quarantine for tuberculosis at the end of March, according to the federal-state animal disease monthly report. Fifteen new reactors on 10 farms were found in March. T. B. testing of roughly 12,000 cattle in 511 herds. The March tests showed an incidence of 13/100th of 1 per cent—a small percentage but sufficient to pinpoint the necessity for continual guard, says Dr. A. G. Beagle, in charge of federal veterinarians in Oregon.

The report shows white muscle disease in cattle and sheep was found in 11 herds in Jackson county and 10 herds in Klamath county in March. Also, two herds of cattle in Tillamook county were dipped because of exposure to chorioretic mange and one goat in Clackamas county was quarantined for the same cause. This is a mild form of mange and one familiar to show exhibitors throughout the country.

Leptospirosis tests conducted on 34 herds in Benton and Curry county disclosed seven reactors.

On the brucellosis front, 10 counties are now entirely free of quarantined herds. As of April 22, 142 herds in the remaining counties were under quarantine because one or more was found. This is a substantial reduction since last July.

The turkey industry accounted for \$329,000,000 of farmers' cash receipts in 1959, according to the agriculture department. This return was 5 per cent above that of 1958, and was based on 1,379,000,000 pounds of live weight of turkeys.

The average farm price of turkeys last year was 23.9 cents per pound live weight, same as the average price received in 1958. Prices during the first 10 months of 1959 averaged lower than a year earlier. They advanced in November and December.

Turkeys raised in 1959 totaled 82,100,000 birds, 5 per cent more than the previous year.

Statistics on canned and processed poultry in February indicate the use of these foods is going up.

GARDENING TIPS

By DON BERRY
County Extension Agent
PEACH TWIG BORERS

Home gardeners as well as commercial orchardists should check their peach and apricot trees for the presence of peach twig borer. This pest is now working in the twigs of new growth and is most easily located by finding wilted tips and leaves. At the base of these wilted twigs a small brownish worm will be found burrowing.

Unless control measures are taken where peach twig borers are present a second generation will be produced and wormy fruit will result. Controls consist of spraying your trees thoroughly. In large sprayers use two pounds of DDT or Diazinon per 100 gallons. For home gardeners one tablespoon of Malathion plus one heaping tablespoon of DDT per 100 gallons should be used.

Where severe infestations occur a second spray may be needed about three weeks prior to harvest to prevent worms from entering the fruit.

APHID WARNING

Spruce, especially the Colorado Blue Spruce, should be closely watched now for small, dull-green aphids.

These aphids can devitalize spruce trees and kill them. This has happened in the other areas of Oregon in previous years when infestations of spruce aphids were high.

Either Diazinon, Lindane, or Malathion is recommended for controlling spruce aphids when they are present. Follow the general directions on the label of the container.

WEED KILLERS

Many lawn weeds are effectively controlled with "weed killers" in the spring when they are growing rapidly.

A combination of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T, sold as "lawn weed killer" by garden supply stores, kills a variety of broadleaf weeds. Dandelion, false dandelion, buckhorn and common plantain, and other "easy to kill" weeds are readily controlled with this combination.

Even some of the more difficult lawn weeds are affected by this same weed killer to varying degrees. Such weeds include chickweed, the wild clovers, white clover, veronica, yarrow, and dog fennel. Using a spreader-sticker with the weed killer often gives better results on these more difficult pests.

Specialized herbicides are becoming more important in lawn weed control. Endothal rates high in ridding lawns of veronica or speedwell, wild clovers, and annual bluegrass. 2,4,5-TP, sometimes called Silvex, is one of the best controls for chickweed.

Most difficult to control are the weedy grasses. Few, if any, weed killers have much effect on ryegrass, velvet grass, and quackgrass which are commonly found in lawns. Preventing them in newly seeded lawns and digging or pulling them from established lawns seems to give best control.

A lawn properly cared for and growing vigorously resists weed infestations. Adequate fertilization and proper mowing and watering are among the best lawn weed control practices.

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LAWN CARE

The best control for mushrooms, toadstools, and puffballs in lawns is to provide good growing conditions for the grass. A good lawn fertility program and regular mowing to help provide such growing conditions and a vigorous lawn better competes and interferes with their growth.

If they are not too numerous these growths can be individually picked and destroyed. Since mushrooms, puffballs, and toadstools are the fruiting or seeding bodies of the fungi they represent, picking them helps reduce their spreading.

These growths are occasionally associated with a turf disease such as fairy ring. In these cases controlling the disease is the solution to the problems.

The presence of mushrooms, puffballs, and toadstools indicates a high level of organic matter in the soil. They feed almost exclusively on organic matter.

Lawn clippings, organic fertilizers, and matting and thatching of the turf tend to contribute to the problem. Annual close mowing helps by removing excess organic matter above the soil surface.

Since they feed on organic matter and not on the grass, mushrooms, puffballs, and toadstools are more unsightly than harmful.

PEACH LEAF CURL

Many back yard peach growers are inquiring as to what may be done to control the peach leaf curl that is showing up now in their trees.

This disease shows up as curled leaves which are yellow or reddish in color and somewhat thickened in texture. Since this is caused by a fungus disease that works in the winter time, nothing can be done to cure leaves which are already curled.

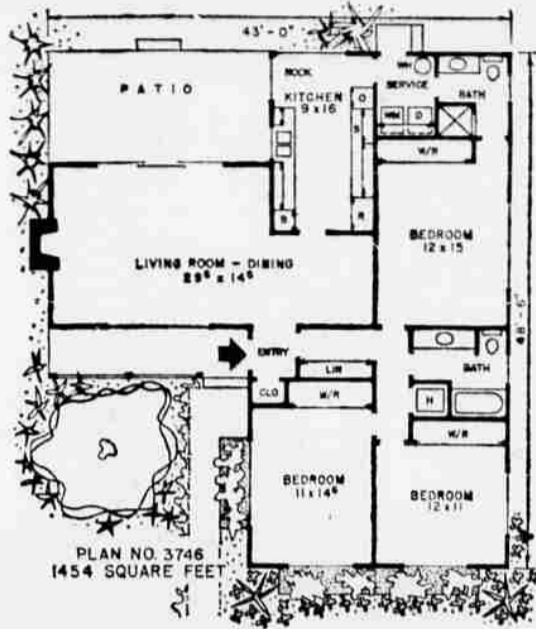
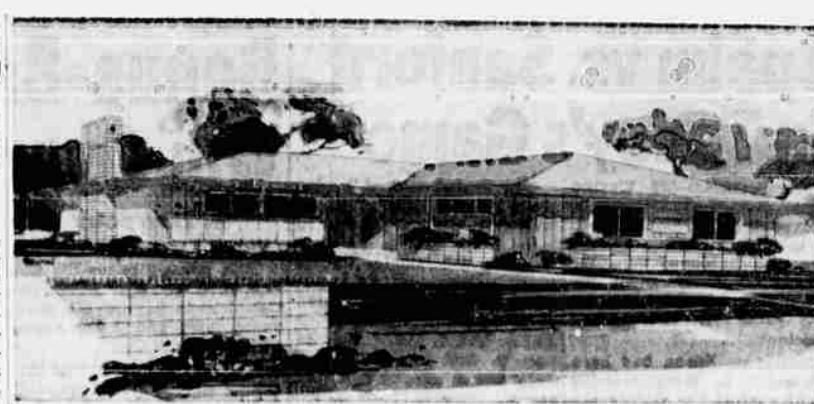
Since these leaves will eventually drop and new leaves replace them the best current practice would be to apply sulfate of ammonia or other good commercial fertilizers to your peach trees to stimulate them to grow new leaves.

Neutral copper sprays applied after harvest and again during the winter time are the best method of controlling this disease. Home orchard spray schedules covering this and other diseases of backyard fruit trees may be picked up at the county agent's office in the court house.

WALNUT CARE

Now is the time to prune or graft walnut trees. During the last half of April to the first of May is the recommended time for pruning or grafting English Walnuts as they do not bleed at this time of the year.

While this bleeding is not considered a serious detriment as far as pruning is concerned, grafts put in during a bleeding period seldom grow. While this rule of not bleeding during this time of year is a general one, but not al-



This Week's Home of Distinction

affected fruit output and pasture conditions.

Washington—UP—The agriculture department said detailed snow runoff forecasts issued by the Soil Conservation Service showed a reversal of the pattern of recent years in the prospective supply for the 1960 summer water-using season.

The report, compiled on the basis of April 1 snow measurements, showed a relatively better outlook for New Mexico and Arizona, with normal or better runoff also expected in Colorado.

On the Columbia, Mississippi, and Great Basin drainages,

This plan by Hiawatha Estes features a home to relax in. The home measures 1,454 square feet and plays up large room sizes and plenty of storage. The living-dining room stretches across nearly 30 feet.

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streamflow was expected to range below normal with irrigation water supplies generally on the short side. California's Central Valley was expected to have extremely low runoff again this year, as in 1959.

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Seven Share Pool In Ice Break-Up

Kenana, Alaska—UP—The ice on the Tanana river broke up and began moving out at 9:12 p.m. (p.s.t.) Monday making seven persons the winners of this year's Kenana ice pool.

The holders of the winning tickets will share a \$100,000 prize which, although glamorous, is the lowest in recent years. The 1959 pool came to \$113,000.

The time of the break is recorded by an electronic device attached to a tripod in the center of the river. A huge chunk of ice hit and demolished the rig only seconds after the break-up started Monday night.

The winners, each of them holding a \$1 ticket, had to guess the day, hour and minute the winter ice would give way to spring.

Enough saw timber to build 25 million new houses now stands in the commercial forests of California.

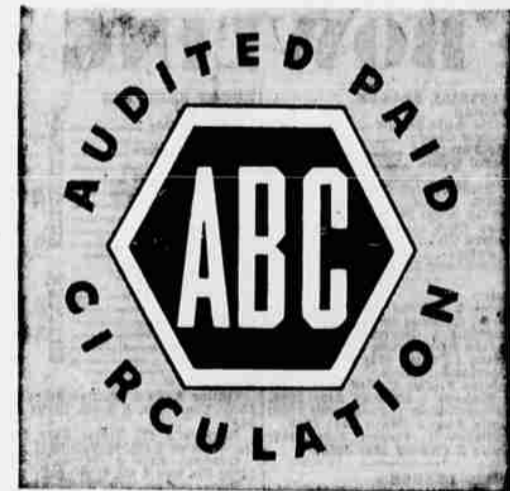
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Farm Notes

Washington—UP—The agriculture department has issued a new edition of a food guide for families with young children. It is one of a series on food planning and buying for families of different ages and incomes.

The guide, prepared by the department's Institute of Home Economics, offers weekly food plans that suggest amounts of 11 food groups to buy for a well-balanced diet.

If farmers carry out their marketing intentions, beef supplies should become somewhat larger during April, May, and June than they were a year ago. Cattle feeders in 21 important livestock feeding states expect to market 53 per cent of the April 1 inventory during the three-month period. If these intentions materialize, marketings would be 19 per cent higher than during April-May-June, 1959.

The 21 states include 12 north central states plus Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, Texas, Montana, Idaho, Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and California.

Broiler-type chicks produced by commercial hatcheries in March totaled 175,360,000, down 4 per cent from March, 1959. Production of egg-type chicks in March totaled 72,782,000, down 38 per cent from the same month last year. The production of egg-type chicks for the first three months of 1960 totaled 134,805,000, compared to 219,073,000 during the same period in 1959—a decrease of 37 per cent. Production of broiler-type chicks for the three months showed an increase of

2 per cent over production in the same period of 1959.

Washington—UP—The Agriculture Department said today total supplies of feed grains and other feed concentrates in 1960-61 may rise to a new record high, if early spring prospects materialize.

Farmers are planning a slightly smaller acreage of feed grains and with a normal growing season, production would be a little under last year's record crop of 166 million tons. But the carryover of feed grains in 1960-61 is expected to be some 10 million tons larger than the 68 million ton surplus a year ago.

The department's agriculture research policy committee has called for expanded research on food and human nutrition.

The committee's recommendation envisions greater knowledge about nutrients in food, food quality, consumption of foods, U.S. dietary levels, and factors in nutrition. It is aimed at "improving the future well-being of all citizens."

Washington—UP—The Foreign Agricultural Service said today agricultural areas of Uruguay, Chile, and Argentina have been hit hard by drought.

FAS said that although about 119,000 tons of feed grains are scheduled to be purchased by Uruguay from the United States under the surplus disposal law, additional feed grain imports may be needed.

Chile also was hard hit by drought which reduced 1959-60 summer grain yields and