

## Weed Infestations Start From Holiday Decorations

By RAY HUBBELL  
Jackson County Weed Control Supervisor

The holiday season is approaching and many of our creative womenfolk will be looking for native materials with which to create dried flower arrangements and holiday decorations for this festive season.

Much literature is available with ideas and procedures for creating these decorations with materials which are available in fields, roadsides or nearby woods. In the collection of such materials little thought is given to the plant except for its decorative possibilities. This is as it should be in case of evergreen branches or fall leaves of plants and trees. However, the dried seed pods or blossoms of several weeds such as Tansy, Dock, Cattail, Queen Anne's Lace, Tansy, Thistles and Sedges are commonly used for this purpose, which brings me to the point of weed control.

Many of you have found, the following spring, to have a new weed infestation around the home, particularly along driveways or where cuttings and clippings are generally piled, before burning or being hauled away. In answering home calls many of the weed problems can be traced to transportation of dried seed heads of many of the above named weeds.

Perhaps by being forewarned and with a few suggestions for collecting and disposing of such materials the possibility of weed seed spread can be kept to a minimum.

First, when material collected consists of dried blooms or seed pods, turn them upside down and shake them to remove the seeds. In doing this where they are gathered the area is no worse off for your visit.

Second, large paper or plastic bags can be used for collecting and storing this material. Remaining seeds that fall out can be easily burned. If you are using a station wagon or pickup, spread a sheet, tarp or plastic cover to place your collection upon. Shattered seeds, leaves and debris can be confined and disposed of.

Third, collect no more than you feel necessary to do your job. Excess material generally presents a storage problem and eventually will have to be disposed of.

Fourth, when cutting, trimming and selecting your specimens for your arrangements, do this over a large plastic sheet. Here again, seeds shattered out by handling as well

## Challenge of 60's Soil Conservation Meeting Theme

When farmers and ranchers gather in Eugene Wednesday, Nov. 7, 1962 for the 14th annual meeting of the Oregon Association of Soil Conservation districts, they'll take a close look at the soil and water conservation job ahead in the 60's, according to Harlan Cantrall and Elwood Abbot, chairmen of the two soil conservation districts in Jackson county.

The conferees, members of the governing boards of the 60 soil conservation districts of Oregon, will seek ways of broadening their farm income through benefits from installing recreational and flood prevention facilities. They will also emphasize the importance of getting regular soil and water conservation practices on the land at an increased rate. The meeting will adjourn by mid-afternoon Friday, Nov. 9, 1962.

Summing up the aims of the three-day meeting, Elwood Abbot, chairman of the Jackson Soil Conservation district said, "The leaders of soil conservation districts must face the challenge of the 60's with all of the new demands and uses for soil and water resources."

Cantrall, chairman of the Rogue Soil Conservation district, stated that Thomas P. Helseth, Oregon State Conservationist, U. S. Soil Conservation Service, speaks on "Conservation in the 60's" Thursday morning. At the Friday luncheon, Bob McClelland, Denver, program advisor, National Association of Soil Conservation Districts, will tell about the "Challenge of the 60's."

Friday morning, a panel of state legislators with state representative, Cornelius Bateson, Marion county, as moderator discuss legislation affecting soil conservation districts.

Dr. James H. Jensen, president, Oregon State university, speaks at the annual banquet Thursday night on the topic, "Designated and Adopted."

Others scheduled for talks included Gene Lear, associate director, federal extension service, "Extension Service's Contribution to SCD's"; Fred Brenne, Eugene, "Businessman's Stake in Soil Conservation"; Dan Allen, executive secretary, governor's committee on natural resources, "Big Rivers From Little Gullies Grow"; and Robert Baum, administrative officer, Oregon State Soil Conservation committee, "Monday Morning Quarterbacks."

A tour of the locally-initiated Willakenzie and Lynx Hollow watershed projects in Marion county and the annual soil judging contest are scheduled for Wednesday afternoon.

The annual soil judging,

## FROM THE GROUND UP

By BART BARTLETT

The harvest season is over for almost every agricultural crop that is of economic value in this area.

For the fruit growers it was a long, frustrating season. Now that the expenses of growing and harvesting the pear crop has been accomplished, the long wait is in progress to see if there will be any profits. Bart is still of the opinion that when junk crops are harvested and sold, the result is that the price is then established for the best of the crop. In other words do not hesitate to dump the junk or cull portion of crops if there is a desire to obtain the best possible price for the good product that is to be offered for sale.

Whether or not to order nursery stock for early planting is a frequent question. If one could be sure of an open winter, free of water logged soil conditions, then early planting is desirable. During a wet winter of frequent rains, when the soil is continually saturated, it is probably best to plant as late in winter or as early in spring as possible.

Do not apply any fertilizer to any crop from now until spring unless there is a desire to use from two to three times the quantity of fertilizer that the crop will require.

This is an excellent time to select fruit trees to be pulled out. Local orchardists are farming too many non-productive trees. There is no need to fumigate the area of the pulled tree before replanting a new tree. In the case of pulled peaches that have shown oak root fungus or nematodes, fumigation of the soil area will help to establish a healthy new replant.

Soil conditions generally are favorable now for some spray applications. Where pear trees had an infestation of blister mites or rust mites, a spray application of lime sulfur solution is in order. These pests are not easily controlled by delayed dormant or growing season sprays.

The same advice applies to a spray application of copper for the prevention of leaf curl of certain stone fruit trees. At this time the sprayer will blow or blast from 80 to 90 per cent of the leaves from peach trees and the soil conditions are good for the spray application. Advice and spray chemicals can be obtained from your local spray chemical dealer. The gray digger squirrel is now storing food for winter use. A teaspoon full of poison grain in one of the runways near a den will insure the demise of this pest.

Pastures will remain good for grazing for a relatively long period. In fact such pest plants as foxtails are furnishing good grazing at this time. Farmers and ranchers should winterize and store their equipment during the next few days. Water pumps and some engines can be drained for the winter season. Where certain tractors, trucks or pumps are needed over winter, they should be filled with an anti-freeze solution or be kept from freezing by an appropriate amount of insulation.

Pruning of fruit trees can be done anytime. It is desirable that most of the leaves be off of the trees in order that the proper pruning can be accomplished.

When you vote remember that the cash involved is collected from you.

high school public speaking, Goodyear conservation and Lucille Coekran awards will be made during the Thursday session.

The association's ladies auxiliary under its state president, Mrs. Elmer Peterson, will hold its annual sessions during the meeting.

## Wheat Diversion Plans And Prices Outlined

Wheat diversion and additional price-support payments are new features of the 1963 wheat stabilization program, Albert Straus, chairman, Jackson County Agricultural Sta-

bilization and Conservation committee, said today.

The payments were provided by the new farm law, signed by President Kennedy on Sept. 27, 1962. They supplement the marketing quotas and price supports previously in effect for the 1963 wheat crop.

The chairman explained that the diversion payments will be similar to the payments made under the 1962 wheat stabilization program. They will be available to growers who reduce their wheat acreage by at least 20 per cent and who devote the diverted acres to an approved conservation use. The payment will be based on the farm's established wheat yield and one-half the county price-support loan rate.

**Support Payment**  
In addition, a price-support payment of 18 cents a bushel on the normal production (established yield) of the 1963 wheat acreage will be available to growers who participate in the wheat-diversion part of the program. Small

farms must also be in compliance with their farm acreage allotments in order to be eligible for price-support loans or purchase agreements and the 18-cent price-support payment.

Chairman Straus said that the sign up in the wheat diver-

sion program will begin soon. Notices are now being prepared and will soon be mailed to farmers, telling them how provisions of the program may apply to their farms. He urged that any question about the program be referred to the ASCS county office.

## Garden Tips

By JOHN W. MCLOUGHLIN  
County Extension Agent

**Cover Crops For Gardens**

Because of space limitations a home vegetable garden is usually planted on the same plot of ground year after year. This is intensive use-use that will stretch and strain the natural recuperative powers of the soil to breaking point. This "burning the candle at both ends" system of management results in sure signs of premature old age in the soil.

Continued intensive cultivation literally burns the active supply of organic matter out of the soil. Without organic matter, including the beneficial soil bacteria and other organisms, any soil would be completely unproductive.

Intensive cultivation and the constant trampling of traffic over the garden area ruins soil structure and destroys natural pore spaces. The effect of a compacted soil is like hardening of the arteries. Water can't move to the roots. Roots can't grow in search of needed moisture and plant food. Plant growth slows down and often stops.

**Continuous Cropping**  
Continuous cropping with garden plants, or any other crop, always compounds the problems created by all kinds of pests - insects, diseases, nematodes, symphylids, slugs. Even annual weeds seem to develop an inherent immunity to constant hoeing and pulling.

The annual and regular use of a winter cover crop helps solve these and other problems connected with maintaining productive garden soil.

The cover crop injects a basic principle of good farming - crop rotation - into the gardening program. A vigorous cover crop provides a protective cover for the entire soil surface. Millions of aggressive roots perforate the surface and subsoil to reopen pore space and make the soil more tillable for next year's garden.

The cover crop provides for annual renewal of high quality organic material for use next summer. This decaying material helps recreate granular structure aiding future root growth and improving the soil as an effective reservoir for needed moisture. When turned down next spring the roots and tops of the cover crop provides food to support beneficial bacteria and other organisms that help make mineral nutrients available. The cover crop takes up and holds any excess soluble plant nutrients in the soil and returns them in available form for the use of next year's garden. The roots pick up nutrients from the deep subsoil and redeposit them for easy use in the surface soil.

**Cover Crop**  
Use of a cover crop makes it possible to remove and destroy the garden residue, a necessary practice in preventing disease and insect damage. A good cover crop will almost eliminate growth of winter annual weeds, many of which are secondary hosts for plant diseases.

A good cover crop costs little. It is only necessary to buy enough oats, rye, or winter barley to permit broadcasting seed over the garden area at the rate of a quarter pound to each 100 square feet. Seed can be broadcast any time in early fall. Sew it by hand over the surface and rake or otherwise cover it to a depth of about a half inch. If fall rains are delayed it will pay to irrigate to get the cover crop off to a good start. By March of next year there should be ample growth to be worked into the soil to help produce a better garden next year.

## Journalism Teacher Named for Office

Eugene - Kay Johnstone, instructor in journalism at the University of Oregon, has been named executive secretary of the Oregon Scholastic Press.

Dean John L. Hulteng of the university school of journalism and director of OSP,

announced the appointment. The organization has been an affiliate of the journalism school since 1921.

Mrs. Johnstone succeeds Roy Paul Nelson, assistant professor of journalism, who will continue to serve OSP as associate director.

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