

FROM THE GROUND UP

By BART BARTLETT

From an agricultural standpoint the weather is both good and bad. Where crops are being grown whose market acceptance may be marred by wet, cool weather and frequent hail storms, the present weather is not favorable. However, the weather has favored forage production.

The most misunderstood feature of farming is supplemental fertilization. There is the tendency to favor or discredit a fertilizer material upon the basis of its chemical form or physical condition prior to actual application to the soil.

It can be assumed that soil physical and chemical condition is a vital factor in supplemental fertilization efficiency, but it must be assumed at the same time the human error is much more questionable.

An ammonia ion is without identity regardless of its source in so far as ultimate utilization by a green plant is concerned. In fact, one of the great abuses of supplemental nitrogen fertilization in this area involves recommendation and ultimate usage of huge quantities of sulfate of ammonia.

Anhydrous ammonia fell victim to the same fate through the fault of massive quantity applications. Yet, as stated above, the ammonia ion is without identity in the case of either of the above raw materials. It is a fact that a large amount of the available information regarding these or other fertilizer supplements is based upon, or is from sources that have a very limited understanding of either the chemistry of physics of soils.

Lawns may be growing mushrooms. This condition can be a good or indifferent symptom of lawn condition. In no case is it an indication that something drastic is wrong and that emergency measures are in order to combat the situation. Where lawns are occupied by oak trees the mushrooms may be the fruiting bodies of Oak root fungus, but even this is doubtful. Their presence more than likely indicates a high level of fertility and moisture under shady conditions. Since mushrooms are soft and do not damage lawn mowers, they seem to be small reason for worry.

When weed control progresses into the realm of plant physiology, it will be found that an understanding of the metabolism of plants is a more reliable indicator to whether or not a given plant will be controlled by one of the hormonal materials. The degree of tolerance of plant species; whether monocot, dicot, seedling or adult follows this formula very closely.

The Cal-Ore Hereford tour this past Sunday was a success. Further farmer-sponsored tours should be encouraged.

The primary elections are over and if your farming and ranching is up to schedule by this weekend, we should go fishing.



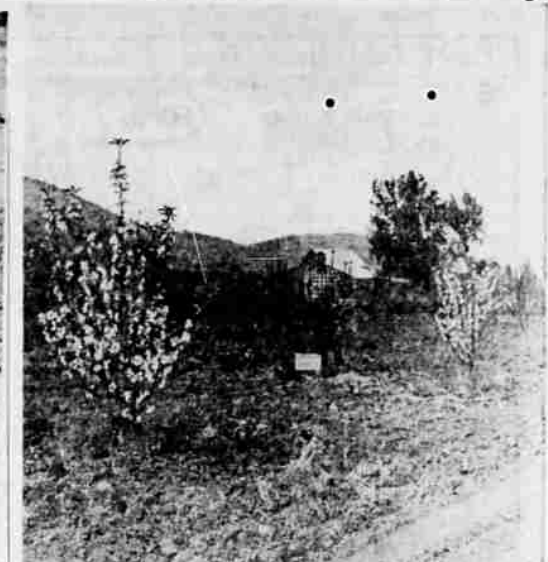
SETS BLOOM—John Higdon, horticulturist for Bear Creek Orchards, sets a large can containing apple blossoms in the top of a small apple tree. The bough of blossoms is set higher than the other blossoms so the pollen will tend to fall from the pollen species into the other blossoms.



SMALLER BOUQUET—This smaller can containing a bouquet was set in the heart of the apple tree to promote pollination from the fertile apple variety. The smaller can has to be watered every third day. Purpose of using the bouquet is to further ensure pollination.



COVERS HIVE—Higdon used some bouquets of apple blossoms to cover one end of the hive. When the bees come out they have to crawl through the blossoms thus covering themselves with pollen from the pollinating species of apple tree. Then they fly to the nearby non-fertile varieties of apple tree and spread the pollen as they visit each blossom.



POSITION OF HIVE—Horticulturist John Higdon stands by a bee hive used for pollination to show its position halfway between two trees requiring pollination. A bouquet can be seen in a can in the top of one dwarf apple tree. The practice is to plant a pollinating tree for ever third tree in every third row. These practices as illustrated can be used for peaches, also.

Check Needed For Spotted Aphid On Alfalfa Plants

By EUGENE WINTERS
County Agent

New alfalfa seedlings should be examined frequently this year for spotted alfalfa aphids.

Spotted alfalfa aphids, both the nymphs and adults, suck juices from alfalfa leaves and stems. In addition to feeding, the aphids apparently inject a poison into the plants which will kill the young alfalfa and stunt or retard the older plants.

Although no spotted aphid infestation has been observed by the agent or reported to him this year there were considerable numbers of this pest in the county during the growing season of 1961.

Detection may be difficult now because in cool weather aphids drop to the ground when infested alfalfa plants are disturbed. In warm weather aphids are active and move readily from plant to plant. There isn't much hope that the cold weather will reduce the hazard this year.

When spotted alfalfa aphids are detected in a seedling field or a neighboring field it will pay to examine the seedlings every few days.

Treatment is recommended for seedlings when one aphid or more is found for every two plants. On older stands treatment is indicated when aphids average over ten per stem and honeydew is noticeable.

Insecticides recommended are Diazinon, Malathion, Parathion and Demeton. Demeton and Parathion should be applied only by a trained operator.

Malathion at ten ounces actual toxicant per acre or diazinon at four ounces actual toxicant per acre are the recommended dosages. With these two insecticides an interval of seven days between last application and cutting should be observed.

THANT'S SON KILLED

Rangoon, Burma—(UPI)—Tin Maung Thant, 21, eldest son of U. N. Acting Secretary General Thant, was fatally injured Monday when he fell from a moving bus.

Chit Chat

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

It was May 15, 1862 when President Abraham Lincoln signed the act which reads "... There is hereby established at the seat of government of the United States a Department of Agriculture, the general designs and duties of which shall be to acquire and to diffuse among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture in the most general and comprehensive sense of the word, and to procure, propagate, and distribute among the people new and valuable seeds and plants."

Isaac Newton, the first commissioner of agriculture, organized the USDA and planned its program for a nation torn by civil war. The following century has brought almost unbelievable advances in research and experiment station work, extension, forestry, farm cooperatives and credit, economics and foreign service.

The USDA has consistently led the struggle to balance the economic teeter-totter in favor of the American people. Sometimes it has been successful. Other times it has not.

One of its newest programs is that of Rural Area Development. It has recognized that rural poverty can be just as pressing as poverty found in the cities. It is perhaps more difficult to seek out and cure because the cabin down the country lane is harder to find. And there are also the borderline cases—the small farms that don't quite make a decent living for the families on them.

If RAD had been universal earlier there might never have been a "Tobacco Road." In 1955 the USDA reported, "Farm families with low earnings make up more than a fourth of all the farm families. Nearly a thousand counties have farmers who are mainly dependent on the incomes from small, poorly paying farms."

First, a pilot "Rural Development Program" was established. Following its success the secretary of agriculture moved quickly to mobilize its resources and personnel for a total program of rural areas development.

This new program will be coordinated with the reformed Jackson County Regional Planning Advisory committee led by County Judge Earl Miller. Much groundwork must be laid and a thorough study made of the economic resources of the valley before the program starts rolling here.

In seven months the new RAD program has gone into operation throughout the nation, reinforced by new and strengthened services of the department.

These are some of its highlights of progress:

Establishment of a top level department of agriculture RAD board and staff to get the program into operation, and a public advisory committee of individuals experienced in area development to advise the secretary of agriculture.

Assistance to private, state and local leaders informing the RAD committees which are developing plans and programs suited to the needs of local areas. By Oct. 1, RAD committees were working in 38 states and being organized in others.

RAD panels were organized in all states. These were made up of USDA representatives to help committees to move forward with local RAD programs.

A total of 487 rural counties were named as eligible for financial aid under the new Area Redevelopment Act. The USDA directly assisted leaders in making use of ARA to strengthen their economies.

The USDA has increased its regular activities to help revitalize rural areas against poverty.

Congress recently gave the USDA more lending authority to help farm families on small farms to expand and improve their businesses. This is a basic tool in rural areas development.

The department now administers a \$430 million building loan to speed up home improvement and building throughout the rural areas.

Between Jan. 1 and Aug. 1, 1961, 55 small watershed construction projects covering 4.5 million acres were authorized for planning assistance. Thirty-six projects including 1.6 million acres were authorized for operations.

The USDA helps rural counties with serious chronic low income to get benefits under the new Area Redevelopment Act. These benefits include loans and grants for public works and industrial buildings, technical aid, and retraining of low income farm people.

RAD uses all of these programs and services in new and dynamic ways to eliminate chronic poverty in rural America.

An indication of how important this may be to Jackson County is revealed in the last agricultural census. From 1950 to 1954 the number of farms under 10 acres has increased from 751 to 781. The number of farmers working off their farms in this county has increased from 1,631 in 1949 to 1,758.

Census statistics show statewide that there are 19,754 Oregon farmers working part-time and 4,757 farms are in part-retirement.

Even more important is this: During the next 15 years, more than 4 million farm youth will reach working age and need jobs. Besides this, more than 8 million young people who live in rural areas, but not on farms will be hunting jobs.

RAD is a priority program. It aims to avoid large-scale migration to already overcrowded city areas. It must help those who remain in small towns and farming communities to contribute fully to the nation's economic and social well being. In other words, Uncle Sam needs everyone physically and mentally able to do so to produce the almighty dollar. If you don't think so just look at your income tax statement again.

GARDENING TIPS

By JOHN McLOUGHLIN
County Agent

Peach Leaf Curl

It is too late to spray for peach leaf curl now. The infected leaves will eventually drop and new leaves will replace them. The best practice

is to apply ammonium sulfate or another commercial fertilizer to stimulate new leaf growth.

For information on the right spray to use and proper time to apply it, call the Extension Office, 773-8215, and ask for the home orchard spray schedule.

Iris

Iris with a rhizome type of root system should be divided every three or four years to produce best growth. Dig the clumps after flowering and cut off the old rhizomes with a sharp knife at the base of the new rhizomes. Discard the rhizomes with no growth. Remove the soil from the good rhizomes, trim the foliage back to six inches and replant.

Iris prefer a well drained soil of medium fertility and a location where they will receive at least half the day's sun. Poor drainage may be corrected by planting the iris in a raised bed of four to six inches. When preparing the bed remember an overly rich soil will produce a lush foliage but little flowering.

Set the rhizomes just below the soil surface, being careful to spread the roots to insure a wide feeding range. A good clump may be formed by setting the rhizomes in a tripod or starshape pattern. Be sure the growing end is pointed outward. Such a pattern permits the individual rhizome to grow without interfering with another. If planting the iris on a slope, plant the growing end upward.

Pine Needle Scale

Examine your pines for the pine needle scale. This scale causes injury by sucking the plant juices. The pine needle scale attacks most species of pine and spruce, and it also may attack hemlock and fir. White, Austrian, red, Scotch and Mugo pine are especially subject to attack.

The shields of both the male and female scales are white and elongate with a yellow spot near one end. Their shapes vary with the shape and width of the needles on which the scales occur. Mature females are about 1/2 inch long, somewhat oval, and tapering to one end. Male scales are narrow and about 1/25 inch long. The adult males are winged. The eggs are purple and the newly emerged louse-like young are active.

Eggs are laid in the fall and remain under the scale of the dead female until spring. The eggs hatch in May and the young crawlers move about for several hours before settling on the needles. When mature, about July 1, the winged male fertilizes the female and dies. A second brood of young emerges during late July or early August. Female scales from the second brood deposits the overwintering eggs early in October.

Spray infested plants with Malathion (one tablespoon 57 per cent E. C. per gallon of water) in late May or early June when the crawlers appear. Repeat the spray in ten days. A 3 per cent light-medium oil or lime sulfur 1-10 applied in early spring is also effective.

The pine needle scale may destroy young trees. Infested trees often have a gray unhealthy appearance and they are more subject to attack by boring insects.

Phoenix — "The market was active on a good run of cattle with 249 in the offering, according to Bob Bever, manager of the Rogue Valley Livestock yard, Inc. in Phoenix."

Once again baby calves were in good demand with whiteface baby calves selling at \$42.50 to \$61 per head. Holstein baby calves sold at \$23 to \$31 per head. Mixed calves sold at \$21 to \$38 per head. Guernsey and Jersey calves sold at \$7 to \$12 per head.

The market was good on light yearling and stocker calves with the top selling steers consigned by Table Top Hereford ranch. These light yearling steers weighing 492 pounds sold at \$28.70 and went to the new owner of the Ed Greenwood ranch at Eagle Point — Al Rocha.

Pen To California

One pen of 27 head of yearling steers also from Table Top Hereford ranch sold to Chrystal Creek ranch at Fort Jones, Calif. These cattle weighed 603 pounds and sold at \$25.80.

Light heifer calves sold at steady prices and very good quality heifers were in the offering. Heifers weighing 350 to 400 pounds sold at \$24.50 to \$25.40.

Light yearling heifers sold at \$21.50 to \$22.80. These heifers weighed 300 to 350 pounds.

Cows and calves sold well with good young cows and calves selling at \$21.00 to \$22.75 per pair.

Common and low quality pairs sold at \$16.75 to \$18.00 per pair.

Slaughter cows and all classes of butcher cattle were higher and made good comebacks from the weaker market of the last two weeks.

Heavy grass steers sold to local slaughter. These local cattle were carrying good flesh for so early in the year and sold at \$23 to \$23.90, the highest prices this spring. These cattle were weighing from 850 to 970 pounds.

Standard cows sold well with the heiferette type selling at \$17.60 to \$19.70. Utility cows sold at \$16.80 to \$17.80. Canner and cutter cows sold at \$14.50 to \$16.20, with a few shelly cows down to \$10.

FIRST IS LAST

Homewood, Ala. (UPI)—Councilman Maury Farrell was first in line behind the mayor Monday when city officials led the way to emphasize the importance of an automobile safety inspection program. Farrell's car was the first to fail. "Not only that," he complained, "but the darn thing wouldn't crank up and get me away from there."

93 Consignors Sell 458 Head At Midway Yard

A total of 93 consignors sold 458 cattle, 37 hogs and 14 sheep at the regular Friday, May 18 sale at Midway auction yard.

Owner-Manager Bill Bray reported, the market was steady and active on all classes of livestock.

Good steer calves weighing 400 to 500 pounds brought \$26 to \$28.50. Medium steer calves brought \$22 to \$25.50 and plain dairy-cross calves \$19 to \$23.

Good heifer calves sold at \$24 to \$26.50. Medium quality heifers sold at \$20 to \$23.50.

Yearling steers weighing 525 to 685 pounds went out at \$24 to \$26.25. A pen of yearlings weighing 504 pounds sold for \$27.30 and a pen of 685 pound steers brought \$25.40. Medium steers sold for \$21 to \$24 and Okie classes \$18 to \$21.

Good Yearlings

Good yearling heifers brought \$23 to \$24.30. Medium heifers sold for \$20 to \$22.50 and common kinds \$17.50 to \$20.

Fifty head of Holstein heifers sold for \$115 to \$165 per head.

Two penlots of whiteface cows with calves sold for \$215 per pair. These were first and second calf cows. A pen of Angus cows and calves brought \$221 per pair and other pairs went from \$190 to \$237.50.

There were two truckload consignments of grass-fat steers weighing from 1000 to 1,200 pounds. They sold from \$22 to \$23.60. A load of grass-fat heifers sold from \$20.10 to \$22.10.

Choice veal brought from \$27 to \$29.25.

Calves went from \$22 to \$26.

Bulls brought \$19 to \$20.70 with two big bulls reaching the higher figure.

Fat young cows sold for \$18.50 to \$18.50. Most utility cows went out at \$14.50 to \$16.20. Cutters sold for \$12.50 to \$14.50 and canners and light cutters sold for \$10 to \$12.

"We expect the market to slow up a little from now on. Local buyers are getting their pastures filled and cattle are starting to move to market in California," Bray commented.

"Move your cattle to market as fast as they fatten or, in the case of feeders, as they reach 600 to 700 pounds. Don't hold cattle until the feed is gone!"

Openings Listed For Postal Workers

Position openings for postal clerk and carrier in the U. S. post offices at White City and Medford have been announced by the U. S. Civil Service.

To apply persons must reside within the delivery area of the post office for which the application is made. Starting salary is \$2.16 per hour.

Application forms, instructions as to the date of the examination may be obtained from the post office to which the person wishes to apply.

Closing date for the Medford position is June 8.

Poison Oak Control Set For Late May or June

By RAY HUBBELL
Weed Control Supervisor

The latter part of May and the month of June has proved to be the most effective time to apply two materials for Poison Oak control.

The plants should be in full leaf and the application made on a day where temperatures are around 65 to 75 degrees. Amino Triazole, a wettable powder, used at one pound of the 50 per cent material to each 12 gallons of water, or Amitrole T, a liquid, used at one quart to each 12 gallons of water. The addition of a spreader sticker at 10 to 16 ounces per 100 gallons of mix will add even further to the percentage of kill.

The plants should be thoroughly wet, this means leaf surface and stem surfaces, and will require treating from both sides of a bush to insure complete coverage. This treatment will give nearly complete elimination of poison oak. Care should be taken to observe any regrowth the following year, and make repeat applications before the plant has a chance to recover.

After treatment is completed the plants should not be disturbed, preferably until the late fall or the following spring. At this time the sprayed plants will be brittle and can be broken off at the ground and burned, leaving the regrowth clear for the follow-up treatment.

Avoid Contact

A word of caution to those susceptible to poison oak. Plan your work with poison oak on a relatively cool day and avoid excessive perspiration or physical contact with the plant. A solution of 5 per cent Ferric Chloride in a half and half mixture of alcohol and water applied to exposed or affected parts, either before or after contact, will greatly reduce the possibilities of one's breaking out.

This inexpensive and non-poisonous remedy can be obtained from most drug stores. Washing and rinsing several times with hot water and ordinary kitchen or laundry soap after being exposed also will reduce the poison oak effects. Soaps containing oils should not be used, for the poison is soluble in oils and will therefore spread over other parts of the skin.

When burning poison oak brush, care must be taken to stay clear of the smoke from such fires. The volatile oils in poison oak are dispersed with the heat and the possibility of being effected are greater than ever. Clothes and tools used during Poison Oak control work should also be cleaned upon completion of the day's work for protection of others who may come in contact with these.

Keep Suitable Level

Soil moisture must be kept at a suitable level during May and early June as it is this period when most of the new growth is made on the trees. A dry period now will cause the trees to set terminal buds. After this there will be no further growth made during the season. Occasionally a little growth is made late in the season but this is relatively unimportant.

As the largest number of tree's roots are in the surface soil and as this surface soil is also supplying the cover crop, it is important that the cover crop be worked in and that the soil moisture in this surface layer be replenished. On deep clay soils the irrigation can be delayed for a while but now would be an excellent time for most orchardists to plan an irrigation.

Cenarrath, Wales—(UPI)—The 200 inhabitants of this village are puzzled by a poster depicting their waterfall which says, "See Britain in comfort by British Railways." The village has no station and the nearest branch line is due to close soon.

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