

General Peach Sizes Can Be Predicted

General harvest sizes of J. H. Hale peaches can now be predicted as a result of five years of research on the problem, Dr. M. N. Westwood, Oregon State college horticulturist, told a meeting of peach growers here last week.

Dr. Westwood emphasized that his tables should be used as only general guides in predicting peach sizes for all varieties. Most of his research was conducted in the central Washington area.

First step in making the size prediction is to determine the beginning of pit hardening, the horticulturist said. This is the time when 80 to 90 per cent of the pits have hardened at the tip end. Hardening has started when the grower can feel some resistance as he cuts with a sharp knife the very thin cross sections through the apex of the fruit. Pit hardening usually starts about 50 days past full bloom.

Corn Planting Trial Reported

By HAROLD WHITE
Southern Oregon Branch Experiment Station

Profits from sweet corn grown for fresh market are influenced by the number of plants per acre.

In a rate of planting trial at the Southern Oregon Experiment station last season sweet corn was planted 12,000, 15,000, 18,000, 21,000, and 24,000 plants per acre. A total of 1,988 dozen marketable ears were harvested from the 18,000 plants per acre plots which compares with 1,878 dozen from the 21,000 and the 24,000 planting rates. The 12,000 plants per acre yielded only 1,533 dozen while 15,000 plants per acre yielded 1,694 dozen marketable ears. With corn figured at 25c per dozen the 18,000 plants per acre rate gave a return of \$38.50 per acre more than any other rates of seeding used in the test.

Length and diameter of ears produced were practically the same for the 12,000, 15,000, 18,000, and 21,000 planting rate but there was a slight decrease in size of ears in the 24,000 plants per acre rate of planting. At the 18,000 rate which produced 1,988 dozen marketable ears per acre 5 per cent of the husked ears were 6-7 inches long, 72 per cent were 7-8 inches, and 23 per cent 8 inches or more. With rows spaced 36 inches apart seed should be placed 9.5 inches apart in the row to get 18,000 per acre. Spacing for the other rates of seeding are 12,000-14.5 inches, 15,000-11.6 inches, 21,000-8.3 inches, and 24,000-7.3 inches apart in the row.

Table 1. First Reference Date Predictions

Wt. of 200 Fruits (pounds)	Predicted Harvest Size (In. Dia.)
5	1.95
10	2.55
15	2.67
20	2.92
25	3.12
30	3.28
35	3.42
40	3.54

Table 2. Second Reference Date Predictions

Wt. of 200 Fruits (pounds)	Predicted Harvest Size (In. Dia.)
10	2.10
15	2.36
20	2.60
25	2.79
30	2.96
35	3.11
40	3.24
45	3.37
50	3.49
55	3.58

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Well, the Cubans are having troubles with chickens now. Seems the government there can't quite decide which should come first, the chicken or the egg.

Chicken farmers there are being encouraged to breed pullets to produce the eggs much needed by the Cubans. They used to get chickens from Florida. However, all such agricultural goods which would be exported to Cuba are now under a U.S. trade embargo. So the Cubans are trying to produce pullets from eggs which they don't have enough of.

The price of eggs is strictly regulated at about seven cents each and no black market has been organized so far. With all the cackling Castro has been doing perhaps he will come up with something.

Contrary to what many people think, it's not the grain farmers who have shown the most recent rapid production growth. It's the poultrymen. According to federal figures, since 1947 production of poultry and eggs has risen 50 per cent. This can be compared with 30 per cent for meat animals, 10 per cent for dairy products, 18 per cent for crops and 25 per cent for all farm products combined.

Over-production, in fact, is the trouble in the egg industry. Local poultrymen are concerned over the large numbers of out-of-state eggs brought in on the wheels of swift, far-reaching transportation. So, they are emphasizing quality and only the top quality eggs will receive the seal of Oregon's Independent Egg Producers. Look for that seal when you buy.

Well, women set their hair with beer and one old time female cinema star bathed in milk. Perhaps somebody will come up with the idea that an omelet applied to the face might help ensure complexion care. Makes about as much sense as some of these health foods they are using. Only health food we ever consumed was supplied forcibly from Grandma's big tablespoon every spring. We soon were able to outrun that supply of sulphur and molasses.

Anyway, California is crowing about leading the parade in egg production and is planning a January sales promotion. For 13 consecutive years California layers have been setting new production records every 12 months. In 1959 California led the nation with 5.2 billion eggs produced. The state now expects a 9 per cent increase over the 1959 total. We suppose, since California is under a Democratic administration this would prove that the Democrats can lay 'em, too.

The Golden State hens are also beating the average production per bird record. In 1959 California's layers produced an average of 229 eggs. This is 23 over the national average. It was only 15 years ago that the state's average was only 163 eggs per year.

It wasn't too long ago that we were chuckling over the story about the health food fadist who was searching for eggs from happy hens. But poultrymen are now aiming at breeding happy hens, better-bred hens, better-fed hens and hens protected against disease. Now at the University of California at Davis they are talking of the effect of total environment and social stress on birds. This affects eggs production, too, we understand.

Oregon's 1960 egg production estimates of 665 million places it far behind California's 1960 estimates of 5.7 billion. Oregon is 30th state in the nation for egg production. The hen average is a little better though. Oregon hens average 221 eggs a year and California 229 eggs, based on 1959 figures, according to Robert Birdsall, OSC agricultural information specialist.

While California is aiming at happy hens, Oregon State college is continuing its research on the compact models. Dr. Paul Bernier, of the OSC poultry department, now has about 250 midgets on test. He is looking for birds with superior characteristics with the hope of developing a strain of midgets with consistently high performance.

Eggs from the midgets average a little smaller than those from normal-size hens. However, some of the midgets have been laying eggs of average size, plus producing as many as normal size hens. Idea is to get the same or greater egg production from hens requiring less feed. The researchers are studying how well the hens stand the strain over a long period. They also want long-time records on the birds' nutritional requirements to maintain high production.

There is a dandy little booklet out on "Public Relations or Peasantry" written by Ed Lipscomb, director of public relations for the National Cotton Council of America. In it he says it is all right for the farmer to hope public relations will make people love me as I am. He says this is correct provided the farmers live lovably and they let people know about it.

This area puts out top quality fruit and vegetables, yet after watching some of the people at the fruit and produce sections in local markets we wonder if they understand this. Buying fresh fruits and vegetables is like anything else. There's a right and wrong way to do it.

Just because some fruit or vegetables are priced low on a rising market doesn't mean you are eyeing a bargain. The "specials" may be overripe, partly deteriorated or of poor quality. Also, the over-large fruits may be pithy or thick skinned and be almost dry of juice. Over-large vegetables may be tasteless, pithy, or woody.

Generally, you pay for what you get. Better fruits and vegetables at the higher prices are free from wasteful cracks, blemishes and decay. There is less waste to pare away so you really save money.

Fruits and vegetables in season are usually best in flavor and best price wise. All fresh vegetables, regardless of use, should be crisp, tender, free from bruises and fresh appearing for better flavor and more vitamin C. Select personally and consider the use. Fruits and vegetables may not have to be perfect if they are to be cut up for a salad.

Check to see that the containers hold full measure and that the product is of good quality throughout the pack. Stalk vegetables such as celery should have tender and firm stems. Pod vegetables like snap beans should be free of bruises, firm and crisp. Root vegetables like carrots should be firm, good rich color and smooth. Leafy vegetables such as lettuce and cabbage should have a bright color and be crisp.

Get your money's worth. Use the trimmings for salad. Some fruits and vegetables contain more vitamin A or vitamin C than others. Generally dark green or yellow vegetables contain more vitamin A. Citrus fruits, raw cabbage, raw strawberries, cantaloupe and tomatoes are some of the better sources of vitamin C. To figure the price, divide the total cost by the number of servings the purchase will yield. Remember everyone needs at least four servings of fruits and vegetables (fresh, canned or frozen) each day.

According to reports from Gerald Detering, Oregon Farm Bureau Federation president, townspeople at El Centro and Brawley in the heart of the lettuce country, turned out en masse to help the struck farmers get their crops harvested. Other farm groups such as the local cattlemen's association are helping with both labor and money. Detering learned on a recent trip through there. If the AWOC should call a strike in the middle of the pear harvest season would the local people do the same thing here? It might be a good plan to get some sort of idea. It might also be a good idea to enlist the aid of other farmer groups in the valley now.

MARKET NEWS

Red Bluff Livestock Auction Report, Tuesday, Jan. 24, 1961

CATTLE: Salable 340, including around 200 calves. Slaughter steers and heifers scarce; slaughter cows in small supply; moderately active and steady; slaughter calves and bulls scarce; stocker and feeder classes active, particularly stock calves, steady in strong, quality and condition considered. Supply comprised of less than 10 per cent slaughter cows, remainder mainly stocker and feeder classes. Consignments almost entirely of northern California origin.

SLAUGHTER COWS: Individual Standard 870 lbs. \$18.00, "shelly" Canners down to around \$9.25.

SLAUGHTER BULLS: Couple head Utility 1370 and 1450 lbs. \$19.30 and \$19.90.

SLAUGHTER CALVES: Few individual Standard and Good 270-330 lbs. \$22.25-24.75, few head Utility 327 lbs. \$18.00.

STOCKER AND FEEDER STEERS: Small lots and individual Good and Choice 300-500 lbs. \$19.20-26.30, small lots Common and Medium 250-500 lbs. \$19.20-26.30. Few lots and individual Good and Choice 510-800 lb. yearlings \$24.50-26.50, including a 29 head shipment 332 lbs. at \$26.30; individual and small lots Common and Medium 350-650 lbs. \$18.00-24.00.

STOCKER AND FEEDER HEIFERS: Small lots and individual Good and Choice 300-500 lbs. \$24.00-26.30, small lots and individual Common and Medium 245-480 lbs. \$18.00-23.00, individual and small lots Medium and Good 385-695 lb. yearlings \$19.00-20.90.

STOCK COWS: Few lots Common and Medium \$10.00-14.00 per head. Small number Common and Medium with young calves at side \$12.30-21.30 per pair.

FEEDER PIGS: Supply mainly feeder pigs.

FEEDER PIGS: Small lot Good and Choice 35 lbs. \$22.00, small lot 95 lbs. \$20.00.

SHEEP: Salable none. Market untested.

Gardening Tips

By JOHN McLOUGHLIN
County Extension Agent
FLOWERING CHERRIES

Home owners are requested not to plant both the Kwanzan and Shirofugen varieties of flowering cherries. These varieties are carriers of the K and S little cherry virus and are a definite threat to the production of sweet and sour cherries.

Research is under way to determine virus free stocks of these flowering varieties. If successful in finding a virus free strain it will be at least two or three years before these trees will be readily available. Please do not plant these varieties until you have been informed by this office that virus free stock are on the market.

Identification and recommendations will be made as soon as possible. Don't forget to enclose your name, address and phone number with the material.

CHRISTMAS ROSE

As you look at your garden does it have that cold, wintry look like most gardens at this time of year? It could have been bursting forth for the past month with large, waxy white, pale green or lavender anemone-like blooms produced by the various varieties of the Christmas Rose (*Helleborus ligr.*)

The Christmas Rose is a long lived perennial and with its handsome leathery dark evergreen foliage, it is a valuable landscape plant. The flowers, averaging three inches in diameter on 14-inch stems, last up to two months on the plant. The white flowering varieties turn metallic rose, green or lavender as they fade. Both flower and foliage make excellent cut flower arrangements.

Success with this generally disease and insect free plant will come if you remember that they like well drained rich soil, partial shade and protection from drying winds. Once planted DO NOT DISTURB.

Use Manure

Through soil preparation incorporating well rotted manure or other organic matter and bonemeal is advisable. Space at least two feet apart, for a plant when well established will form an attractive foot high mound of leaves covering a square yard. A good mulch will help prevent roots from drying out.

While the Christmas Rose is becoming established in your garden, flowering in the first few years will be below expectations. These first few years, however, are more than compensated for when you have the established plant flowering in your garden.

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Chemical Meeting Dates Now Changed

Salem - The ninth annual Oregon agriculture chemical applicators' conference will be held Feb. 20 and 21 in Whitehouse Hall at Oregon State college in Corvallis. This is a change from the dates originally set in January.

The conference is sponsored cooperatively by the State department of agriculture and OSC.

Three broad topics, suggested by the applicators themselves, will be covered during the sessions. They are business management, chemicals and legislation. Speakers will include staff members of the college and of the department. Auburn Norris, technical director of the Moro chemical company, Seattle, will be a guest speaker as will Stuart Turner, consulting agronomist, San Francisco, Calif.; G. F. Jacobson, Northwest Underwriters, Portland; and Frank McKennon, former director of the State Department of Agriculture, Salem.

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Healthy Sheep Require Permit To Enter State

Salem-Healthy sheep from non-quarantine areas now need a permit though not a health certificate to enter Oregon and they must move directly to the approved destination. This is in line with a new requirement of the state department of agriculture, effective Jan. 18.

The new rules are a result of a meeting between representatives of the sheep industry and department veterinarians, now a nationwide problem. Sheep with other infectious diseases must continue to meet federal interstate shipping standards.

Sheep infected with scabies may enter Oregon under restricted conditions. Infected sheep must have a permit and health certificate, must be moved directly to a licensed federal or state slaughter plant where they must be kept in an isolated pen and slaughtered within 10 days after arrival.

Sheep which have been exposed to scabies may be moved into the state only if they go directly to their destination accompanied by the proper permits and have been dipped as prescribed by regulations.

Authorities are definite about proper dipping methods. According to the new order, infected sheep must be dipped for scabies under supervision of a full time federal or authorized state representative. They must be dipped at least twice at 10 to 14 day intervals, 10 days before entering Oregon. Sheep exposed to scabies must be dipped once within 10 days prior to entering the state.

The necessary health certificate must identify the sheep, their point of origin, state that sheep have been dipped and whether the dipping was properly supervised and whether sheep are free from other infectious disease. This certificate must be signed by a full-time authorized representative of the United States Department of Agriculture or the state department of agriculture at the point of origin.

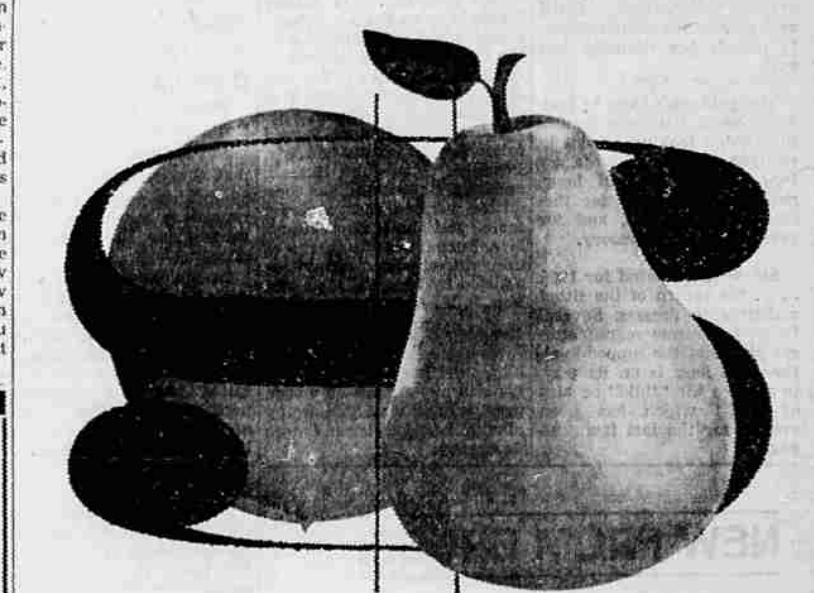
All trucks or cars moving scabies infected sheep or those exposed, must be disinfected after delivery.

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