

Farm & Garden

FARM Woodlot Facts

By DICK OLSON
Oregon State Farm Forester

If you happen to be out in the woods and see a man with a sack pursuing a squirrel, he is not trying to bag a gray digger. He is just gathering seed the same as the squirrel. But for a different reason. The squirrel uses the seed for future food but man uses it for future trees; trees that are processed into hundreds of wood products used by man every day.

As the old growth timber stands of the Pacific Northwest are depleted, the need for starting a new crop of trees for the future becomes more and more important. Logging creates about 200,000 acres of new clear cut areas each year in the Pacific Northwest. Fire denudes thousands of acres each year. Although nature has provided for ample and prompt restocking, this does not often occur. In most cases, we cannot afford to wait for nature to do this and artificial reforestation through planting of seedling is necessary.

More than half a million bushels of seed cones are collected each year, providing a source of income for thousands of people. Many folks have found that cone collecting provides an enjoyable week end diversion in the woods and a chance to earn extra cash at the same time. Experienced cone collectors earn good wages during the cone collecting season.

To Inform People

The main purpose of this article is to make the general public, as well as the small woodlot owner, aware of this important service performed by a few.

Cone collectors find that it pays to get complete information from cone dealers or their buying agents before they start to pick. These contacts are im-

portant to the picker to determine current prices and types of cones that are in demand. By finding out where to pick, what to pick, and how to test cones for required ripeness and seed quality, they avoid the possibility of collecting cones that they cannot sell. Cone buyers are sometimes able to direct pickers to heavier cone producing areas and advise them who to contact for permission to take cones.

Nature usually produces heavy cone crops over a wide area at three to five-year intervals. During other years, the crop is spotty with complete failure in some areas. Crop failures are most likely to occur the year before or the year after a bumper cone year. So far it looks like a spotty cone crop year in the Rogue valley area. Tree seed dealers buy large quantities of cones during good cone years and accumulate sufficient seed to supply demands through several lean years.

Besides being easier to gather during bumper crop years, cones produced at this time contain a greater number of sound seeds and fewer seed eating insects.

The cone collecting season lasts for only a few months during late summer and early fall. Cones must be gathered before the cones dry out and the scales open. The brown cones, which are scattered about under the trees or still attached to the branches are old cones and do not contain seed. Cones at lower elevations in Southern Oregon are now ripening. The ripening season gradually extends from lower to higher elevation when Douglas-fir, pine, spruce, cedar and hemlock cones start to open and shed their seed. In the case of noble fir, grand fir, concolor fir and other true firs, the entire cone will begin to break apart and shed both cone scales and seeds.

Several Methods

There are several methods used for collecting cones. One of these methods is picking from standing trees. Best cone picking trees are young, healthy, well-formed and heavily laden with cones. Cone picking equipment includes: (1) hook with five-foot long handle, (2) safety belt, (3) gloves, (4) solvent, (5) picking bag or bucket, (6) serviceable barlog gunny sacks, (7) old work clothing, (8) first aid kit, (9) cone testing knife.

Another method of gathering cones is picking from felled trees in logging, land clearing, or road building operations. I have heard of cases where the cones were worth more than the logs. The third method of obtaining cones is from squirrel cutting and caches. Squirrel caches are much more difficult to find than freshly cut cones scattered over the ground. Squirrels usually cut cones early in the morning and spend the remainder of the day hiding their cones in a number of caches. Squirrels locate their caches in moist, shady spots such as overhanging banks near streams or under an old moss covered log. Don't feel too sorry for the squirrels because experienced woodsmen have observed that they cut far more cones than they need for their food requirements. Large quantities can be collected from under trees or from caches without depriving them of necessary food.

The future for cone collecting looks good. Forest tree nurseries require thousands of pounds of seed to grow planting stock for private and public plantings. In addition, thousands of pounds of seed are treated with a rodent repellent and scattered systematically over nonstocked lands from helicopters. It seems probable that a strong demand for forest tree seed will continue for many years.

Chit Chat

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

It's a problem of communications. This is what the pear growers were trying to solve when they invited about 50 people to their fruit labor camp on Table Rock rd. This is the problem with veterinary services, starting at the top federal level. And this is the problem the communications industry has because people who contribute to the news far too often don't realize publishing or broadcasting is not an instantaneous process.

The local pear industry no doubt convinced a number of people Thursday that the industry needs Mexican Nationals to insure picking all of its pear crop which can economically be picked. It also convinced those who came and brought their friends that the food and lodging provided migrant labor and the contract pickers is good.

Somebody was smart in hiring Al Gonzales as cook for the several picking seasons at the labor camp. He came here in 1943 as a Mexican National and has cooked for both Mexicans and the single transient pickers using the camp since 1951. He knows thoroughly the customs of his people and provides the food they like. Less highly seasoned food is provided the non-Mexicans.

The quarters provided the pickers, all single men, or men who left their families behind, costs the Fruit Growers League considerable money each year to maintain. The League has a high investment in these buildings which housed an observation squadron during the war years. The camp includes new buildings, water and sewer lines plus other improvements.

The fruit growers also use "Green Card Mexicans"—those who have applied for their U. S. citizenship papers. These come from Texas at \$35 a man cost, including transportation and meals. This \$35 plus \$10 cash advance is customarily withheld from the first three weeks' pay checks.

Joe Beeson, from the regional office of the U. S. Department of Labor, Seattle, Wash., explained that although the regulations pertaining to use of Mexican Nationals seem arbitrary and unreasonable, Congress's short period extensions of the Mexican National law is largely responsible. Each time the law is extended the regulations are pyramided by new regulations tacked on by Congress. Longer period extensions would make it possible to work out the "unreasonable" requirements, Beeson indicated.

Beeson objected to the description of the bus carrying Mexican Nationals which was involved in a recent fatal collision with a train. The bus couldn't be "makeshift" as mentioned in news stories because transportation inspectors wouldn't allow such a conveyance to operate, he said. If this description is wrong then this is a breakdown in communications. The reporter originating that story on the UPI wire didn't realize the implications of that word "makeshift."

A shipper-grower objected to the name Mexican-National being applied to two men of Mexican origin involved in a local knifeing. They were not Mexican Nationals he said. A check of police records revealed one was and the other wasn't. One local police agency said it seldom has trouble with Mexicans Nationals because if they don't behave the Mexican government won't allow them to return. This is a break down in communications when the local pear growers haven't been able to educate local people as to the definition of the name, "Mexican National."

One man leaving the labor camp lunch said he and his wife had often talked of picking local pears to add a little money to their budget. He has the impression the fruit industry doesn't want local people picking, even men. There, perhaps, is a more serious breakdown in communications for the pear growers. Perhaps more local men would pick if they felt they would be welcome in local orchards. Some, whom we know personally, already do pick.

Dr. C. A. Manthel, director of the national animals disease laboratory at Ames, Iowa, spoke of the communications problem in getting results of new research in veterinary medicine to the veterinarian in the field. His laboratory staff gets a regular bulletin to inform them as to what is going on in their own laboratory, he said. Research news is circulated to the federal veterinarians in each state who must get it out to the private practice veterinarians, he said.

Why has one county been able to isolate and identify foothills abortion in beef animals when a neighboring county has not? Dr. Manthel didn't know. This is a break down in communications, he said.

He felt keenly that the general public still does not know the difference between a vegetarian and a veterinarian. He sympathized with a reporter's desire to get news on local problems in animal health. However, the local veterinarian probably doesn't know he has a problem of epidemic proportions until the federal veterinarian in his state has informed him, he said.

The veterinarian has a difficult time justifying his small animal practice to the public. Saving a pet's life or health does not seem so important balanced on the scales of comparable life values. But, man has always had pets. He seems to need them for his emotional stability.

"Furthermore, I would never raise any child without any pet, be it bird, cat or dog," the head of research veterinarians said with a twinkle in his eye. "A child needs something he can confide in."

The public probably has a varied picture of the veterinarian depending on their contact with him. To some he is a man in a starched white coat who performs minor surgery on a pet cat or dog then "charges too much." Or, he may be a man who rattles up a country lane at midnight to care for an ailing cow.

But, whatever your impression of him is — he is very, very human. During the Friday night convention at the Rogue Valley Country club there was a goodly cross-section of personalities.

One elderly veterinarian told us how he drove by buggy, then rode horseback to local orchards to care for draft horses then spent a good share of the night scraping and bushing the "Big Sticky" mud off his horse's flanks. He rode horseback to Gold Hill to stand on a cracker box to pull some horses' teeth which took him most of the night. And he put his sons and a number of other boys through veterinary school.

A young veterinarian told us how he was a smoke-jumper to put himself through school. A wife of a young vet complained her husband "has practically wall to wall carpeting in his plane while I have the same darned old furniture in the living room." He apparently uses his plane for his practice as did a fellow-veterinarian across the table from him. They talked flying all through dinner.

Undoubtedly there were dozens more human interest stories in the room if we had had time to ferret them out. The stories told from the speakers' table were good, too, but we can't print them.

Ed Snyder, of the Portland public relations firm of Goodrich and Snyder had a point on communications, too. Newspapers haven't convinced even a small part of the public that considerable effort goes into publishing a newspaper. The wave of a magic wand won't get a publicity story into print after deadline time, especially, but the public doesn't know this and still expects the impossible, he noted.

We have walked through miles of orchards, driven hundreds of miles on cattle tours, visited dairy barns, poultry ranches and berry farms. How many of these people have visited our "farm" or "orchard" where ideas sprout words, rows of words become sentences and other ideas depending on how each reader sees those words and sentences? And for our labor we are sure to get a few raspberries, but seldom any orchids.



VIEWERS PEARS—Young Michael Simons, fifth generation member of Simons and French, Ltd., London and New York, watches pears come off the belt at a local fruit packing house. He visited Medford fruit shippers and orchards two days last week on a general get-acquainted tour of Pacific Coast fruit areas.

Medford Once Site Of British Firm

Young Michael Simons, of Simons and French, Ltd., London and New York, stopped in Medford for two days last week to become acquainted with the pear shippers and learn of their problems in getting their fruit into the British market.

This was part of a general swing through the Pacific Coast fruit regions which includes California, Hood River, Yakima, Wenatchee and British Columbia.

Simons and French used to have an office in Medford about the 1930's on 11th and Fir sts. (then Simons, Shuttleworth and French), but found it more economical to base their operations in New York and London. Young Simons is the fifth generation in his family to be in the business. He said he wasn't forced into it, he likes it.

Formerly of Merchant Marine

The former British Merchant Marine officer is tall, fair complexioned with blue eyes and light brown, somewhat unruly brown hair. If he didn't have to work for a living he would settle in the Rogue valley, he said. Of all areas visited, he prefers northern California and southern Oregon. Previously he had spent a year in New York City studying the market. The peoples of the colder northern countries of Europe such as England prefer citrus fruits, so Simons spent some time in the California citrus areas. He also visited Lodi and Sacramento since his firm also imports prunes, grapes, nectarines and plums.

The British importers like the fruit shippers here were watching the Common Market developments apprehensively. The British importers would not have gone along with any trade restrictions imposed if their country had joined the Common Market, the young importer said.

Much of the fruit which comes into England is from Italy, one of the Common Market countries. But, Italy can't duplicate the uniform high quality which British importers get from this country and must have to satisfy their large chain market customers.

Under the new Common Market conditions, however, Italy can ship peaches into England three days after harvest. The more uniform and speedier transportation system through Common Market countries to England makes the difference. A new transportation system allows refrigerator cars to be lifted off one set of wheels onto another, set so the journey can continue in the same freight cars, but on a different gauge track.

Typically British

Typically British, the young importer said, he had not changed his opinion on imports much after visiting the Pacific Coast fruit areas. But, untypically British, he asked for a cup of coffee instead of tea. His firm has learned to rely on the quality of U. S. fruit shipped into England. Such fruit usually arrives in 100 package lots or in lots of 20 packages for selling.

Many of the pears move into restaurant trade, England has no gift box trade although the holidays see the usual boom in fruit sales.

The coffee habit probably dates back to the several years served in the merchant marine. There is no connoisseur in England now so joining the merchant marine was not a case of either or. England has a small, highly trained and technical mobile army, perhaps relying more on atomic weapons than the U. S. army which is also trained to fight "brush wars."

Simons went to sea as an apprentice when 16. He spent 2 1/2 years in the British Nautical college. After 16 years at sea he was ready for the import trade and entered his family's firm.

"Yes, I'm single," he grinned. "I probably wouldn't have been able to make this trip if I weren't. I am impressed with the highly economical, highly efficient fruit business here," he added.

Funds For Test Program Approved

SALEM — Federal matching funds have been approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for development of a reproducible fluorescence test for annual ryegrass seed as a joint marketing service project by the Oregon department of agriculture and the Oregon Agricultural station.

Word of the approval was received last week by Paul T. Rowell, agricultural development chief for the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Commenting on the approval of the funds, Rowell said the need for a more exact knowledge on which to base testing methods and on the factors influencing fluorescence in annual ryegrass seedlings was emphasized by a recent federal regulation requiring labeling of all ryegrass seed as annual or perennial or mixtures of these two, based on the fluorescence test.

Exams Opened for Federal Positions

New examinations are open to fill several federal civil service positions.

They include supervisory military personnel specialist, mechanical quality control representative, engineering draftsman, industrial specialist, and electrical accounting machine project planner.

Information and applications may be obtained from the Civil Service commission in the Medford post office or from the regional office at the Federal Office building, Seattle 4, Wash.

FROM THE GROUND UP

By BART BARTLETT

The annual harvest of pears will be completed this week. There will be some apple picking left. This is only on a small acreage of late winter varieties and does not involve a great amount of labor.

The peach harvest was finished during the early part of last week. The harvest of the fruit crop for this area is being completed very early this year. This is because tree fruit crops were generally short this year.

The season also played a part in compressing the harvest period. This year bosc and comice pears were ready to pick at about mid-anjou season.

Hale Rio-osa, Gem and Almar peaches ripened very close together. Another facet of the season was that all peach varieties tended to drop heavily as maturity approached. This seemed to be correlated with a too short stem on the fruits as the final swell comes so that the peaches literally grew themselves off the tree limbs.

It is not too late to check over any woody plant budding that was done this summer and replace any buds that failed to take. This applies to stone fruits as well as to apples and pears. A bud well placed now in a stock plant will do very well during next growing season.

The control of weeds by chemical means has progressed to the point that it should be considered by every farmer.

This field of farming is not so specialized as many of us have been led to believe. If you have followed the suggestions that have appeared in this column, you now have some basic information as to what to do starting now. Some weedicides or herbicides should be applied at this time to effect the desired weed plant control during the coming growing season. Consult your spray chemical dealer for advice.

Orchardists should apply a good fall cleanup spray before the fall rains come to make the orchard soils a sea of mud. A well applied fall cleanup spray can ease some of the necessity for a full dormant spray that in most instances means the use of heavy equipment in order to make the application on very wet, boggy land during early spring. Consult your spray chemical dealer for advice in regards to this spray application.

There is a special election coming up that concerns the state tax measure. We regret to say that following the efforts of a self paid "hardest working" legislature we fail to agree that their salary was worth the effort. Perhaps the four cent postcards marked voted by proxy might suffice for the next meeting of these gentlemen.

It is notable that those contributing the largest amount of verbiage in defense of the present state budget are employees of the system.

BEALS NAMED

Salem — O. K. Beals, Oregon Department of Agriculture assistant director for consumer services, has been named to a Western Association of Dairy, Food and Drug Officials committee, whose function it will be to compile and develop sources of reference information material for state use on U.S. Food and Drug Administration pesticide and food additive tolerances and other requirements of interest to states.

Jossy Attending Agent Meeting

Earle Jossy, Jackson County Extension agent, is in Minneapolis, Minn., attending the 48th annual meeting of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents Sept. 22-26.

Jossy is past president and a member of the executive committee of the Oregon County Agents association. He is representing that group as a delegate to the convention.

Jossy has been an extension agent in Jackson county for over 20 years. He has the major responsibility for serving the livestock, dairy and poultry industries.

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BUDDING — Mrs. Ora Meadows, Talent, is shown budding in some cherry trees in the Culbertson orchard on Old Stage rd. Culbertson and OSU horticulturists feel the trees have made an unusually good growth for their second leafing. Some of the trees are showing signs of bacterial canker, but so far appear tolerant of it. The F12-1 rootstock Culbertson has planted is considered bacterial canker tolerant.



GIRL AND CHERRIES—Susie Berry, daughter of County Agent Don Berry and Mrs. Berry stands beside a sweet cherry tree on acreage owned by Paul Culbertson on South Stage rd. to show size of the young trees. They include Lamida, MacMars and Corums.

Spray For Mites Before Oct. 15

A spray should be applied to pear trees (particularly Bartlett and Comice) before Oct. 15 for blister mite control if any blister mite injury to fruit or foliage was noted this year, according to Dr. Peter Westgard, of Southern Oregon branch experiment station and Dr. C. B. Cordy, Jackson County Extension agent.

Thirty pounds of wettable sulfur per acre or 6 pounds per 100 gallons, gives commercial control.

Somewhat better control is obtained by mixing 20 pounds of wettable sulfur with 10 gallons lime sulfur per acre in an air blast sprayer or 4 pounds wettable sulfur and 2 gallons lime sulfur per 100 gallons in a hose rig.

Fifteen pounds of polysulfide per acre or 3 pounds per 100 gallons may be used in place of the lime sulfur in the above mixture.

This is strictly a blister mite spray.

Local Orchardists Plant New Sweet Cherry Varieties

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

The Rogue valley could have a new fruit industry — cherries — if recent plantings of sweet cherries continue to show good growth and disease resistance.

Paul Culbertson and Ernest Hamilton are two fruit growers who feel sweet cherries could make a comeback in the valley after the Albino cherry virus which wiped out whole orchards started about 1945. Prior to that this county had about 70 acres of sweet cherries. The virus swept the valley for 20 years.

Culbertson has 600 trees on 12 acres on the Old Stage rd. Hamilton has 30 trees representing seven different new varieties on one - third of an acre on his home place on Table Rock rd.

Hamilton's varieties include S9-15, OSC 107, Corum, OSC 304, OSC 212, OSC 197 and Esperan. Hamilton has a wait and see attitude. He may plant a few commercial trees later, he said, but "will not go too strong." All of these varieties are gummosis resistant and virus - free, Hamilton noted.

Culbertson is raising Lamida, MacMars and Corums; all on F12-1 root stock. The root stock is bacterial canker tolerant. The three varieties are resistant to albino cherry virus. Lamida is a Lambert cross, a black type of cherry. MacMars and Corum are Royal Anne type cherries, lighter red. Corum is a pollinizer.

Culbertson, a pear grower, is proud of the fact that his trees are believed to be the first MacMars commercial planting in the U.S.

His trees have made a good growth. This summer is their second leaf. He expects cherries on them next year and a good crop in 1965.

Swine Research Set For Session Agenda

CORVALLIS — Oregon State university research on swine, nutrition and breeding practices will be reported today at the fifth annual OSU Swine Day. The program began at 9 a.m. in Withycombe Hall on campus.

In their reports to Oregon's swine industry, OSU researchers will show how their findings relate to the number of pigs farrowed and raised, growth rate, feed efficiency and carcass merit—all factors determining profitable swine operations.

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