

Crop Varieties To Be Discussed

John Yungen, agronomist for the Southern Oregon Branch Experiment Station, will speak during the Jackson County Farm Bureau meeting Tuesday, Jan. 22, at 8 p.m., at the extension auditorium.

He will tell of new crops introduced into the valley, why some are successful and others have failed.

Advances Reported In Cherry Studies

Corvallis — A standardized orchard tree using a known virus-free scion variety on a known virus-free rootstock — thus preventing the variability found with unknown seedlings — is the aim of cherry rootstock research being carried on at Oregon State university.

Dr. A. N. Roberts, horticulturist with the OSU Agricultural Experiment station, is heading up the rootstock work. Working with him in investigating new varieties is Dr. Quentin B. Zielinski.

For growers to obtain the kind of tree they want, they should know as much about the rootstock as the scion variety, Dr. Roberts stresses. Stocks that are disease resistant, adapted to soil and climatic conditions and that give the degree of vigor desired should be used.

The October typhoon showed the importance of good stock in cherry trees, Dr. Roberts pointed out. Although there was little uprooting by the winds, there was considerable top breakage, particularly among sour cherries.

Little Breakage

However, he noted, there was little or no breakage among sour cherries that had been properly grafted on Mazzard rootstocks. A much sturdier tree is achieved in this way. It not only withstands high winds, but is also capable of carrying heavy crop loads.

These sturdier trees had all been "top worked," that is the sour cherry scions were grafted on to the rootstock after it had already formed the main scaffold branches, Roberts pointed out. This is the standard procedure in fighting gummosis (bacterial canker) in sweet cherries, the most serious cherry disease.

"Top working" in this manner helps prevent the spread of the disease from one branch to the rest of the tree. The cherry rootstock research being done at OSU is concentrated on Mahaleb and Mazzard which are the principal rootstocks now in use. Promising clones of both are being tested for their influence on the size and vigor of commercial scion varieties grown on them.

Dr. Roberts is closely watching two Mazzard clones which are being tested against common seedlings. One comes from the East Malling Experiment station in England and is known as Mazzard F 12-1 and the other is an OSU selection.

The English selection shows more vigor than the average Mazzard seedling and has good or better gummosis resistance, he commented. The OSU selection has a wider crotch angle and may have better structural qualities than the English clone, although the selection is too new to really evaluate, he said.

Promising Mahaleb clones from throughout the world also are being tested by OSU researchers. By testing seedlings from various areas, it is possible to obtain a wide range of tree size and vigor which may make further refinements possible, he explained.

Nine New Varieties

Dr. Zielinski is currently testing nine new cherry varieties which show some promise. However, he pointed out, none of the nine meets all of what he considers to be the five basic problems facing cherry growers. Each variety answers some of the problems.

The five major areas of concern which influence crop life as outlined by the researcher are:

1. The need for increased hardiness in trees, buds and blossoms; the need for superior pollinizing varieties more suitable for marketing; greater resistance to fruit cracking; usually caused by rain, which is a problem with many varieties; the need for self-pollinating varieties, and the need for more natural resistance to gummosis and brown rot, the most serious disease problems.

These factors are: (1) Possible frost damage to young plants in May. (2) Weeds can be a serious problem. (3) Gravelly soils and hardpan soils do not hold enough water to mature the crop. (4) If irrigated safflower can be completely killed by root rot if hardpan, clay soil or a water table restricts drainage. (5) Price has to be high enough to allow for shipping charges into the Sacramento area.

"Our plot work this year would indicate yields of safflower of 1,500 pounds per acre can be obtained on deep soils that are irrigated or sub-irrigated in Shasta and Scott valleys," West said.

Cows denied salt will lick clothing of ranch workers, chew painted surfaces and even lap up the run-off from manure piles.

Chit Chat

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Eager, early season gardeners probably have already broken a spading fork in the frozen soil. Others have been sitting by the fireplace or stove, leafing through the colorful seed catalogues now making their appearance.

They include all kinds of flowers from asters, to begonias, to Bells of Ireland, to Chinese lanterns, to petunias, to nicotiana (flowering tobacco) to snapdragons and a wide variety of vegetables.

We noticed a number of homes in a subdivision on hard to cultivate "sticky soil" last spring and summer had masses of petunias growing out front. And there are all kinds of petunias from double flowers, to the Cherry Tart which is advertised as greater rain and heat resistant. This is called a fuller, more vigorous flower.

Those who want the early bloom borders can have a combination of mixed colors pansies, mixed colored phlox and a background of mixed snapdragons. These flowers are guaranteed to bloom even before swimming season.

Those who have rustic brown homes, or just like a solid gold border can order marigold, a bedding of golden zinnia and a background of the feathery tufts of celosia.

We have always liked the sweet pea. They have a variety which will grow where the soil is poor and dry. One variety will grow as high as six to eight feet. There's even a winter flowering sweet pea. This can be planted in late summer. It flowers during short winter and early spring days.

We have had pretty good luck with zinnias. There's a group called "cut-and-come-again." By removing the long-stemmed blossoms more branches and blossoms appear. Each flower is two to three inches in diameter. The small-flowered zinnias grow quickly and bloom early. Ankle high zinnias can be used for borders and we have even used them in rockeries.

Herbs are being used more widely. Some people probably would like to plant their own backyard herb gardens, perhaps by the kitchen window. There's catnip for the cat, horehound which grandma used to use for cough syrup, hyssop as mentioned in the Bible and used for perfumes and tonics, English lavender for delicate scenting of linen or stored clothing. There's also anise as used for baked goods, balm used in iced drinks, sweet basil for edging egg, meat or fish dishes, chives for drinks or fresh fruit compotes, and of course, borages used for spreads, salads.

Grandma always kept some mint growing in the kitchen garden for use in mint jellies for beef roasts on Sunday. Those who like pizza pies will probably grow Oregano for seasoning. And there are many others.

If you like your food with an Italian flavor you will probably want to grow Italian green bush beans. There are also a couple of varieties of beets, broccoli and four kinds of cabbage.

Most small towns have their corn patches for summer sweet corn on the cob dinners. One variety is ideal for freezing with the kernels nearly a half-inch long. There are four kinds of muskmelon. One is full of juice and requires a long summer with plenty of hot days, another has a small seed cavity to make cleaning easier.

Youngsters like to pick out their own pumpkins for Halloween Jack O'Lantern. The "Jacks" average just under one foot in diameter. But, you can have the Big Tom or Connecticut Field pumpkin and old-fashioned orange-yellow cornfield type of pumpkin which grow large.

We don't remember anybody has ever proven whether a tomato is a fruit or vegetable, satisfactorily. But the new seed catalogues have "love apples" for every use. One has been developed for slicing and canning, resistant to cracking and blossom end scars. Another grows tremendous crops and keeps its size toward the end of the season.

Last summer the season was comparatively short and cool making local tomatoes a scarce item. But there is a type which matures in seven weeks from transplanting. Those who love tomato salads will like the blend of small fruited tomatoes red cherry, red pear, yellow pear and yellow husk. The atom has also come to the tomato. Window sill Atom tomatoes can be grown on window sills. They mature to eight to 12 inches high.

We have had good luck with marigolds. We planted some around our outdoor light post and had huge blossoms on tall stems late into the fall. Now there is a hybrid which has blossoms five inches in diameter.

Now all you have to do is get your hands dirty, a crick in your back and damp smudges on both knees. The local stores are already displaying seed packets, we noticed.

One seed company has developed three new vegetables for 1963. One is a high bush type of egg plant which will hold its fruit off the ground. The elongated oval fruit provides more slices for the frying pan. If you haven't had thin slices of eggplant fried in bread crumbs you have been missing something. This plant freezes well, too.

A new tomato plant produces perfectly globular fruit, matures early and bears over a long season. This is ideal for northern gardeners. This table tomato holds together when sliced and has a good combination of sweetness and tartness.

The Basket Pak tomato is bite size and rich red. It is pickable 76 days after the plants are set out. It bears abundantly and provides delicious fruits all season long.

David Burpee, president of the W. Atlee Burpee company, (garden seed), used to tell this story on himself.

After having recognized Clare Booth Luce who was reading a book at his table in the dining car of a San Francisco bound train, Burpee restlessly ordered a Cocktail for himself, and presently when Miss Luce emerged from her reading he greeted her with fellow-camaraderie: "I'm Burpee," he announced, whereupon she looked casually concerned.

"Martinis do that to some people," she murmured, "Now, they make me sneeze." By the time she got things straight, they were well-acquainted.

Vetch Seed Toxic To Chicks, Poults

Corvallis—Poultry producers should beware of vetch seed in the rations they feed chicks and poults, warn Oregon State university poultrymen J. A. Harper and G. H. Arcsott.

Both common and hairy vetch seed have been found to reduce growth. Common vetch also kills chicks and poults if enough is fed.

Vetch is a common "weed" in many Oregon grain fields, the poultrymen point out in the current issue of Oregon's Agricultural Progress, OSU agricultural experiment station's quarterly research publication.

Their research showed almost complete mortality when common vetch made up 20 per cent of the chick ration. Thirty per cent killed poults.

394 Cattle Sold At Midway Yard In Friday Sale

A total of 394 cattle were sold at the Midway auction yard Friday, Jan. 18, according to Owner-Manager Bill Bray.

"The market was steady on all classes except slaughter cows which were about 50 cents to \$1 lower than the previous week," Bray said.

Good to choice steer calves sold from \$28 to \$29.50. Medium to good calves sold from \$26 to \$28. Calves weighing 450 to 550 pounds sold from \$26 to \$28.60.

Good to choice heifer calves went out at \$23 to \$26.90. Medium to good heifer calves sold for \$24 to \$25.

Yearling steers at \$35 to 650 pounds sold from \$25 to \$27. A pen of 19 head of 750 pound steers sold for \$25.10 and a pen of thin steers weighing 535 pounds sold for \$27.

Medium quality steers weighing 700 to 950 pounds sold for \$23 to \$24.40.

Good yearling heifers went out at \$21.50 to \$23.60. Medium heifers sold for \$19 to \$21. A truckload of Holstein heifers weighing from 800 to 1,150 pounds brought \$18 to \$20.10.

Holstein steer calves went out at \$22 to \$23.90. Yearling Holstein steers sold for \$20 to \$22.50. Good Hereford cows with calves brought \$210 to \$240 a pair. Springer cows sold from \$180 to \$192.50 per head. Young feeder cows brought \$18 to \$19.50 per hundredweight.

One 1,880 pound Holstein bull sold for \$21.60 and others sold for \$18 to \$20.

Veal calves brought \$25 to \$27. No choice calves were offered.

Fat heifers at 700 to 900 pounds sold for \$22 to \$23.10. Young fat cows sold for \$18 to \$18.90. Utility cows brought \$14 to \$15.80, cutters \$12 to \$14, and canners mostly \$10 to \$12. A few very shelly cows sold for \$8 to \$10.

14 Members Get FFA Degrees

Eagle Point-Fourteen boys were selected and initiated to the degree of greenhand in a meeting of the Eagle Point Chapter of Future Farmers of America, Thursday.

They were Rick Charley, Terry Davis, Darrell Dowell, Ken Dowell, Delvin Ford, Jerry Hanson, Larry Harris, Dwane Hawkins, Bob Hubbard, Jim Jensen, Vincent Medina, Frank Patrick, Don Terrell and Horace Webster.

In order to qualify as a "Greenhand," the above mentioned boys had to be enrolled in a class of vocational agriculture, have plans for a supervised farming project and be familiar with the F. F. A. creed.

Another highlight of the meeting was the chapter public speaking contest. The three contestants were: Dan Burrill, a junior member whose topic was swine raising, Jeff Keefe, another junior member who spoke about artificial insemination, Mike Charley, a sophomore member who talked on the common market. Mike Charley was chosen the winner and will represent the Eagle Point chapter in higher public speaking contests. The contest was judged by three members of the Medford Toastmasters club.

Iodine and cobalt are particularly important to dairy cattle.

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FROM THE GROUND UP

By BART BARTLETT

As many flower growers and vegetable gardeners do a considerable portion of their planning for the coming growing season at this time of year, mention of some new varieties may be of interest.

At least sufficient time is still available for a thorough search of the literature from nurseries and seed houses for a supply of seeds or plants in case anyone is interested in trial plantings.

A very tiny zinnia named Thumbelina, won the Gold Medal award of All America selections. This dwarf zinnia grows to six inches in height, and will bloom over a long season. It would be useful for edging beds, borders and walks or driveways. Shallow arrangements in bowls or trays might be considered as conversation pieces for the home.

Another zinnia known as Firecracker received the All-America Silver award. It grows to 30 inches tall and produces rich scarlet red flowers of large size.

Tropicana, is the name of a new hybrid tea rose that is the rose of the year for 1963. It is a cross between a Peace seedling and an Alpine Glow seedling and is reported to do well in both garden and greenhouse.

The All America Selections for 1963 also offer five new home garden vegetables: Buttercrunch Lettuce, Emerald Cross Cabbage, Hercules Winter Squash, Greziny Summer Squash and Executive Snapbean. There is very little other information available regarding the climate and soil requirements of these new vegetables. Usually the seed companies can provide this information in a limited way. The experience of practical vegetable gardeners over a season or so is necessary to fully understand the complete requirements of these crops.

It may be several weeks yet before the weather is sufficiently warm to permit people to take part in outdoor sports. It seems that we may be entering a period when the usual winter indoor sports have been used up. Such items as the deer herds, area zoning, school consolidations and the elections are worn out. What is needed is a new item for amusement.

Perhaps a movement to consolidate a school district with an irrigation district might supply sufficient entertainment to tide the area population through until outdoor sports are in order. It can be predicted that consolidations of anything will prove unpopular to the majority of people. Every district has officers and employees who defend their jobs but in an indirect way so that it is never clear that they are fighting to retain their positions as such. When your territory is being threatened by someone, elect him to an office in your deal and the threat will not only disappear but you will have gained an ally.

Poultry Future Bright for Grads

Yreka — Heads of poultry departments in a number of west coast colleges have reported they have had many opportunities to fill positions with persons trained in poultry, according to Bill Ruddiman, Siskiyou county farm advisor for 4-H.

These positions include sales and service, farm managers, market news reporters, agricultural statisticians, and agricultural inspectors.

"There is an opportunity for 4-H members who go on to college in the poultry field," Ruddiman said.

Farm & Garden

Jack Rabbits Change As People Increase

By DOTTIE HARBISON
Mail Tribune Correspondent

Recent surveys and observations reveal that the western jack rabbits, believed to be of the lesser intelligent group of animals, have changed their living habits to aid their own survival.

Contrary to the popular belief that the rabbit is decreasing in population surveys indicate an increase in the past few years. The decrease of dead rabbits seen on the public highways has absolutely no authoritative proof to uphold the decreasing population idea. According to natural scientists in the area, the rabbit has become educated to highway traffic since the increase of population and use of speedier automobiles in the valley.

A large percentage of the rabbits have migrated further into the hills along with the rest of the wild animals with a noticeable cross breeding of the western jack rabbit, the cottontail, and the snow shoe rabbit. The snow shoe rabbit originally inhabited the regions from the 3,500 to the 4,000 foot elevations previously with all of them now ranging very high in the mountains.

The law of survival has educated the rabbits still living in the valley to change their eating habits from early evening and daylight to night time. They have, as have the deer in recent years, established regular highway crossing points in protected areas. During the daytime a few rabbits may be seen in the fields and brush areas where fewer people and traffic threaten their lives but for the main part, they take refuge in hollow logs, brush piles and burrowed holes until night falls. They have learned to stay away from the dangerous highways. Like other animals, they have established a pattern for crossing these thoroughfares for food and water during the lesser traveled portion of the day.

Educated Rabbits

According to Kirby Tait, who has served as a government hunter and trapper for several years, along the foothills the rabbits may be seen coming out of their hiding during the night just as numerous as ever. The rabbit is known to feed mostly on vegetable food, grass, twigs, clover, lettuce, cabbage, and on the bark of many trees, leaving tell-tale tracks and trails easily seen on the hills and fields.

F. J. Clifford says some people are familiar with the decrease in the rabbit and squirrel population about every seven years that comes about through epidemics.

Since rabbits start breeding at six months, they have from four to 12 per litter and several litters a year. It does not take the population long to again reach large proportions. At one time western Oregon was so over-populated with rabbits that a hunt or drive killed thousands in one day to help eliminate them.

Increase Noted

"I would think there is more of an increase than a decrease in the rabbit population from working in the mountains where I can observe them," noted Harry Hanscom.

Hanscom has worked as a logger for many years, has tramped the hills to hunt fish

and camp and is considered a scientist on all types of nature. He went on to note that the rabbits are a little bit smaller in size than a few years ago but agreed to their change of living habits and their cross breeding.

Charles Hoover found proof of this same survival change when all of his seeder trees disappeared during the night when he planted them on the desert before many homes were built. The more he put out the more rabbits came during the night to devour them.

A search of the entire desert area during the daytime revealed only their trails and tracks. Success was finally reached in growing the trees when Hoover discovered that he could cover them with plastic until the trees were at least two years old.

Irrigation Class Set for Feb. 7-8

A two-day irrigation school sponsored by the Jackson county extension service will be held in the extension auditorium on Feb. 7 and 8, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., according to County Extension Agent Bert Wilcox.

The course is designed to teach irrigators the proper application of water. Improper irrigation reduces crop yield, encourages plant diseases and depletes the soil with resulting money loss, Wilcox explained.

"Irrigation water management includes applying the right amount of water in the right way at the right time and is often the difference between successful and unsuccessful farming," the county agent explained. "Before watering season starts is a good time to design irrigation systems for maximum efficiency," he added.

The short course was worked out by Marvin Shearer, extension irrigation specialist, Oregon State university, Wilcox and Andrew Schmidt, Copco division, Pacific Power and Light company.

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Winter Tour Set By Cal-Ore Group

The Cal-Ore Hereford association will have a winter tour Saturday March 2, it was decided at Tuesday's meeting in North's Chuck Wagon restaurant.

Darrell Stanley, Eagle Point, and Henry Owens and

John Konwiser, both White City, are in charge of arrangements.

Purpose of the tour is to see how ranchers are using feeding facilities, their various methods and winter management practices for cattle.

During other business Eddie Meeker was elected president, Ron Anderson, Eagle Point, vice president, County Extension Agent Earle Jossy, secretary, Don Nichols, Ashland, as treasurer, and Bill Bigham, Eagle Point, hospitality chairman.

FARM

Woodlot Facts

By DICK OLSON
Farm Forester

Today, watershed management is becoming more and more important.

Timber harvesting operations involve over a million acres of western Oregon and Washington forest lands each year. When timber has been removed, with subsequent soil disturbance, a desirable seedbed of mineral soil and exposure to the sunlight is provided for starting a new crop of trees. This disturbance of the soil during logging operations generally does not contribute significantly to erosion.

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On the other hand, improper location, construction and maintenance of truck roads, skid trails and landings can result in excessive damage to the watershed. Herein lies the greatest opportunity for protection of watersheds during logging operations.

The following list of good practices take into account road building, maintenance and logging operations:

1. Establish the location of cutting area, landings and truck roads in advance of actual operations.
2. Avoid putting roads into areas of unstable soil where severe disturbances are likely to occur.
3. Locate roads on ridge tops and benches whenever possible to keep roads out of stream courses.
4. Hold wet weather road building to a minimum.
5. After the first rains in the fall, check roads to see where drainage problems exist and can be eliminated.
6. Construct frequent water bars during the fall season on temporary roads.
7. Whenever possible, avoid falling trees into or across streams.
8. The use of tractors requires careful supervision to prevent erosion and watershed damage.
9. Cable logging should be done uphill as much as possible.
10. Prevent accumulation of debris in streams during logging operations.
11. When skidroads are not in use, install water bars to divert drainage and prevent gullying.
12. Where slash burning is necessary, severe burning should be avoided to minimize damage to the soil.

The forest landowner is urged to adopt these watershed protection practices, not only for his good, but for the general public's as well.

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Safflower Rated By Farm Expert

Yreka — The risk of growing safflower in Siskiyou county is high for a number of reasons, according to David L. West, Siskiyou county farm advisor.

These factors are: (1) Possible frost damage to young plants in May. (2) Weeds can be a serious problem. (3) Gravelly soils and hardpan soils do not hold enough water to mature the crop. (4) If irrigated safflower can be completely killed by root rot if hardpan, clay soil or a water table restricts drainage. (5) Price has to be high enough to allow for shipping charges into the Sacramento area.

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