

# Balance of Spud Crop of County Now Stored

## KLAMATH SPUD GROWERS FIND BEST METHODS

Digging of potatoes, planted in Klamath county about May first has passed its peak at the present time, and by the end of the season every warehouse and cellar in the basin will be filled to capacity, according to official predictions.

**Planting is Earlier**  
Experiments carried on under the auspices of the county agent's office indicate that best results are gained if spuds in Klamath county are planted from May 10 to 25. This is an advance of about two weeks over planting time in former years, which began about June 1.

**Ground Moisture Preferred**  
Seed potatoes are usually planted about 12 to 15 inches apart in rows, with three to four and a half feet between rows. Growers always prefer to have sufficient ground moisture to germinate seed and bring up the potato before it becomes necessary to irrigate.

In dry years, however, it is sometimes necessary to irrigate land before planting the seed potatoes. In some cases too, the seed is planted and irrigated up, but this, however, is not rated as a satisfactory procedure.

**Irrigation of the crop may be carried on throughout the entire growing season or no irrigations may be required, depending upon the nature of the soil. In some cases, where there is sub-irrigation, one or two irrigations in the growing season are sufficient. In sandy, well-drained soil, however, eight or nine irrigations are often required in a season.**

**Crop Cultivated Frequently**  
When the potatoes are up, they are, usually, hilled, or furrowed out, and water run down the furrows. They are then cultivated as soon as they are dry enough, then again furrowed out.

**This process is continued until the fine roots are formed and spread out, after which they are only lightly cultivated.**

**Spuds Allowed To Mature**  
Irrigation of spuds is usually finished by September 1, after which potatoes are allowed to mature, and are generally ready for digging about October 10.

Although many fields are dug before that time and put on the market for immediate consumption, the potatoes are not mature enough to be stored or kept for any length of time.

**Many times in the past few years, according to authorities, potatoes have been dug too early, causing them to become soft and in very poor condition when held for several days before sale in the southern markets.**

**This frequently results in lowering of prices and in breaking down the reputation of Klamath grown potatoes.**

**Stored After Digging**  
After digging, potatoes are stored either in farm cellars or in terminal warehouses here they are graded out later in the season and sent to markets as U. S. Number Ones or Twos.

**Mechanical Diggers Used**  
All potato digging is carried on by mechanical diggers, either drawn by horses or power equipment. Up until a few years ago, horses were used universally, but they are fast yielding their place to tractors.

**Spuds are usually allowed to lie in the field to dry for an hour or so before being picked up at digging. Picking is done by hand, with thousands of people employed in this work during the harvest season.**

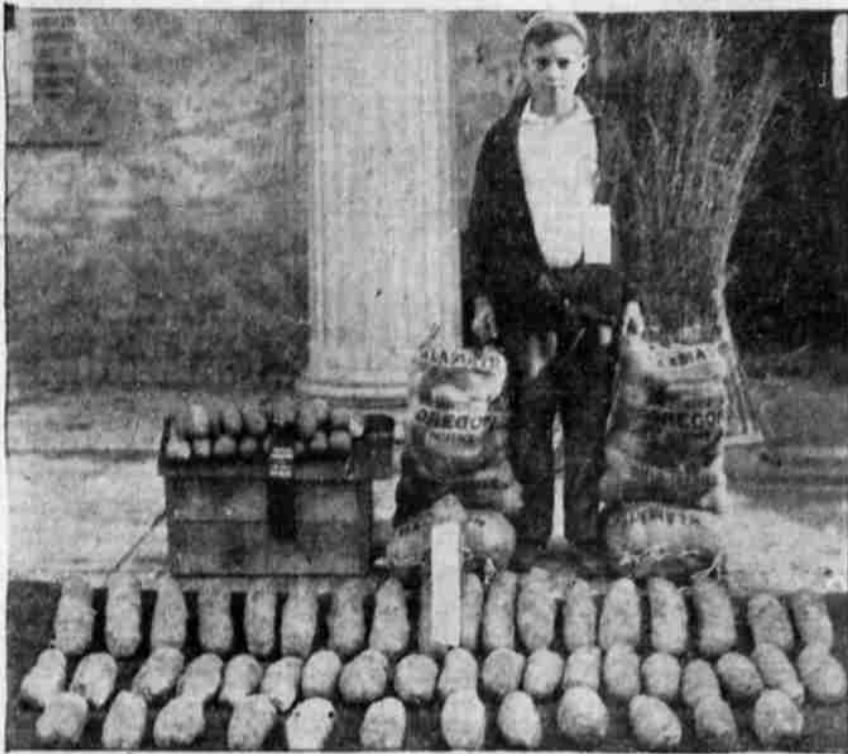
**In good potatoes, a picker will average about 100 sacks a day. Sacks are filled from one to two thirds full by pickers, and left in the field until trucks pick them up and haul them to storage cellars or grading machines.**

**The average farm cellar holds 5,000 sacks of spuds, and terminal warehouses from 12,000 to 20,000 sacks.**

**Digging At Height**  
Potato digging in the Klamath basin, although begun late, has now passed the peak of the season, according to an announcement from County Agent C. A. Henderson.

Few shipments are being made at this time however, and the spuds are put in storage as they are dug.

Farmers dug and stored their crop at the rate of 1,000 sacks a day, the agent stated, giving an approximate total of 150 to 200 car loads of spuds dug daily.



Prize-winning spuds grown by 4-H club member —May King Studio



Potato digger in action on Klamath Basin ranch —May King Studio



Potato pickers following in wake of digger. —May King Studio

21 per cent of the total national crop, while this year yields in the west are less than 15 per cent of the national crop.

**Bumper Crop Here**  
Potato futures for January 1 delivery, as quoted in the Chicago market, are from 30 to 35 cents higher than October delivery prices, indicating that dealers in general expect a better price later in the season. Also the percentage of U. S. Number 2 spuds is much greater this year than normal, which would indicate that the price on U. S. Number 1's should be more favorable later in the season.

Statistics show that 16 years ago Klamath county did not figure as a potato shipper, while

shipments in 1930 totaled over 2,200 cars. Present predictions be somewhat less than last year, are that the 1931 crop will do low buying power in the slightly exceed that of 1930, nation.

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## NON-METALICS FOUND TO BE GREAT ASSET

Acres of usable building material waiting for development and exploitation lie dormant 72 miles from Klamath Falls in Big and Little Glass Mountains. Twenty-five miles of country separate the mountains which are both located in northern California.

The bulk of both of these phenomenal mountains consists of Scoria, a cellular non-metallic substance, which perhaps would make the best insulation in the world.

An experiment with Scoria gave the following results: a three inch cube of iron was heated to the melting point. The cube was then covered with an inch and a quarter of Scoria, and the temperature registered on the outer surface of the insulation was only 199 degrees Fahrenheit.

Big Glass Mountain contains 5,500 acres of this material, according to geologists and other authorities, while Little Glass Mountain contains 2,600 acres.

Scoria has been tested and found to have greater strength than brick, and could be used effectively in building. Those who realize the vast number of uses to which this little known material may be put, predict that every pound will be utilized in the not far distant future.

Obsidian, another material useful for building purposes, is found in huge quantities on Little Glass Mountain, and hauled glass, a very hard and beautiful substance, is found in Big Glass Mountain.

With hauled glass, and other natural glass deposits found in such quantities in these two mountains, the Klamath country should turn out, among other products, more and better sand paper than any other locality in the world. Natural glass registers number 6 in the Moh scale of hardness. This scale is reproduced as follows: 1. Talc; 2. Gypsum; 3. Calcite; 4. Fluorite; 5. Apatite; 6. Orthoclase; 7. Quartz; 8. Topaz; 9. Corundum; 10. Diamond.

Sandpaper is made either of sand, as the name implies, or of ground artificial glass. The latter commodity is four times more expensive than that made out of sand. Sand paper made out of ground natural glass would be better, because natural glass is harder than artificial, and would be much less expensive.

Another natural product found on the west side of Big Glass Mountain, is Bentonite, a perfect natural soap, and also widely used as a soap filler all over the world. At the present time Russia holds the monopoly of Bentonite, although, geologists declare, there is a small deposit in California.

Even though the Bentonite deposit in Big Glass Mountain should be taken out, the supply would constantly be replenished by the fumes from the little crater on the west side of the mountain, which convert the other deposits of pumice, cinder and natural glass into Bentonite. This soapy substance is a good cleaner in itself. It may be rubbed into the hands, perfectly dry, and it



Latest picture of the new federal building taken the day after the dedication —May King

absolutely disappears. However, if the hands are moistened afterward, the Bentonite re-appears and with it any grime that may have been on the hands.

Place a small piece of Bentonite in water, and it gradually swells to two or three times its original size, at the same time giving off a clean earthy smell. It cleans by a solving principal.

These substances in Big and Little Glass Mountains are classified as Non-Metallics. This classification includes all substances except ores that can be reduced to metal. As a matter of fact, to metal. As a matter of fact, that has not a metallic base; however, those classified as non-metallics have so little metallic content, that it would not only be unprofitable, but practically impossible to reduce the metal from the other substance.

**Suggestions Made For Slug Control**

The first and perhaps most important step in controlling next year's crop of garden slugs is to make their life miserable by cleaning up boards, sacks, brush, plant remains and general debris in the vicinity of the garden

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