



SEED STALK — Manager Sam Campbell of the West Coast Beet Seed company, Salem, holds a freshly cut stalk of beet seed. Seed stalks are four to six feet tall and contain thousands of individual seeds. Similar stalks are raised in Jackson county on a limited 80 acres, approximately.

Local Sugar Beet Seed Yield Sets New Crop Record Here

A bumper sugar beet harvest was raised by Jackson county farmers this year, according to reports from local farmers and the Western Beet Sugar Producers.

The record breaking harvest was completed two or three weeks ago by local and Marion county farmers. Local farmers who raise the seed for Western Beet Sugar Producers estimate top yields per acre were 4,000 pounds of clean seed and minimum yields were 3,500 pounds from approximately 80 acres in Jackson county. There was a period when local farmers raised no more than 3,000 pounds per acre, according to Otto Bohnert, Central Point, one of the beet seed growers here.

At one time Jackson county farmers raised 200 to 300 acres of beet seed. However, in the last few years they have raised less than 100 acres. This is now a support crop and grown on a restricted allotment basis and on contract. Local growers grow their best seed for a specific area and supply five or six of the largest refineries in the United States. Each area in Oregon growing the seed raises a particular strain.

Local growers include Roger von der Hellen, Bob Fields, Otto, John and Don Bohnert, Harry Dunn, all of the Central Point area; Andy Stevens and Joe Dugan, both of the Talent-Phoenix area; Harlin Cantrill, Applegate, and Mrs. Dora Dorich, Jacksonville.

Manager Sam Campbell of the West Coast Beet Seed company estimates this year's Oregon harvest at 4.1 million pounds, 900,000 pounds more than the last record harvest of 1958.

"The huge seed harvest will set a second record of a different kind," Campbell said. "This year we grew 41 different commercial varieties, an all-time high. The new, high-yielding hybrids accounted for more than half of the total production."

Campbell said the 1960 Oregon crop was grown on 1,062 acres by about 80 growers on small plots ranging from 5 to 35 acres. To avoid cross-pollination, individual varieties must be isolated from one another in separate miles, many of them scattered miles apart, he pointed out.

No Connection

"Although the U.S. beet sugar marketing quota has been raised considerably in recent months because of the crisis in Cuba," Campbell said, "there probably is no connection between these events and our extraordinary seed production. We've got plenty of seed for quick expansion of the industry should it be required, but basically the sugar companies wanted to build up their seed inventories with the new varieties. Production next year probably will be smaller."

In addition to the 41 commercial varieties of seed, Campbell's growers and field men produce seed for breeder's stocks and experimental purposes on 58 different locations, most of which are one-tenth or half-acre plots in the farmers' backyards.

More than 100 experimental hybrids alone were harvested from such locations, Campbell said. This seed is sent to sugar company laboratories and greenhouses for further testing and development. Eventually it may go into production by West Coast which is owned by the nation's eight largest beet sugar companies and operated cooperatively by them. The companies operate in nearly all of the 22 beet-producing states.

Sugar beets for seed are planted in August and left in the ground until the following spring when they "bolt," sending up seed stalks four to six feet tall. In late July or August the stalks are cut, wind-dried and sun-cured for about two weeks. A grain threshing machine picks up the stalks and removes the seed. At the Salem plant it is weighed, cleaned and bagged for shipment to sugar companies which further process it.

Two principal types of seed are produced in Oregon, the multi-germ and monogerm in



THRESHING SEED — Grain thresher in field near Salem picks up sugar beet seed stalks for removal of seed. This year's crop set a new record for Oregon at 4.1 million pounds of seed. A similar operation was conducted in Jackson county two or three weeks ago.

Producers Should Keep Unshorn Lamb Records

By GENE WINTERS
County Extension Agent

Sheep producers who market unshorn lambs this fall should maintain full records on their sales in order to make proper applications for payment next spring under the wool incentive program, according to Jackson Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee Chairman Albert Straus.

Failure to keep full records in the past has prompted difficulties for producers in obtaining their unshorn lamb payments under the program, the chairman stated. The sales records for lambs sold must include the name of the buyer, his signature, and the number and liveweight of the lambs sold, plus the description "unshorn."

Lamb feeders who buy lambs should also keep accurate records of all their purchases of unshorn lambs, including dates of purchases and the number and liveweight when purchased. Adequate records must be maintained by producers in order for them to certify to the accuracy of the information contained in payment applications. Inadequate reporting of lamb purchases on payment applications has presented problems in administering the wool program.

Payments Made

Lamb payments have never been short to encourage the customary practice of selling lambs with the wool on. Lamb payments are made to producers who have owned lambs 30 days or more. The payments are based on the wool incentive payment.

The amount paid to each producer is based on the weight gain of lambs during the period of his ownership. Full information is necessary so that each producer can be given his proper share of the payment on a lot of lambs.

Records should be kept in a safe place at home or they may be filed at the county ASC office for safekeeping. While the final date for making applications under the wool program for the 1960 marketing year is not until April 30, 1961, applications may be submitted any time between now and then.

GARDENING TIPS

By DON BERRY
County Extension Agent

TREE WATERING

Shrubs and trees especially those which were planted during the past year, should continue to be watered.

Rain, like that which has come recently, can give us a sense of false security. It will be probably another month or two before the rains reach an accumulative amount so we can quit watering.

Frequent, deep watering is preferred to more frequent light sprinklings. When watering trees and shrubs the soil should be thoroughly soaked to a depth up to several feet depending upon how extensive the root system is. Additional watering would probably not be necessary for another week or two or longer.

Mulching is often used to hold soil moisture and thus reduce the amount of watering of trees and shrubs. Materials such as sawdust and peat moss, when applied over the area of the root system, can reduce the number of water applications to two or three soakings per year.

It is impractical to try to control all insects working on the oaks but it appears that a spring spray applied about the middle of May will go a long way in controlling the early pests, thus giving the tree a better chance to develop growth and foliage before the pests begin to attack.

Squirrels, too, often kill twigs and small branches while gnawing out borers. Oaks will not tolerate radical change. Cuts and dirt fills around them will kill them quickly. Overwatering and driveways, etc., are also bad. Wherever fills are made trees are quickly killed, unless air circulation and drainage are provided.

In addition to all these, root rot too affect them, and old age sometimes catches up with the oak trees.

With all of their faults, however, many home owners still prefer the native oak as a shade tree and are willing to put up with the pests in order to keep it in their yard.

SPIDER CONTROL

Chloroform or Dieldrin around the entrances to your home and in other areas where cobwebs are prevalent, as the end of a dry summer season is the peak spider population.

If bitten by a spider, pack the area in ice and call a doctor immediately. Save the spider which caused the bite. Black Widows are the only common poisonous biting spider in Oregon and is not often found since they prefer secluded places away from the light. Care should be exercised however in putting hands in out of the way places such as gopher holes, back under the wood pile or in corners of darkened outbuildings since these are the favored hangouts of the Black Widow spider.

STRAWBERRIES

Strawberries in the home garden, as well as commercial plantings, should be cared for diligently in the fall. Next year's crop is dependent upon the care given plants the previous fall since the fruit buds are made at that time.

To have a good set of fruit buds, plants must have good growth with as many leaves as possible. This comes by maintaining good growing conditions during September and as long as the plants are actively growing in the fall.

LAWN SEEDS

Home owners anticipating planting new lawns this fall are encouraged to prepare good seed beds before planting. The area to be planted should be leveled, tilled raked thoroughly, rolled, and raked.

This working firms the seed bed and encourages weed seeds to germinate. By sprouting as many weed seeds as possible and then cleaning up the bed before planting, some reduction in the weed control necessary in the new lawn could be accomplished.

The best grasses for this area are Kentucky Bluegrass mixed with the fine fescues. Where full sun lawns are being planted, Bluegrass is the best grass. In the shades the fescues are superior.

All around lawns may contain a mixture of the two. Do not plant bent grasses or mixtures containing bent grasses locally as they are hard to maintain.

TERMITES

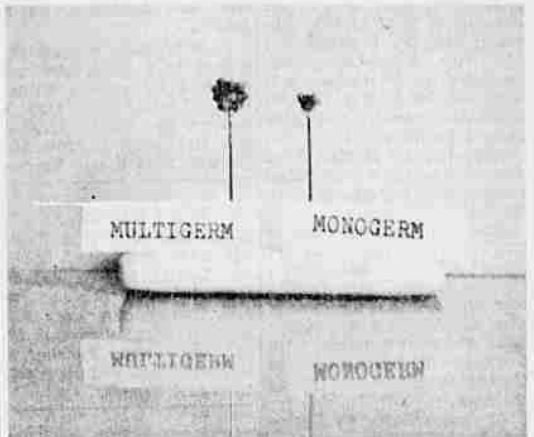
Termite problems often show up in the fall since this is the swarming season. If you suspect termites, bring several specimens in to the county agent's office for determination. Above all, don't get panicky but check into your problem carefully.

There are several good bulletins available to the extension office on termite control. Also, we would be glad to discuss your problems with you.

OAK TREE TROUBLES

This past season has shown more oak tree troubles than usual. Dead twigs which are often found in the oak trees may be caused by insects which bore into them.

In addition oak trees are affected by numerous insects including aphids, scale, leaf rollers, leaf hoppers and especially the gall making wasps. The sticky material found dripping from the trees is generally associated with either the aphids, scale or some types of gall makers.



TWO BASIC TYPES — Although Oregon produced 41 different varieties of sugar beet seed this year most of them were of two basic types, multi-germ or mono-germ. This compares size of two seeds. Mono-germ contains only one seed ball; multi-germ usually has several.

Requirements Lessened For Farm Housing Loans

Under a recent change in the eligibility requirements for farm housing loans, a farmer who owns a farm that will annually produce for sale or home use at least \$400 worth of commodities may, if he meets other eligibility requirements, be able to obtain a farm housing loan.

Previously, according to Eugene Devenney, Farmers Home Administration county supervisor for Josephine and Jackson counties, an applicant had to own a farm that would produce a substantial amount of the operator's income.

Farm housing loans are made by the Farmers Home Administration and are used to construct and repair needed farm houses and farm service buildings. During the past year, nine loans totaling \$93,600 have been advanced for this purpose in Josephine and Jackson counties.

Other eligibility requirements for farm housing loans remain unchanged. These requirements are that the applicant lacks the resources needed to obtain credit elsewhere, be a citizen of the United States, have sufficient income from farm and other sources to pay farm operating and family living expenses and meet payments, when due, on his debts.

Applications for this type of credit may be made at the county office of the Farmers Home Administration located in the Mancel Building, Grants Pass.

Cannery Pear Prices Are Higher This Year

In Southern Oregon, pear growers' price on all grades including culls is reported to average \$96.50 per ton, delivered cannery, according to a recent U. S. Department of Agriculture bulletin.

The article said that pear prices to growers on pears for processing are substantially higher than last year. This reflects the smaller crop. The average price in Northern Oregon was reported to be \$86.50 per ton.

AWARDS DONATED

Silver awards given at the recent 4-H style review were donated by the Jackson County Home Extension Alumni committee. Colleen Franck, food preservation award and Carol McDowell, home living award, were the recipients.

New Farm Bureau Officers Chosen at Recent Picnic

George Dewey, executive secretary of the Oregon Farm Bureau, Salem, spoke on problems facing agriculture, recently at the farm bureau picnic held on the Ed Taylor ranch, Table Rock rd.

He expressed concern that the young generation of farmers are not taking an active interest in the major changes occurring in agriculture today.

Evelyn Nye spoke on the financial side of education and briefly explained equalization of taxes according to school districts.

Ed Taylor, outgoing president of the Jackson County Farm Bureau, gave a short talk on the attributes of the organization and asked that more members take part in the county program.

New officers elected to serve starting in October are: Robert Lytle, Ashland, president; Ernest Radomski, Gold Hill, vice president; W. R. Bagley, Talent, voting delegate, and Mrs. David Blair, Rogue River, women's chairman.

Mrs. Grover Mulkey will continue to serve as secretary-treasurer.

Blue Tongue Booklet Issued

Corvallis — Blue tongue, a serious virus disease of sheep, has broken out recently in the Pacific Northwest.

Symptoms of the disease, diagnosis, treatment, and vaccination are discussed in a bulletin just published by Oregon State College Extension Service. Free copies of the bulletin "Blue Tongue Disease of Sheep" may be obtained from local county extension agents or by writing the OSC bulletin clerk, Corvallis.

Blue tongue is a warm weather disease carried from sheep to sheep by flying insects. Main symptoms, in addition to a blue tongue, include sluggishness, loss of appetite, and high temperature. A bluish red band develops along the upper edge of the hooves.

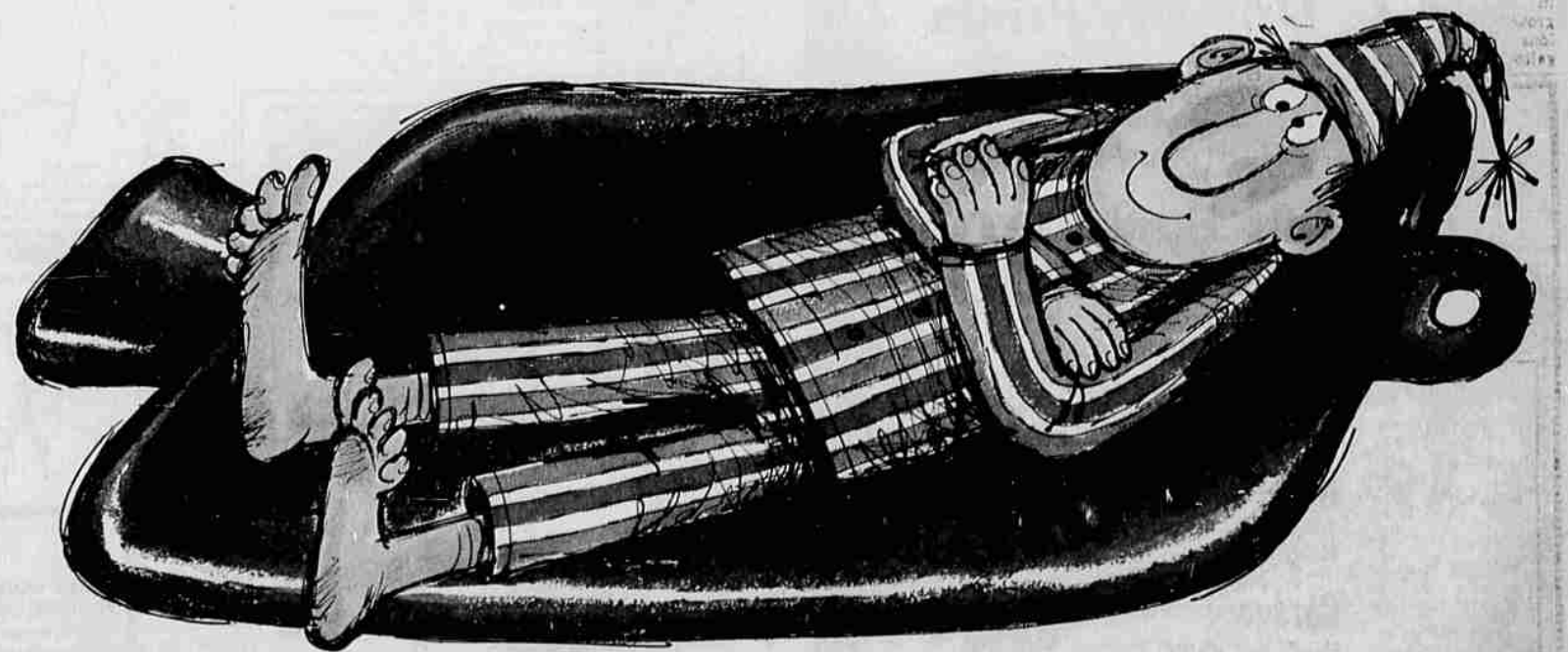
The virus, itself, seldom kills sheep but it weakens their resistance to other diseases. Deaths are usually due to complicating pneumonia.

The bulletin stresses the importance of a clinical diagnosis by a veterinarian. Detailed suggestions are included in the four-page illustrated bulletin.



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