

New Seed Crop Ready For Experienced Men

A new seed crop has been added to the list of turf grasses that may offer opportunity for experienced seed growers in the Willamette valley and in Jackson, Jefferson, Union, and Klamath counties, according to Bert Wilcox, Jackson county extension agent.

Kingstown velvet bentgrass, a specialty variety for golf greens and fine lawns in the New England region, is now available in small quantities from Oregon State university agricultural experiment station. It will be allocated to a limited number of Oregon seed growers who can qualify to increase the seed for commercial outlets.

The so-called "aristocrat of turf grasses" was developed by the University of Rhode Island experiment station to provide high-quality, close-knit sod for specialty uses in that region. Breeder seed was supplied to OSU for increase under OSU's favorable conditions for producing quality seed.

Seed production must be carried out under highly exacting specifications to make maximum use of the few ounces of foundation seed now available, reports Dr. J. Ritchie Cowan, OSU farm crops department head.

Each grower selected to increase the variety will receive a maximum of one ounce of seed at a cost of \$10 an ounce. Properly handled, an ounce should produce as many as 80,000 plants.

Growers should have access to greenhouse or cold frame facilities where seedlings should be grown in flats of sterilized soil, then transplanted in plant beds for vegetative increase, and finally planted as cuttings for field production.

Kingston is shallow rooted and will require irrigation for good production.

Good seed cleaning facilities will also be needed since the seed is extremely small—about 12 million seeds per pound or some 30 per cent more seed than contained in a pound of Highland bentgrass.

OSU agronomists emphasize that the seed will be expensive to grow, requiring much time and detailed care. There will be no registered class for the variety that will go directly from foundation stock to certified seed for commercial uses.

Bert Wilcox, Jackson county extension agent, says interested growers may obtain application forms and more detailed information from the local county extension office. Application forms to produce the seed should be filed with the county agent by June 1.



SIGNS BILL—House Bill 1506 was signed recently by Gov. Mark O. Hatfield. This bill amends the state law and gives Eagle Point Irrigation district an additional water diversion point on Big Butte creek a short distance down stream from the district's present diversion point. It does not interfere with Medford's water rights or those of others on the stream, Larry Silveira, EPID manager said. Looking on at the signing were Sen. Lyndel Newby (R-Ashland), left, Rep. John Dellenback (R-Medford), Silveira, Rep. James Redden (D-Medford) and Rep. Edward Branchfield (R-Medford). Gov. Hatfield is seated, center.

Additional Water Diversion Point Possible for EPID

Eagle Point—Eagle Point Irrigation district has been successful in securing an amendment to the state law pertaining to water rights to enable it to develop an additional point of diversion on Big Butte creek, according to EPID Secretary-Manager Larry Silveira.

This was made possible by the combined efforts of Jackson county's legislative delegation, Sen. Lyndel Newby, Ashland, and Reps. John Dellenback, Ed Branchfield and James Redden, all of Medford, plus the district directors and legal advisors.

The district may now develop an additional point of diversion under its original water permit with a priority date of Aug. 21, 1915. The diversion of water is not to exceed 100 cubic feet per second, according to the district's manager.

Full Allotment
"This will allow the district to supply a full allotment of water to all of its water users, especially during the later part of the irrigation season," Silveira explained. "Also, there will be available water for 1,000 additional acres un-

der water sales agreements. The district will call for applications from interested persons who desire to irrigate presently dry lands under water sales agreement," he added.

"In recent years it was discovered the diversion point used by Eagle Point Irrigation district and described in its original permit, does not have sufficient water at low flow periods for the district. A short distance down stream from the district's diversion point, water has reaccumulated in Big Butte creek in sufficient amount to more than satisfy the district needs within its 100 cubic feet per second right."

The district will have to install a pump lift to divert the waters from the supplemental point of diversion, Silveira added.

Tests conducted by a large capacity pump on Big Butte creek during the 1962 season determined the feasibility of installing the pump at the supplementary irrigation point.

Agreement Reached
An agreement was reached with the state watermaster, the state board of water resources and the Medford water commission to have the bill drafted. Final passage of the bill came after many trips to Salem to consult with state agencies and testify before the state legislature.

Where the amount of water as stated on the permit is not always available at the original diversion point, the state engineer has maintained the permittee involved should file for a supplemental permit rather than a change in diversion point. Because of the legislative withdrawal of the Big Butte Creek watershed in favor of the city of Medford, this was not possible. The new law permits the new diversion point under the original permit and still retains Medford's withdrawal of water.

"Pumping at this point is expensive, but is economically justifiable and necessary because it is supplemental, a relatively small amount for a relatively short duration," Silveira said.

"This will not affect any other water rights since the minimum flow of Big Butte creek in the lower areas where there are other water rights far exceed the total of all other water rights," the manager said.

In the next few days EPID will have to prove up on its water rights. To do this, the district must be able to bolster its water supply during the late summer beyond that which it can recover at its present point of diversion, Silveira added.

FOR SHEEP
Supplemental salt is particularly helpful when sheep are on range or pasture; it makes dry, bulky feeds more palatable.

YOUNG CALVES
Young calves should have access to loose salt even if they are receiving salt with their calf meal or grain mixture.

Each grower selected to increase the variety will receive a maximum of one ounce of seed at a cost of \$10 an ounce. Properly handled, an ounce should produce as many as 80,000 plants.

GARDENING TIPS

Mole Plant
The mole plant or Caper Spurge is reputed to discourage gophers and moles from invading a lawn or garden area.

There is a considerable difference of opinion on this point, but there is something more important to consider about this plant. Did you know that the mole plant is poisonous to both humans and cattle?

This plant will exude a milky juice when broken. Sensitive persons will have a skin reaction similar to poison oak when they come in contact with this juice. More important, serious if not fatal digestive disturbances result from eating any part of this plant.

Combine this with the facts that children are attracted to the large fleshy seed pods and severe poisoning from this source have been reported and you have a plant that is most undesirable.

Gopher or mole problem? Give us a call (773-8215) for the recommended control practices.

Jumping Oak Gall
The wasp that causes the Jumping Oak Gall in the native white oaks has emerged and a spray should be applied now for the control of this insect. The degree of infestation by this gall varies tremendously among the white oaks.

Therefore, a spray is recommended only on those trees badly infested with this gall in years past.

Apply a spray containing chlordane and diazinon to control this wasp and aphids. A high pressure sprayer should be used on large oak trees to assure good coverage. For the home sprayer, use six level tablespoons of the 40 per cent chlordane wettable powder and four level tablespoons of the 25 per cent diazinon. Give us a call for the amount to use in large sprayers.

Western Gall Rust
The western gall rust has appeared on some shore pine (Pinus contorta) trees in this area. This disease is uncommon in the Rogue valley, but climatic conditions favored its development this year.

The name is very descriptive of the most common sign of this disease. Galls develop on the size of a golf ball on the small branches of this pine. Larger branches or the tree trunk may have galls as large as a softball. These galls are covered by a bright orange powder at this time of the year. This powder is the spore stage of the fungus and is the source of new infections.

Since the branches outward from these galls usually die, remove and burn infected

Siskiyou Girl On Extension Staff

Siskiyou County—Miss Barbara Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. "Roy" Miller of Little Shasta has recently been appointed Home Advisor for Wheeler county in Oregon, with an office in Fossil. She held this position for over two years, before going to southern California.

She is the first resident of Siskiyou county to be appointed to the extension staff.

Barbara attended school in Little Shasta, graduated from Yreka Elementary and High school, attended one year at Shasta Junior College in Redding and four years at the University of California, Davis, receiving her bachelor of science in home economics degree there. She was an active 4-H member in the Table Rock club for five years with clothing, foods, beef, lamb and junior leader projects.

Miss Miller upon graduating from Davis in 1960 spent several months at Lower branches to prevent the spread of this disease. Severely infected trees should be removed and burned.

In planting where this disease becomes a problem, apply a fungicide at two week intervals from the first of April to June.

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Lake in Lake county in home extension work. Following that she took the position of Home Advisor for Wheeler county in Oregon, with an office in Fossil. She held this position for over two years, before going to southern California.

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FROM THE GROUND UP
By BART BARTLETT

A rather large number of peach trees are dead or dying in many of the young peach orchards of this area. The affected trees are no older than five years of age and many of them are as young as two years of age. They are dying in orchards that are on level land and in two instances the mortality rate is very high in peach orchards that are on rather steep slopes. In these latter cases, one would expect that drainage would be fairly good so that heavy winter rains would not kill the trees.

Last winter was the first very wet winter for this area in about six years. Therefore, these young orchards were all planted during years when the winter rainfall was below normal. They survived and grew well under these conditions. It only took one wet winter to prove that many of our young peach plantings are on soils that are too wet. In most cases soil drainage by tiles would either not work or would be too expensive.

This is good weather for killing weeds by mechanical means such as plowing tillage. The only enemy of such households pets as dogs and cats, namely foxtail, should be destroyed very soon now. In a very few more days the seeds of this plant will be causing great hardship among the area's dogs and cats.

Safe to Plant
It is safe now to plant all sorts of flowers and vegetables so far as the frost hazard is concerned. Where plants are being set in gardens, some shade should be provided during the hottest part of the day or many of them will die. It may be necessary to supply newly set plants with some water each day until they become well established.

It is not too early to start killing off the slug population in certain vegetable plantings. This pest makes a mess out of early lettuce plantings. Slugs also should be removed from strawberry plantings.

Haying will soon be taking place locally. The timing will be about right for some jobs for schoolboys.

The irrigation equipment should be inspected and repaired, where needed, very soon now. Lawns, gardens and pastures will be needing water almost any day now, that we are having high daily temperatures.



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