

Careless Pruning Of Trees Causes Unhealthy Growth, Spoils Natural Beauties

(Ed. Note: The following story was written by County Agent Charles A. Henderson at the request of The Herald and News following a complaint against the method of pruning on the city's trees which not only destroyed their beauty in summer but the silhouette of their branches in winter.)

By C. A. HENDERSON

There are three reasons for pruning ornamental or shade trees. These reasons are to promote vigor and healthfulness, to control form of the tree, and to modify flowering. Accomplishment of these ends generally requires less pruning than is usually supposed and much less than is generally carried out. Pruning should only be done after careful analysis of each tree, keeping the above factors in mind. It is better not to prune at all than to prune without a reasonably good idea of the results desired. There is a great tendency to prune without thought to appearance, growth and thrift of the tree. Severe cutting is seldom required but trees should be observed frequently to make sure that needed pruning is done at the proper time.

Pruning For Health

Pruning for vigor and healthfulness consists of the removal of dead or dying wood and broken or split limbs, cutting off stubs that have resulted either from the breaking of limbs or from improperly made cuts in previous prunings and the removal of crossing, interfering branches and removing the top to offset root injury due to transplanting or other causes. Dead, dying and broken branches should always be removed, the sooner the better. Such removal aids early healing of the wound, thus reducing the danger that injurious decay or organisms may cause. In removing dead limbs the best method is to cut back to the nearest living crotch

Soil Survey Finished Here

A heavy work load lies ahead in soil conservation work, Kenneth W. Dahl, conservationist, told the Poo valley district board of supervisors at a meeting held in the county agent's office last week.

Dahl reviewed accomplishments of the district, showing completion of a soil survey of the entire area, for which a report is being prepared now. The survey shows soil types, slope, degree of erosion, present land use and areas where alkali presents a problem. Soil information is used in locating drains and in planning land leveling.

Some progress has already been made in the construction of drains, land leveling and in the revision of irrigation systems in the Poo valley district, Dahl said. Topographic surveys for land leveling are now being made on farms where work will be initiated after harvest.

Latter St. Stephens project engineer of the bureau of reclamation, reported on the proposed relocation of the Lost river channel and the beneficial effects which could be expected. This proposed development is part of a larger job involving channel improvement in Langell valley, together with construction of boundary dam and enlargement of the diversion canal.

Plans were laid at the meeting for operations for the remainder of the year. V. C. Brown was re-elected supervisor and took the oath of office. Arthur W. Schaub, was elected as secretary and Wilbur E. Reeling will continue as chairman. Other members of the board are George Stevenson and Rex E. High.

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A boy and his dog contemplate the cool water trickling over Malone dam on Lost river in Langell valley. This dam, built by the U. S. bureau of reclamation in 1923, is 32 feet high, 515 feet long and is used to raise the water in Lost river which is supplied from Clear Lake reservoir, and to divert it to the west canal for irrigating farm lands west of Langell valley.

DDT Proves Effective Control For Dog Ticks

The dog tick that spreads the Rocky mountain spotted fever is another of the many pests for which DDT is proving a practical and inexpensive control. This is good news for mothers who have worried over the possibility of ticks attaching to children even when they were playing safely in the back yard or on the school or community playground.

A light dusting with 10 per cent DDT powder at the rate of one ounce to 1000 square feet of area covered with grass, weeds or shrubs, is recommended by the U. S. department of agriculture as a simple and effective way of killing the ticks. One dusting will usually protect for the tick season.

The light dusting, says Dr. E. F. Knippling of the bureau of entomology and plant quarantine, will not be dangerous to children and pets. It will make safer the play areas where children should be protected as well as possible during the tick season.

In towns and in rural areas such as dusting, or spraying with a DDT spray, along the edges of paths and roadways, also reduces the tick hazard. Bureau studies of the habits of the ticks show that the pests tend to crawl toward paths and roadways, probably attracted by the scent of passing animals, including human beings. A DDT treatment for a few feet on each side of a path or road will kill the ticks that have concentrated there and the long time effect of DDT treatment is waiting.

Unless there is a definite reason for pruning an ornamental tree, it is best not to prune at all. Far more damage has been done to the beauty of ornamental trees in Klamath Falls by pruning than any good ever accomplished.

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Farm Price Spiral Dying

CORVALLIS, May 22 (AP)—The upward spiraling of farm land prices in Oregon is slowing down, the Oregon State college extension service reported today.

The average price of farm land increased 6 per cent in the year ending March 1, boosting the level to 91 per cent above the 1935-1939 level.

The report noted the jump was the smallest in several years and reflected the leveling-off of farm land prices throughout the west. The

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national increase last year was 12 per cent, 11 per cent and 18 per cent the three years previous, the survey showed.

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