

GARDEN NOTES

By JOHN McLOUGHLIN County Extension Agent DAHLIAS

After the first killing frost dahlias should be lifted. Dig the clump with six inches of stem. Clean and let dry thoroughly. Be careful not to break the neck of the tubers.

Place the clumps in boxes or flats and fill with dry sawdust or peat to prevent shriveling. Store in a dry frost free location.

In well drained locations dahlias may be left in the ground. Cut the stems back to ground level. Clean the area of plant debris and place three inches of mulch over the area.

Peonies are best in a sunny well drained location free from the roots of other plants. Do not disturb the roots after planting.

Plant peonies in a well prepared garden soil. To insure good flowering place the bud one inch below the soil line on a firm mound. Deeper plantings may hinder flowering.

A handful of bonemeal placed two inches below the roots is recommended.

Time To Start Planting Dahls, Nurseryman Says

By J. VERNON MARSHALL Rogue Valley Nurseryman

October - It is time again, to start planting fall dahlias. If you would like a variety of early spring flowers, dahlias should be planted through September, October and November, and some planting in December for real late spring flowers.

No matter how large or small your garden, how good or poor your facilities for growing cut flowers, so-called Dutch dahlias can always supply you with plenty of spring flowers.

With all the many varieties on hand and their easy culture there isn't any good reason why even the small flower garden cannot supply a variety of color, starting early in the spring, and stretching to late spring, according to when bulbs are planted.

If you use these three fall months for planting dahlias, you will have three months in the spring of continuous beauty.

Bulbs Available There are plenty of dahlias in the valley now to be purchased from your nurseryman, or flower shops. Start planting as early as you can in order to have well-rooted plants.

When you wish to dig some to bring inside to force for winter flowers, they will be well rooted for that.

While you are at it, why not buy a few extra choice dahlias, and not only have beautiful spring flowers, but have winter house flowers as well by preparing some for forcing? Nothing will brighten winter days better than flowers on your window sill, grown from bulbs. Do not buy cheap bulbs for forcing. It does not pay to buy cheap bulbs for outside growth, either. A few pointers on preparing bulbs for forcing: Bulbs potted for the house must spend a cool weather growing a set of roots to support flowers later on.

The ideal temperature range for such root growth is between 34 degrees and 40 degrees. Freezing will not harm root or bulb, but the growth will stop until temperatures rise again. Potted bulbs should spend from six to eight weeks in a cool, dark, protected place. Cover over in your garden or under sawdust. There the roots can develop while the top growth remains dormant. When the bulbs are brought into warmth and light, the tops will start to grow. These bulbs may be brought in, starting from the middle of November all through the winter, for house forcing.

The change in temperature, if it can be controlled, should be gradual, 50 degrees to 60 degrees, for two or three weeks. After bringing them indoors temperature can be raised to 60 degrees or higher, if necessary, to bring buds into flower. These bulbs will adjust themselves to a wide range of growing conditions indoors. For best flowering they must have at least three or four hours of direct sun. Also, remember for indoor flowering, do not buy cheap bulbs, buy top-size bulbs of good forcing variety.

Varieties Given Here are some of the best forcing varieties: Tulips, Bartigon (red), Aristocrat (pink), Golden Age (yellow), The Velvet King (purple), Orange Favorite, and the Sunshine, good patriot tulips for forcing. For early outside flowers, don't forget the Red Emperor. The new White Emperor produces a beautiful pure white flower. These tulips bloom while the other tulips are still in bud. Here are some forcing varieties in Hyacinths-La Victoria (red), City of Haarlem (yellow), Pink Pearl, and Innocence, which is a beautiful creamy white. For Daffodils, King Alfred is still one of the favorite yellow trumpets, get double nose bulbs, plant about three bulbs in 8" pots. If you follow this procedure you may have flowers or green growing foliage in the house all winter. Use ordinary garden soil. Mix with Michigan peat for best results.

For best results use the bordeaux mixture immediately after mixing. Agitate the mixture while you spray. Commercially prepared mixtures are available. These mixtures are very convenient since they only require the addition of water.

When both solutions are thoroughly mixed pour the two together stirring constantly. The final solution should be of a light blue color.

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Farm Notes

By JOHN McLOUGHLIN County Extension Agent

BULBS Before planting soak bulbs in a solution of 1 1/3 table-spoons of heptachlor per gallon water for 30 minutes to prevent infestations of the narcissus bulb fly.

A fungicide such as Ferbam may be added to this solution to prevent basal rot. If the bulbs are dipped in a hormone powder before planting the fungicide may be added then. The hormone powder will stimulate root growth.

CARPET BEETLES Frequent examinations for this pest will prevent serious damage. Larvae feed on woolen fabrics, carpets and fur. They are oval shaped, one-fourth inch long and have a fuzzy appearance. The adults may be mottled white, yellow, brown and black or pure black.

Carpet beetles are found along baseboards and moldings, behind radiators and heavy furniture and in air ducts.

Through vacuuming and other good housekeeping practice will help control this pest. Do not leave woolen scraps or garments laying on shelves.

If infestations occur spray the area with a 5 per cent household DDT solution. Also spray behind radiators, in corners and cracks and along moldings and carpeting.

er garden cannot supply a variety of color, starting early in the spring, and stretching to late spring, according to when bulbs are planted.

The department said the price declines probably will be less than usual because supplies of red meat during the next few months will average below those of last year. Beef supplies will be more plentiful, but less pork will be available.

An Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) survey shows that more than half of all U.S. families bought canned peaches, canned fruit cocktail, canned snap beans, canned corn, and canned peas during a recent 12-month period.

About seven out of every 10 families bought canned corn and canned peas. Six out of every 10 bought canned peaches, and almost as many bought canned fruit cocktail. Slightly more than half of all families bought canned snap beans.

Washington - (UPI) - The agriculture department predicts the fall pig crop in 10 corn belt states will fall 3 per cent from 1959.

But the department said the price boosting drop in hog production apparently could be reversed late this year with output going up 4 per cent in the first half of the 1961 season.

Washington - (UPI) - The Agriculture Department said today the value of farm real estate slipped a fraction nationally in the four months between March 1 and July 1 for the first time since 1952.

The economics staff of the Agricultural Research Service estimated the total market value of farm real estate as of July 1 at \$128.8 billion or \$111.24 per acre.

Washington - (UPI) - The agriculture department's evaluation of the current farm real estate market shows that the highest priced farms - including buildings and land - are in the eastern Corn Belt.

In the year ended March 15, lands rated as "good" land in the eastern Corn Belt sold for an average of \$434 an acre. "Poor" land in the same area averaged \$144 per acre.

About 160,000 farms and parcels of land totaling nearly 27 million acres were involved in voluntary and estate sales in the year ended March 15. The total sale value of these transfers amounted to about \$3.2 billion, or an average of about \$20,000 per transfer. The average sale was 166 acres.

The rate of voluntary transfers at 30.7 per 1,000 farms during the year was 2 per cent less than that in the previous 12 months and the lowest since 1939-40. The rate of farm foreclosures, including assignments to avoid foreclosures, bankruptcies, and related defaults was 1.6 farms per 1,000, or a national total of about 6,500 such transfers.

Washington - (UPI) - Herschel Newsum, master of the National Grange, said the farm proposals of both presidential candidates leave "a great deal to be desired so far."

Newsum's comments indicated, however, that up to now he leaned more toward Democratic nominee John F. Kennedy's farm program than toward GOP nominee Richard M. Nixon's proposals.

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Grandpa and Grandma are here from North Dakota to see their granddaughters Little Bit and Very Little Bit. The first thing Grandma did was start a thorough housecleaning. She started at one end of the house and worked clean to the other end. Even went to work on Grandma, fed him a large dose of Epsom salts and really put the run on him.

During her cleanup she worked her way into the study and started stacking up various papers, notes and memorandum we had piled around. One of these notes was that George Loftin, Sams Valley agriculturist and hen fancier, has been elected chairman of the Jackson County Farmers for Kennedy committee. This happened last week.

George, also the "Mayor of Sams Valley," asked that all farmers attending the meeting spread the Democratic farm gospel among their friends and neighbors. He also asked them to have some information prepared for Michigan Gov. G. Mennen G. (Soapy) Williams' appearance here Oct. 24. A big farm rally is planned and the Jackson farm platform will be presented.

Listening to approximately 20 people discuss local and national farm problems during the luncheon meeting, we wondered what happened to the local Republicans. We could be wrong, but when you consider the large pear industry including packing house operators and orchardists, it would seem that most of the county's horticulture people are Republicans. Why haven't they formed some sort of an organization outside of the Jackson County Fruit Growers' League, etc.? This leads to the inevitable conclusion that politically there are Democrats, Republicans and the pear industry.

Harper Edwards, chairman of the Jackson County Democratic Central Committee, mentioned that his brother wrote legislation for the Idaho Wheat commission and is treasurer of the Wheat Growers' Association of the Western States. He said, "We shouldn't view the wheat surplus problem as cause for alarm but as an instrument for peace and plenty."

Other peoples' comments were: "We hear a lot about surplus and subsidization of agriculture, but never hear about other forms of government subsidies. How about construction of power dams, construction of freeways which serve the trucking industry, etc." Farmers receive only \$5 per \$1,000 for subsidies.

Another comment: "We have 36 days of food supply for the world. Yet it takes a year to produce a crop. When you consider possible world emergencies, we don't really have much of a crop surplus. We should have some kind of world relief program through which this surplus food can be distributed to needy peoples."

Yet another comment: "Jackson county farmers are faced with three main problems, expansion of subdivisions into agricultural land, farm credit and farm labor. Considering the first problem, population expansion brings a real need for more water. The Democrats have done more toward construction of multi-purpose dams than the Republicans. (After looking at a map of bureau of reclamation projects and proposed projects, we seriously question this.)"

"The system of production credit associations were set up by the Democrats for farm loans on a yearly productive basis. When you consider it takes about 15 years for pear trees to hit full production and peach trees about five years, present loan terms are too short. (The local PCA granted its first 5-year loan last week.)"

Another comment: "Trouble is, farmers won't all stick to one loan institution. If they did, more equitable terms could be worked out since it would pay such an institution to make loan terms more attractive. When a depression comes farmers will flock to the loan institution which will grant the lowest interest rates, otherwise they go elsewhere."

Another comment: "Big farm problem in the valley is lack of transportation. There has to be a comparatively cheap way to ship farm products out of the valley in quantity."

Now comes County Assessor Ray Schumacher to answer his farm critics who were quoted in last week's column: "In my administration we have followed more closely to economic use in appraising farm lands. When appraising, we consider the home site value of surrounding lands. We also place agriculture and values with adjustments for location, topography, drainage and other factors."

"Lands close to good market centers and services will always have a greater value than remote farm lands. These values are found by a thorough study of market sales in this area and related areas."

"People place their own values on lands by what they buy and sell them for. The appraisers merely verify these sales by personally contacting the buyers and sellers. The information they get is correlated with the estimated market value. Individual high or low sales do not control the value placed for assessment," Ray emphasized.

One of the county appraisers laylaid us as we were leaving the courthouse and said he knows of no land on which the taxes were raised by more than \$2 (two dollars) an acre recently.

Digging through a pile of papers and envelopes Grandma had stacked up neatly for us, we came on an advertisement for an ant farm. Naturally, this was directed to the farm editor. All we can say is this is the ideal gift for the farmer who can sit in his living room and watch farming as it used to was.

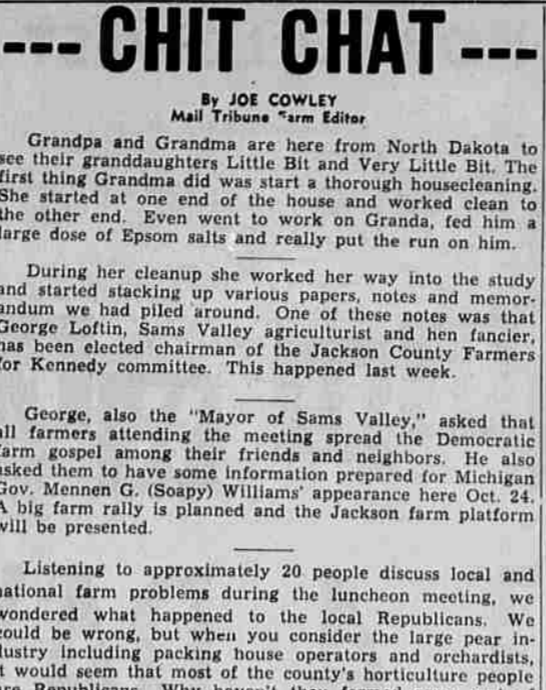
A loan institution here reports few loans taken out by farmers to take advantage of today's feeder sale at the Midway auction yards. Perhaps one reason is that the forage growth available for winter grazing in Oregon and the western range county is the shortest in four or five years, according to an OSC report.

Possibly, farm machinery prices will show a slight drop this winter if not sooner. Six farm equipment plants and three construction equipment plants will close for two to five weeks to balance inventories of finished goods, according to a news release. International Harvester company announced recently it will lay off about 17,000 workers during this period. It represents about 46 per cent of the firm's labor force. This firm reported a heavy carryover of last year's spring farm implements. Some farm implement manufacturers have already anticipated this market trend, however and have already trimmed their employment.

To paraphrase an old saying, you can lead 'em to water source sites, but you can't make them develop them. The Rogue basin program is slowly getting under way after early opposition. Now California is running into resistance over the proposed \$1.75 billion water bond measure. The California State Grange Monday was expected to reaffirm its opposition to the proposal.

As a California farm reporter stated, growth of the golden state's agriculture is mainly due to increased irrigation. Field crop production there is now double what it was in the 1930's. Only field crops that have dropped in importance in the past 20 years there have been wheat and beans, both grown on unirrigated fields. The report quoted the California state director of agriculture: The state has 139 commercial crops and 20 important products of livestock and poultry.

Irrigation produces diversification. This, the California ag director pointed out, indirectly helped California take the agricultural lead away from Iowa. It produces only 89 crops. The same could happen in Oregon; but we will need more and more water to do it.



TALL CORN—Ernie Santo, himself 6 feet, 1/2 inches, stands on a step-ladder to reach to the top of his corn growing on his acreage at his Lozier lane home. He crossed this special variety of corn himself to grow 14 feet tall. It produces larger than average ears of tender sweet corn.

Local Farmer Grows Variety of Crops

By JOE COWLEY Mail Tribune Farm Editor

The Rogue valley can grow anything and Ernie Santo, of Lozier lane, has set out to prove it on his 1 1/10 of an acre.

He grows corn 14 feet tall, sugar cane, nine foot tall sorghum, yams, black-eyed peas, peanuts and sunflowers measuring 20 inches across, to mention a few.

"We got the soil, we got the climate," Santo said. "If people would only try it they would find they can grow anything here. Trouble is I'm gettin' old (He's 72.) Somebody else should take over and work these things out."

Santo, a whiteport thin, bronzed farmer 6 foot, 1/2 inch tall is sure if people will eat what he grows and stick to a carefully balanced diet they will live a long and active life. He emphasized that he uses only barnyard manure and compost to enrich the good, black earth. No sprays are used, although he admitted the bugs sometimes get the best of him.

Birds give him some trouble, too, with his berries and seed plants. This sounds like a Texas tale, but the Santo sunflowers are so big that he can put squirrel traps atop them to catch the birds who go after the seeds. As you've probably noticed the sunflower seeds have become an ever more popular commodity in the local stores. Santo claims they contain a large amount of vitamin C. After a steady diet of sunflower seeds the local Luther Burbank said he could throw away his glasses.

A trip through the Santo acreage is like a tour through a plant museum. For instance, tired of cracking the hardshell walnuts? Santo raises a soft shell variety from Sacramento, Calif. The veteran farmer like a lot of us likes to eat figs. Trouble is figs are sensitive to our usual early spring frosts. So Santo imported a variety from a New York nursery which will stand as much freezing as an apple tree.

This plant experimenter also figured a way to have his wild plum jam and enjoy fresh plums right off the tree, too. He crossed the wild plum with the Tartarian cherry to make the plum sweeter and more edible. Result was a plum about the size of a very large cherry.

Many Variety Tree Grown Like a lot of backyard gardeners, Santo was crowded for room. Yet, he wanted more fruit. He budded four kinds of plums, one peach, one almond and nectarine, all on one tree.

The "plant putterer" also raises large, hot tasting artichokes which are considered quite a delicacy at the best dinner-parties. He raises celery, too.

"People say celery won't grow here. Well, you see it don't you? Growing fine right there!" Santo said.

Santo also claims to have found at least a partial cure for his arthritis. Arthritis is simply the removal of grease from the bones by eating too many acid foods, he said. By crossing an Italian and American tomato he has removed the acid from this plant.

Do you love to eat garlic but hate sitting next to somebody who has also eaten it? A crossing of hybrid garlic and onion has eliminated this problem, too, Santo says. He also gets 25 cloves to this plant. Santo pointed out that three to four cloves per plant are common place compared to the average 13 or 20 his plants produce. It's these cloves which dried make the garlic.

The plant experimenter also produces Louisiana head rice which he grinds into flour.

He likes a tender corn so he crosses yellow and white sweet corn. More and more Oklahomans and Texans must be moving into the area. Some fruit and produce men report selling large amounts of black-eyed peas. Santo grows 'em, too. He claims that this variety has vitamins not found in other peas and beans.

Santo raises both bush and vine yams. His yams are 11 inches long.

He also raises a new mild white onion, and buckwheat for his pancakes. Big banana



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No Soil Bank Sign-Ups Scheduled Here This Fall

There will be no sign-up this fall of additional land or contracts under the soil bank conservation reserve, Harry Mar-

tin, Jackson County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation office manager, said today in response to inquiries from farmers regarding the status of the program.

Martin also said that program contracts which expire in 1960 or later are no longer eligible to be extended for an additional period of years.

"Under the Soil Bank act enacted in May of 1958," Martin explained, "the Secretary of Agriculture was authorized to enter into Conservation Reserve contracts with producers during the five-year period 1959-60.

"The sign-up under the 1960 program was held last fall, so that farmers would know in advance of the cropping season whether their land would be accepted into the Conservation Reserve. Since the authorization to enter into new contracts has not been extended beyond 1960, there will be no sign-up this fall."

Farmers should understand, however, that the existing contracts for 1960 and previous years will remain in effect and payments will continue to be made under them for the period of the contracts and in accordance with contract terms. The annual Department of Agriculture appropriation bills provide money with which to meet obligations already on the books."

There are 34 Conservation Reserve contracts in effect this year in Jackson county, involving a total acreage of 1,787 acres, Martin said. Contract periods range from 3 to 10 years, and annual rental payments for 1960 amount to approximately \$24,069.

Nationally there are more than 300,000 Conservation Reserve contracts in effect in 1960, covering a total acreage of approximately 28.6 million acres in 48 states. The average rental payment is \$11.85 per acre, and the rental payments for 1960 will amount to about \$338 million.

Value of Good Direction Noted

Dallas - The dollars-and-cents value of good forest management was spelled out for Oregon communities recently by Sam Robb, of Willamette Valley Lumber company, Dallas, chairman of the Oregon committee of American Forest Products Industries.

Robb cited estimates from a government study which showed that for every 8,000 acres of timberland brought into production by Tree Farm methods, the community reaps these benefits:

Some 296 more jobs are created. The local area gains 112 more households. Local people achieve a total added personal income of \$590,000 annually.

Local bank deposits increase by \$270,000. There are 170 more passenger cars. Local retailers bet a total of \$360,000 more in yearly retail sales.

The community gets four new retail establishments. Government scientists warned today that artificial lighting may reduce egg production of young hens.

Polytymen have been using artificial light in encouraging egg production for many years. But the Agriculture Department reports that recent experiments show this practice may be a handicap if it is started too early.

and a two storied squash are also raised by the plant experimenter.

These are most of the fruit and vegetable varieties raised on the small plot of ground on Lozier lane. If there are others you can be sure Ernie Santo will make them grow in the good soil he has.

Advertisement for Wright Power Blade Saw, featuring a large image of the saw and text describing its features and benefits.

Advertisement for Wright Power Blade Saw, including a list of features and a price tag of \$173.50.

Large advertisement for Big Y Feed & Seed Co. featuring a '100% OCTOBER SALE!' and listing various lawn and garden equipment like tractors, tillers, and mowers with prices.