

Troublesome Pest List Released By Department of Agriculture

Salem - Oregon farmers must wage a never ending war against pests that attack their crops either through the soil or by direct assault on the plant.

The Oregon department of agriculture's list of some of the most troublesome pests in 1962 includes: Symphylans - A minute pearly white pest resembling a centipede that is found in the soil and attacks both the roots and tubers in the ground or any part of the plant touching the surface of the ground. This does an estimated \$2,000,000 damage yearly and

has infested over 30,000 acres of prime agricultural land. Control measures are expensive and are not always effective. Fruit Fly - Cherry fruit fly - This insect is responsible for wormy cherries but can be controlled by a spray or dusting program timed to start with the emergence of the fly and continued until harvest time. Because of the control, losses are at a near zero level in this crop which was valued at \$7,877,000 in 1962.

Farm & Garden

Timber Crop Discussed By Farm Bureau Group

By CHARLOTTE DAVIS
Mail Tribune Correspondent
Montague - Three University of California agricultural extension specialists shared in presenting a program to the 17th annual winter party of the Siskiyou County Farm Bureau members and guests Saturday evening, March 2 at the Montague auditorium. A pot-luck dinner served to some 500 people preceded the program.

en, extension foresters from Berkeley and James Street, extension range improvement specialist from Davis. The three speakers pointed out the possibilities of income on privately owned lands. They emphasized that, since a timber crop was cut only once or twice in a lifetime, extra caution should be taken in harvesting it. Several estimates should be made and the consulting of knowledgeable people in the field was a wise step to be taken. All dealings should be in writing before operations are begun. Slides of Siskiyou County operations were shown and explained.

Peach Varieties In New Bulletin

Corvallis - A comprehensive review of peach varieties best suited for Oregon orchards is presented in a new Oregon State university bulletin entitled "Peach Varieties for Oregon."

Published by the OSU Agricultural Experiment Station, the bulletin is designed primarily for the commercial grower. It does, however, contain a handy listing of varieties which are best for those one or two trees that many people want to plant in the backyard.

To help growers find the right one, the publication reviews standard commercial varieties, promising new varieties and varieties for processing.

Commercial growers will find all varieties listed in a handy guide for selection included in the bulletin. The guide gives the average ripening date and describes flesh color and the best use for the fruit.

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Chit Chat

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Through vales of grass and meads of flowers, Our ploughs their furrows made.—John Greenleaf Whittier.

Such poetical lines as these made city folks think of farming as an idyllic past-time. They think of plows ripping through rich, black soil. Of downy, yellow ducklings waddling down to a picture glass pond behind their mother. Of waking to the thrill of meadow lark or raucous crow of rooster on barnyard fence. Of children jumping into huge mounds of hay.

All these things do they imagine without realizing that American agriculture and the American farmer are precariously balanced on the sharp horns of dilemma.

It was farming which drew the wagon-train pioneers to this country and which built the Oregon country later to be split into the states of Washington and Oregon.

Yet when the state's leaders talk of economic growth and advancement they think of rocket plants of electronics, space metals etc. Rarely, unless they are men of great foresight, do they see the needs of fostering what is already here—agriculture industry. But such is the dire need since agriculture is still one of the two top industries in the state.

What is the dilemma? Costs of production are way out of line. Marketing problems are serious. We have heard local farmers say they could really receive much higher return per dollar from the stock market or from investment in industry than from what they now have tied up in land, buildings and machinery. Often we hear: "I made a profit if you don't figure my labor and management."

Not long ago we heard a former county commissioner, state legislator and man returned to the soil remark, "Reno? Las Vegas? Balls of fire, man, I make the biggest gamble in the world right here on the farm!" And state agricultural statistics bear him out. In 1961 Oregon farmers produced \$412.6 million worth of cash crops which cost \$341.7 million. Oregon's farmers gambled three dollars for every dollar received. The average salary of 45,000 farm operators was \$2,850. The average cost of living for a family of four is now figured at \$7,000.

Food costs a factory worker half of what it did 30 years ago. But, while reducing food costs to the factory worker the farmer must pay more for his food. A farmer works 13 minutes for a loaf of bread and a factory worker works five minutes; 16 minutes for a quart of milk compared to 6 minutes for the factory worker; 52 hours for a man's suit compared to 20 hours by the factory hand.

Yet, farm land values are going up—from encroaching subdivisions and from purchase by out-of-state hobby farmers.

A 1960 survey in Benton county on 42 farm sales revealed only eight were purchased by real farmers. In the same county 16 farm operations were studied. They averaged 428 acres each and were rated by the Benton county assessor, from a tax standpoint, as above average operations. Total taxable cash value was \$1,546,948. They included horticulture, row crops, livestock, dairy and general farming. This sizeable investment provided 19 jobs of which 16 were of the managerial class with average pay of \$1.48 an hour. Combined operating loss was \$25,069.

Money for land, buildings and equipment is just part of the cash outlay. As local bankers will tell you, too many farmers do not allow sufficient operating capital. This is a mistake frequently made by valley newcomers. They are forced to sell out and leave, but meanwhile the price of farm real estate goes up and up. And even good farmers are faced with this problem.

Frequently we have heard a local educator say the schools are going to have to rely on some other means of support than the property tax. You can bet the farmers will be leading the revolt against increased property taxes if and when such a revolt occurs.

As population increases in the state more school facilities must be provided. Yet this population increase in Oregon is not in the cities. Most of it is outside central cities, according to the 1960 preliminary census. One-third of Oregon's population lives outside rural areas.

And only 43,000 farmers are included among these 593,944 rural people. But the farmer pays more local taxes since he owns more property to be taxed. The non-farm country resident pays most of his income through income taxes to support state and federal governments.

Think on this. The property tax originated in Oregon in 1844 when nearly everyone was a farmer. And now only a small percentage of the state's population are farmers.

County assessors don't like the Green Belt zone law. Marion county has lost considerable tax revenue where land in farming zones was devalued tax wise, they point out. It involves too much book keeping. It is unfair since it allows a speculator to lease land for grazing while the land values rise and he can sell and make a killing.

There is a proposed amendment to the Green Belt zoning law now before the legislature. It would more closely define farm uses and set up tax recapture provisions once the land reverts to non-farm use.

But, fair or unfair, practical or impractical every farmer, rancher and fruit grower in Jackson county should make a thorough study of current proposed legislation affecting Green Belt zoning. They should study other areas where such a law is in effect and other states. They should decide what to do and go ahead and do it.

The state legislative interim committee on agriculture recognizes that each county has its particular condition as to its property tax base in relation to demands for services at county level and must be studied separately to see whether a Green Belt zone would fit.

Proper Labels Help Insure Protection

By RAY HUBBELL
Weed Control Supervisor
The season will soon be here when the use of pesticides for weed, insects and other pest control will be considered.

A word of caution regarding the purchase and use of these many pesticides. For your protection, all government agencies, chemical companies and we who are concerned in the safe use of these chemicals urge that you read the label.

Oregon law requires manufacturers of pesticides to label their products with adequate instruction for their safe and effective use. To insure your having this vital information the law states: "No person shall sell a pesticide except in the manufacturer's original unbroken package."

For safety's sake, your own and your neighbor's protection, use only those materials that are properly labeled. Labels have been referred to as the costliest literature ever written. One can appreciate this fact knowing the years of research and the thousands of dollars spent evaluating these pesticides before the labels

New England Chosen For Film Background

Boston -UPI - New England cities, including Boston, were chosen by producer-director Otto Preminger as starting locations for filming of "The Cardinal" starring Curt Jurgens and Romy Schneider. Vienna and Rome also will be used in the picture, based on the best seller about the career of a young priest who rises to a Cardinalship in the period between two world wars.

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363 Cattle Sold At Midway Sale; Market Steady

A total of 363 cattle were sold at the Midway Auction yard on Friday, March 8. Owner - Manager Bill Bray reported the market was steady on stockers and feeders, but a little higher on slaughter cows.

Good to choice steer calves, weighing 350 to 400 pounds brought \$27 to \$29.90. Calves weighing 400 to 500 pounds sold for \$25 to \$27.40. Medium grade calves, 300 to 450 pounds, sold for \$23 to \$25.

Good to choice heifer calves at \$25 to \$26.40. Medium heifer calves brought \$22 to \$23.50. Good yearling steers sold for \$23 to \$25.90. Medium quality yearlings sold for \$21 to \$22.50. Poor quality steers, including some Mexican, sold for \$18 to \$20.

Good yearling heifers \$21 to \$23.80. Medium yearling heifers sold for \$19 to \$21. Holstein Calves - Holstein steer calves sold for \$22 to \$23.80. Yearling Holstein steers sold for \$20 to \$21.50.

A pen of extra good Hereford springer cows from the Wendt ranch sold for \$252.50 each and another pen of heifers from the same place sold for \$235 per head.

Good cows with calves sold for \$210 to \$257.50 per pair. Others sold from \$180 to \$200.

Fat young cows sold for \$17 to \$18.40. Heavy utility cows sold for \$15 to \$17.50. Cutters brought \$13 to \$14.75 and canners \$10 to \$13.

"There will be a special dairy sale at the yard Monday, March 25 featuring the Mel Anhorn herd of 56 Guernsey cows and heifers," Bray announced.

SENTENCED TO DEATH

Moscow -UPI - A city court in Tselinograd sentenced two men to death for producing faulty goods and embezzling factory funds at a city chemical plant. The provincial newspaper Kazakhstan Pravda said Monday the condemned men were responsible for the production of more than \$250,000 worth of faulty goods and embezzled more than \$150,000 through phony contracts.

GARDENING TIPS

By JOHN W. McLOUGHLIN
Jackson County Extension Agent
Tuberose Begonias

Now would be a good time to start your tuberose begonias indoors for planting outdoors later on.

Plant the tubers about one inch apart in slight pockets in a container filled with peat moss. Be sure the hollow side of the tuber is facing up when you plant them.

A temperature of 70 degrees is good at this early sprouting stage. Keep the peat moss moist, but not soggy.

As soon as the sprouts appear, place the tubers in light, but not direct sunlight. Too little light and over fertilization at this stage of development will result in leggy plants.

Transplanting - When the sprouts are about two inches high, transplant the tubers to individual containers. A cool temperature of 50 to 55 degrees will help keep the plants compact.

Mix a good amount of organic matter in the soil to be used. Frequent light fertilizing aids in the successful production of quality plants. If the leaves begin to turn light green, the plant needs more fertilizer.

Planting Outdoors - Set the plants outdoors in a partial shaded or shaded area when all danger of frost has passed. Tuberose begonias can be planted in a position where they will receive some full sunlight. The amount of full sunlight that they will take will have to be determined by trial and error.

Remember begonias are one-way facing plants, so plant them with their leaves facing the direction from which you wish to observe the bloom. Since tuberose begonias make other flowers look pale and insignificant, it is a good idea to plant them by themselves and not in a mixed planting with other flowery plants.

House Plants - Don't turn all your fancy to the outdoor garden in the spring and neglect your house plants. The leaves of house plants should be cleaned top and bottom once or twice a month with a damp cloth or sponge, or by carefully syringing the foliage at the sink with water of room temperature. Routine washing of the

IRISH LUCK

Long Beach, Calif. -UPI - Some local sons of Erin decided to celebrate St. Patrick's Day by flying in live shamrocks from Ireland to plant in a park here. Then Monday, it was pointed out that the city-owned park lies, saints preserve us, in Orange county.

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