

Latest Study Progress On Pear Decline Reported

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

A group of horticultural detectives led by Prof. Henry Hartman and County Horticultural Agent Clifford B. Cordy have tracked pear decline down to two general types: graft union, and that caused by cultural and environmental factors.

To do so they had to learn what pear tree rootstocks are grown in the Rogue valley and what types of decline affect what rootstocks more than others. This meant long hours pouring over records and correspondence of Prof. F. C. Reimer, former head of the Southern Oregon Branch experiment station. Professor Reimer wrote extensively to California and Oregon growers to learn types of rootstocks being planted.

Basis for much of this research were records compiled by a WPA crew in 1936 under the close supervision of the county horticultural agent. "Then I felt that such records were vital since many of the valley's pear tree plantings were still fresh in people's minds," Cordy said. "This study established the range in ages of trees in most valley orchards," Cordy said.

Oriental Stock Studied
Much of the pear decline trouble seems to be in Oriental rootstocks. The researchers learned that no seed of orientals was available until it was brought in about 1919. Then it was not grown into nursery stock until 1921.

"We have learned 'Jap' rootstock was planted after 1921. Then Usuriensis or Calleryana was planted here in the mid-20s to the late 20s," Cordy said. "The chief confusion in identification of rootstocks is between the Serotina or 'Jap' rootstock."

Rootstock identification is a small and specialized corner of the science of horticulture. Few men have the skill and background to make successful identification. Three of these people are Professor Reimer, dean of this science, Cordy and Hartman. Each is well versed in a particular section of this identification.

"Graft union decline appears to be infectious although this has not been fully established," Professor Hartman explained. "Graft union decline is definitely associated with specific rootstocks."

It is very severe on trees with Serotina or 'Jap' roots. The acreage of trees on this rootstock in the Rogue valley is small. It's very severe also on weak strains of Usuriensis. The acreage of trees on this type of Usuriensis in this area is also very small. Such graft union decline appears to be only moderately severe among the vigorous Usuriensis variety here.

Old Home Free
"Trees with Old Home trunks are free of graft union decline provided the Old Home is well established on its own roots," Hartman pointed out. "Trees on Calleryana roots are generally free of graft union decline at the present time."

This Old Home interstock was not brought here until 1912 from Illinois. This interstock was not widely used until the early 1920s. One of the Old Home trees planted

here by Professor Reimer is located at the old headquarters of the Southern Oregon Experiment station on the South Pacific highway just south of Phoenix. It is the only known survivor of the trees imported by Reimer.

Reimer was looking for a variety which would be blight resistant. This disease took large blocks of pear trees out of production in the early 1900s. He found Old Home was blight resistant. This variety was originally free of the "measles" affecting California trees which have a combination of Old Home and another variety.

This "measles" is indicated by peck marks in the tree wood, according to Cordy. The horticultural agent said researchers would have to study the history of such orchard replants to learn the precise cause. However, he feels the trouble has been brought to the Old Home rootstock by the replants on it.

"We feel the bulk of Old Home in this area are 'measles-free' and any wood taken from it is also free," Cordy said. "Growers who are planting trees should be certain that trees on Old Home interstock or rooted cuttings are from 'measles-free' sources."

Affects French Stock
Cultural decline seems to affect French rootstock more than other types, Professor Hartman said. "A very large percentage of the trees in this type of decline are apparently deteriorating because of a rotted condition of the main root system," Hartman said. "This form of decline definitely follows a water pattern. Soil fungus organisms may play a part in this form of decline but excess wetness appears to be the primary cause of the trouble."

Of the other factors adding to the cultural decline "a fairly large percentage of the trees" in this category obviously are going out as the result of old blight infections in the trunks and roots.

"One of the major factors contributing to decline is excessive use of certain types of fertilizer," Cordy said. "However, since this was discovered it has been largely corrected by a change in fertilizer practices."

Other causes of the cultural form of decline appear to be rodent injury, poor oil conditions and crown gall infections.

Hartman appeared on a pear decline panel which included Clifford B. Cordy, Jackson county horticultural agent as moderator; C. G. Woodbridge, Washington State University horticulturist; Dick Bethell, Placerville, Calif., farm advisor; Thomas A. Shalla, plant pathologist, University of California; and Ron Cameron, OSC plant pathologist at the annual horticultural society meeting Nov. 17.

Cameron discussed fungus organism which may work in roots of trees and said he was not able to consistently re-grow it.

Lists Conditions
He noted two, and possibly three, conditions causing symptoms classified as pear decline: (1) death of numerous and often large roots, (2) phloem-necrosis at the graft union generally attributed to a virus, (3) poor cultural practices due primarily to improper handling of water. (This may be related to the first condition, he said.)

Total number of trees affected by dead roots in the Rogue River valley is unknown but it is guessed at 140,000 trees. Above ground symptoms are similar to other types of decline and below ground symptoms cannot be confirmed without removing the tree, he explained.

"This problem differs from the phloem-necrosis decline or graft union disorder in that (1) there is no visible phloem damage at the graft union, (2) starch content of the remaining roots is exceedingly high and apparently causes excessive cambial activity especially in production of phloem, and (3) trees may recover if conditions in the root area are favorably changed, (4) a rather high percentage of the trees involved are on French roots and (5) 60 to 90 per cent of a tree's roots are dead, according to the plant pathologist.

Graft union and root symptoms are quite different, Cameron pointed out. (1) There is usually a brown line at the graft union that is the consequence of phloem necrosis, (2) because of the degeneration of the sieve tubes, carbohydrates do not move into the roots and the starch content of carbohydrates to move across the graft union sometimes causes an increase in phloem growth above the union, (3) no clear cut cases of tree recovery are known, (4) a high percentage of the trees with this type of decline

are on oriental roots, and (5) only the very fine feeder roots are dead or lacking.

Third Type Explained
"The third type of decline is related to cultural practices and is more properly handled in the soils and horticulture departments," Cameron said. "It is to be expected as cultural practices affect the soil environment they will also affect both disease potential and symptoms, and cooperation should continue between plant pathology and other departments concerned with the over-all pear decline problem."

550 More Acres of Ragweed Found By Weed Sprayers

Salem - An estimated 11,400 acres with ragweed infestation have been labeled "controlled" by sprayers from the ragweed control program, according to report from the state department of agriculture.

This is 1,100 acres more than was sprayed in 1959. Several new infestations were located this year, according to the report: Five in Josephine county, two in Polk county, three in Marion county and one in Clackamas county in southeast Portland. These total about 550 acres.

Pollen trapping stations were set up at several locations in the control area. The American Academy of Allergy reported, as of Oct. 12, the Portland area had a zero pollen count of ragweed for the entire season. Reading of slides from other areas has not been completed.

Primary Purpose
The primary purpose of the ragweed program is to reduce the pollen and seed count as much as possible. Soil sampling of known infested fields was started in 1959. Seed population counts are determined by washing samples through a series of screens and retaining the ragweed seed. On the soil samples in 1960, an apparent seed population reduction in each sample was found.

Infestation is checked as soon as it is reported. There continues to be some confusion, say officials, between taney ragwort and ragweed, although the plants are not at all alike. Taney ragwort is a biennial which rosettes the first year and at that time has a growth habit somewhat like the dandelion. The second year it grows upright about 30 inches and has large yellow flowers about the size of a quarter.

Ragweed is of two types, annual and perennial, which are difficult to differentiate. Ragweed has many green flowers about the size of a match head, growing in a "spike." The tiny flowers are a faint yellow in the pollen stage. The height varies from six inches to six feet. Ragweed tends to travel much more than ragwort.

ASC Recommends Adequate Records

By GENE WINTERS
County Agent
Chairman Albert Straus of the Jackson County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committee today reminded wool growers who marketed unshorn lambs this fall of the importance of keeping adequate records of their sales. These records are needed next spring for use in applying for payments under the wool program.

"I want to urge strongly," Mr. Straus said, "that growers get these fall sales records together now and either keep them in a safe place at home or file them at the county ASC office. Applications for payments on 1960-61 marketings must be filed by the end of next April, and may be filed any time before then."

The sales record for lambs sold must include the name of the buyer, his signature, and the number of liveweight lambs sold, plus the description "unshorn." To encourage the customary practice of selling lambs with the wool on, lamb payments are made only on lambs that have never been shorn.

County Agent Earle Jossy reported 330 lambs were shipped out last week in the Jackson county lamb pool. Half of these were feeders. The feeders were shipped to Dixon and the fat lambs to San Francisco. Due to shortage of supply there probably won't be any more lamb pools for awhile, Jossy said.

Italy's "autostrada," which was opened in 1925, was the world's first expressway to separate fast, long-distance traffic from local traffic.

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

"Well, did you see all the smoke going up all over the valley?" This question from our number one pear industry pulse-laker, "Didn't you see that Edward R. Morrow show Friday night on migrant labor?"

Yes, we saw it. We thought it portrayed some extreme examples of migrant labor poverty although we do admit something must be done about the overall situation. So far we haven't heard much of a fuss from pear row. This must mean that more people don't get their news from KBEST-TV than from any other single source in this area. This program was also announced during the panel talks on "Labor Unions and Seasonal Agricultural Labor" at the hort society meeting in Corvallis on Nov. 17. We're surprised the pear industry didn't put on a program either before or immediately after the show to counteract its obvious effects.

One of the women at the office was greatly disturbed by the show and thought something should be done to correct the situation immediately. She indicated the burden for corrective action should be on the community. Interestingly enough, she reported she was greatly outnumbered by those at the plant who opposed her views. We know it was a big topic of discussion at our little church in the heart of the fruit country here. Since these people are fruitgrowers they are naturally prejudiced. Their general comments on the "Harvest of Shame" were, "It sure makes the farmer look like a cheapskate!"

If the church people of this area feel aroused as a result of the picture, they can do one thing about it. All the churches could unite and provide a nursery with hot meals for the children. The government provides surplus agricultural products for the school lunch programs, perhaps a nursery could also take advantage of the "free school lunch program." A second-hand clothing depot might be set up, also.

As for housing, under new state laws sanitarians are required to inspect migrant labor housing, sanitation and drinking water facilities. The report for this area was "generally pretty good." This past season only a preliminary check was made and violations pointed out to growers. Enforcement will come next year for health authorities know you can't force any program down the throats of the people involved.

We haven't seen all the farm labor housing in this area, but what we have seen is neat and sanitary. We do know that in a few cases there is room for improvement. One of the large orchards moved in some fairly large family-type houses for pickers this season and it cost them good money to do it. Strangely enough we didn't get this information from the pear industry which should announce such good examples.

Now for the health of the migrant workers . . . In California where the Agricultural Workers Organizing committee started their drive the past season, growers have voluntarily financed a health survey of migrant workers and their families and plan to finance mobile health units to care for these people. Due to the everchanging tide of migrant labor it is difficult to follow up health cases. They're only here two months at the most. However, two years ago a Jackson county public health team did survey the pickers and found almost all of them had had their immunization shots and basic health care, probably received in California where the picking season is longer.

At transportation of migrant workers . . . Oregon has a new law with stringent regulations governing farm labor transports. Such regulations apply to seating, safety devices and overall condition of the vehicle. There are also strict regulations on picking crew leaders, but we don't have those here. We don't use child labor here, either, unless you can classify the few local teen-agers used as child labor. Necessity to constantly move heavy ladders makes use of child labor impractical as pearmen have pointed out.

As for education . . . A recent report on a summer school for migrant children in the Willamette valley area rated it "very successful." Since this gives the migrant children a chance to catch up on their much-needed schooling this might spread to other areas.

The John Zuckerman, who appeared on the farm labor panel at OSC and on the TV show, is a grower from Stockton, Calif. and owns 700 or more acres, part of which is in the Klamath Falls area. He is vice president of the Council of California Growers. There are a number of things included in the hort society panel discussion on farm labor which we had to leave out due to lack of time and space.

Norman Smith, director of the AWOC, opened with the remarks that, "Agricultural workers are the poorest paid, most underprivileged, worst treated people in the United States today. Simple human justice demands these people be allowed to raise themselves to the same level of standards other Americans enjoy. We feel the best way to do this is to bargain. Farmers have many labor problems. Organization of the labor force will solve some of these. We will stay with the job until it is done in every state in the Union."

Zuckerman said, "Actual field work in California has been conducted by Smith. No California farmer asked them to come. They are dedicated to securing union dues and not higher wages for farm workers."

"The average wage of the California farm workers was \$1.15 an hour plus welfare programs such as housing, transportation, etc. AWOC is in California because the way has been prepared for them and because the higher wages paid the workers there permit them to pay dues."

"The success of AWOC in California is unknown because Smith and his co-workers refuse to divulge figures. Those workers we know who have affiliated so far are the unfortunate, skid-row type who are expecting something for nothing."

"In spite of union claims they have not raised wages in California. On Feb. 15, 1959 Delmar Byrd, union operator, stated he obtained \$1.15 per hour. Wages have not changed since. Their (the union's) chief effect has been harassment of farmers."

Questions and answers from the floor from all types of farmers pointed out that the union's "only purpose is to raise living standards of agriculture laborers." AWOC does not guarantee a labor force.

Smith defined a family farm "in the terms of the bankers" as where the farmer does not employ more than one full-time hired man. The operation is carried on by members of the family except during peak seasons.

Regarding children, Smith replied, "We have no intention of organizing children. We do not object to them working during peak seasons."

Near the end, Smith said, "I am not a dictator, but I do believe in bargaining. I cannot tell you what would be a fair increase in wages—I do not know the facts. I do not know what the farmer can pay."

Egg Men Told Of Organization

About 12 Rogue Valley egg producers, which pretty well represents commercial producers in this area, attended a promotional meeting of the Independent Egg Dealers association a week ago.

Although most of the members of this year-old organization live in the Willamette valley, center of the state's egg production, the association is trying to draw more commercial operators from this area. Aim of the new group is to convince distributors and consumers that their best buy is Oregon farm-fresh, high quality eggs as promoted by the association. Chris Moss, Cottage Grove, and Ray Holt, Corvallis, explained the association program to those poultrymen attending the meeting in the county courthouse on Monday, Nov. 14.

"Our aim is to make this an effective organization to meet the needs of and be responsible to the egg producers of Oregon yet help them to maintain their independent status," the growers were told. "A central office in Eugene will coordinate the operation and help the producer to maintain his demand. Problems will be solved as they arise."

To Coordinate Operations
The central office will keep the egg producers informed as to market conditions and through coordination help eliminate egg surpluses and shortages, it was explained. Association seals are available to members on approval of their applications for this high quality designation, the board members explained. This seal applies to Double A quality or better and can be used on egg cartons containing only top quality eggs, it was explained. These seals have been used in the Rogue valley for about two months and a number of egg producers in the Willamette valley have been using them.

A local producer explained that, basically, low prices last year forced a number of people out and many didn't replenish their laying flocks. As a result of a somewhat short market, egg prices have been following a general upward trend since July. According to Friday's Portland market quotations Double A large eggs are bringing farmers 44-50 1/2 cents. The price to retailers represents quite a spread, 6 cents between the inside and outside of the market.

Jackson county has about 15 commercial egg producers and quite a few "back yard producers," a local poultryman noted.

Division Sets Meet For Foods Staff Men
Salem - Semi-annual staff conference of the Division of Foods and Dairies, of the State Department of Agriculture, will be held at the Salem offices on Nov. 29-30.

Main purpose of these conferences is to acquaint and re-acquaint personnel with the dairy laws and the enforcement of these laws. The department wants uniformity in observance of these rules.

This year, according to division chief O. K. Beals, the group will also discuss work plans. These would be programs which would help the individual plan his work time in the most effective manner.

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GARDENING TIPS

By JOHN McLOUGHLIN
County Extension Agent
MOWER CARE
Before putting the lawn mower into winter storage a fall maintenance program is advisable. Keeping your mower in good condition will lead to better performance and will extend the life of the mower.

Remove all grass and leaves from wheels, sprockets, reels and blades. Clean the mower of all accumulated dust and dirt.

Check the blade or cutter bar for sharpness. A sharp blade is important for good lawn appearance and makes mowing a lot easier. Dull blades will pull the grass rather than cut it. This causes browning of the turf.

Adjust the cutting units for rotary and reel type mowers. To check the reel type hold a piece of paper between the knife blade and the reel and slowly turn the reel by hand. Each reel blade should cut the paper along the entire knife blade. Adjustments are located on the mower to regulate this.

Power mower owners should change the crankcase oil and clean and refill the oil bath filter on the carburetor. This will help to avoid wear on the piston ring and connecting rod. The spark plug should be cleaned or replaced. Be sure the gap is set at the recommended width.

Before using the mower next spring make sure all the nuts, bolts, and screws are tight. The mower should be oiled periodically throughout the season at the indicated points.

Demonstration Set On Tree Pruning

A discussion and demonstration of peach tree pruning will be held this Wednesday, Nov. 30, at 1:30 p.m. on the Curtis Stockstill farm.

The Stockstill farm is 1/2 mile west of Phoenix on Fourth st. and Houston rd. Anyone having peaches or an interest in pruning is invited to attend and share his ideas and problems with the group.

Sale of Unmarked And Unfit Cull Potatoes Halted

Salem - A warning to anyone who tries to sell cull potatoes without properly marking them as culls is contained in an incident reported by the state department of agriculture.

Potatoes purchased in another state by an Oregon produce dealer were resorted and the culls placed in unlabeled, turned and used sacks and sold to another produce dealer. Oregon law requires cull potatoes to be plainly marked with letters two-inches high if offered for the consumer trade. Or they may be sold as livestock feed to livestock feeders only without the mark.

In the recent incident, some of the potatoes were sold at No. 1 and No. 2 prices to restaurants, produce stands and individuals in southwest Oregon. Sales in Oregon were slow, so attempt was made to get part of the lot into California. The border station rejected the lot as having "about 90 per cent soft rot."

Undismayed, another sales attempt was made, this time in southern Oregon. Here a restaurant operator urged inspection by the State Department of Agriculture. The department found the lot unfit for human consumption and ordered immediate "dumping." Part of the original lot held in another section of the state was inspected with a plus "75 per cent soft rot" verdict. These potatoes were dumped under department supervision.

Instead of filing complaint against the dealer, the department directed, in what is believed to be the best interest of the innocent purchaser, that the dealer pick up all potatoes sold and return the full purchase price, with refund receipts to be submitted to the department.

Sixty Herds Said Quarantined Now

Salem - Over 60 herds on Oregon farms are now under quarantine for brucellosis, according to report from the State Department of Agriculture, a new law since the start of the statewide eradication program in 1955.

In eastern Oregon 45 herds were quarantined and in western Oregon, 18 herds. Tuberculosis tests this year brought seven herds under quarantine in eastern Oregon and nine in western Oregon.

According to statistics for the month of October over 12,000 cattle have been tested for brucellosis. Out of this came 40 reactors. Over 5,000 calves were vaccinated for the disease. For tuberculosis, over 3,000 cattle were tested and 17 reactors found.

New Brand Rules Now in Effect

Salem - Effective since November 5 are new regulations on location of brands on horses, mules and cattle, according to report from the State Department of Agriculture.

The new regulations say that brands on cattle can only be used or placed in the following locations: right hip, right flank, right rib, right shoulder, right neck, left hip, left flank, left rib, left shoulder, left neck and flank locations are new.

Brands on horses and mules must be placed on: the right hip, right stifle, right shoulder, right neck, right jaw, left hip, left stifle, left shoulder, left neck, left jaw.

Neck, jaw and stifle locations are new for horses and mules. In 1933, the work had only reached the letter "F."

For the next 30 years, it was almost impossible to find scholars qualified and willing to work on the dictionary. In 1903, the Prussian Academy of Science undertook the task. Interrupted by both World Wars, it was finally finished last summer by scholars from both West and Communist East Germany.

Cookie Baking Suggestions Given

By LEE SHEEHAN
Home Economics Agent

Save time, money and food by using the right baking equipment for your holiday season preparation. Shiny metal surfaces on baking utensils insure picture-perfect products as they come from the oven. Shiny surfaces give even browning results; white dark pans cause too much browning on the bottom.

If you don't have a cookie sheet, invert a large bright metal pan and bake the cookies on the bottom. Don't use the pan right side up, as the high sides shield the heat from the cookies and prevent browning. You can use aluminum foil for cookie baking by cutting it to 1 1/2 inches of space each side and the ends placed on the oven rack. This gives even circulation of heat so the cookies bake evenly.

In most ovens, results are better if you bake one pan of cookies at a time on a rack placed in the center position in the oven. When two sheets are baked simultaneously, the bottom pan cuts off some of the heat circulation from the top rack. This can be partially corrected by switching the position of the pans about midway during the baking time.

Check your oven to make certain it is level. Many floors sag making the oven higher in the back. The temperature on the high side will be hotter than on the low side. This is easily corrected by placing thin strips of wood under the low side. Many new ranges have leveling screws in the base for this adjustment.

Jonel Hill To Attend Meeting in Las Vegas

Salem - Public Utility Commissioner Jonel C. Hill flies to Las Vegas Wednesday for the convention of the National Association of Railroad and Utility Commissioners. He returns Thursday.

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