

Agent's Office Explains Earwig Control, History

That obnoxious garden and house pest—the earwig—is making its appearance right about now. They've been coming out of hibernation ever since the snow melted off, and the county agent's office reports increasing numbers of phone calls on how to exterminate them.

County Agent J.D. Vertrees says the earwig isn't a native of the United States, but was introduced in Rhode Island from Europe about 1911. Soon afterwards its entry apparently was made through other seaports, too, among them Portland.

From those ports the pinch-bottomed little bug migrated all over the country and are familiar everywhere . . . about three-fourths of an inch long, reddish brown in color or with curved forceps at the rear of the body.

These pinchers are harmless to humans, though the insects may attempt to pinch them when picked up. Young earwigs are much the same shape . . . just a smaller edition of the adult and grayish brown in color.

The wig lays her eggs in nests under boards, roots or other shelter early in the spring. She broods over the eggs as well as newly hatched young. After the younglings shed their skin a couple of times, they leave home and travel through the garden in search of food. Most are fully matured by July.

DESTROY

Vertrees doesn't think earwigs total up any vast amounts of economical losses in the U.S. They're just obnoxious; they are around everything in the garden and home when concentrated in large numbers.

They do destroy large amounts of flowers by eating holes in petals. In vegetables they eat spinach, lettuce, and cornsilk off corn and thus prevent the pollination there.

They are an all-around nuisance, no housewife likes to wash half a dozen or more earwigs out of a head of lettuce before serving it in a salad. They can at times, when well concentrated, stunt the growth of seedlings, and often spread up shade trees to consume leaves, moss and lichen.

When confined within space, they sometimes become even cannibalistic, Vertrees reports. They feed mostly at night.

Due to their habit of congregating in close, tight spaces during the day humans have a difficult time exterminating them. Sometimes they can be trapped by placing crumpled newspapers, folded burlap and like material in the yard. By burning these every few days the number of earwigs in small backyards will be materially reduced.

FISH

Trapping a little fish oil on the trapping material attracts heavier concentrations of the pests. The oil can also be used as an attractant to poison bait.

Vertrees recommends: Six pounds of bran, one-half pound of sodium fluosulfate and one pint of fish oil.

The dry bran and the sodium compound should be mixed together thoroughly and add the fish oil gradually until the mixture is crumbly in texture. Since dogs and cats can be attracted to this poison bait, the agent suggests putting it in close-lidded coffee cans and punching holes in the side so the insects can crawl through. The holes should be about three-quarters of an inch in diameter.

BAIT

The bait isn't terribly poisonous, Vertrees reports, and it would take large amounts to harm dogs and cats. Nevertheless, he suggests tucking the bait down into cracks and under plants so too much won't be available to marauding tabbies and frowns.

Chickens, too, would have to eat



EARWIG Plant Pirate

a 40 per cent wettable powder. It can be used the same as DDT dust and sprays.

Vertrees reiterated the point that the home gardener should keep the poison baits out of the reach of children and pets.

Early spring control is most desirable, he said, since in the Klamath area some earwigs lay their eggs rather late. If they can be controlled before egg-laying, Vertrees says naturally there will be fewer pests around the rest of the year.

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Herald and News FARM NEWS

MALCOLM EPLEY, Jr. Farm Editor



OSC Building Dedication Set

OREGON STATE COLLEGE—People of the state will have an opportunity to make a thorough examination of recently completed Withycombe hall, new quarters for the animal husbandry and dairy departments at Oregon State college, at formal dedication ceremonies Saturday, May 24.

Two nationally-known authorities who were formerly connected with OSC will be among speakers at a brief dedicatory program Saturday afternoon. They are Dr. B. T. Simms, chief of the USDA bureau of animal husbandry and former head of the OSC veterinary department for 2 years, and Dr. Richard J. Werner, 1917 agricultural graduate of OSC who is assistant executive director of the Milk Industry Foundation at Washington, D.C.

Governor Douglas McKay, a classmate of Dr. Werner's, will also be on the program.

A feature of the dedication will be presentation of a bronze plaque of former Governor James Withycombe after whom the building is named. Governor Withycombe was an early director of the OSC agricultural experiment station.

All of the laboratories, offices, classrooms, and other facilities in the new building, including the dairy manufacturing wing, will be open. Visitors will also be welcome to view all of the services provided at the outlying barns and college farms connected with these two departments.

Klamath SCD Buys Seeder

The Klamath Soil Conservation District has purchased a new Brillion seeder, according to Chairman Myron Taylor of the district's board of supervisors.

The seeder will be available to farmers in the district, and may be used by farmers outside the district with those inside getting the first priority.

The board of supervisors announced the machine should play a big part in the pasture seeding program.

SKIN PRICES DROP

SYDNEY, Australia—The price for rabbit skins here is the lowest since the depression of the early 1930's.

"Actually prices today are worse than depression prices because of high costs," one dealer said. "When you see so many men without hats, that's part of the answer. Hat makers have been among our biggest buyers."

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OPS Will Keep Spud Ceilings

The National Potato Council, in a letter received here this week, reports it has been notified by the Office of Price Stabilization that OPS ceiling prices will be maintained on white potatoes which will reflect 100 per cent parity to growers.

At present the regulation establishes ceiling prices only through the month of June. Ceilings for later months will be added by amendments.

According to the letter received here, several members of the White Potato Industry's advisory committee expressed the doubt that the present ceiling would permit growers to average parity because of normal seasonal fluctuations in potato prices.

OPS, however, explained that parity is actually being reflected to the growers.

Finnell Notes Certification Eligibilities

The purpose of seed certification in Oregon is to maintain and make available high grade seeds, explains H. D. Finnell, Oregon's Certification Specialist who says that only superior varieties are eligible for certification.

Eligible varieties may have been in use many years, or they may be new varieties produced recently by plant breeding. But whether a variety is new or old it may be lost unless it is very carefully handled through growing, harvesting, cleaning, and marketing. The rules of certification are set up to make sure seed is properly grown and handled. Seed is not certified until the tag is sealed on the container.

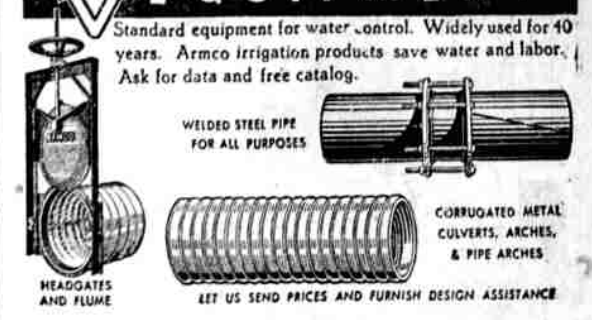
Finnell says varietal purity is the most important point. Certified seed must be true to variety. It must also have high germination and be quite free of weeds and diseases. Weeds and diseases are often spread in low grade trashy seed. Using certified seed is a good

way to prevent the spread of weeds and seed carried diseases. Certification in Oregon is conducted under Oregon law by Oregon State College. The Agricultural Extension Service directs and carries on the inspection work. The county extension agents are the certification authorities in their respective counties.

Standards for all crops certified are on file in the county extension office, Finnell concludes. All applications for certification should be filed in the county extension office.

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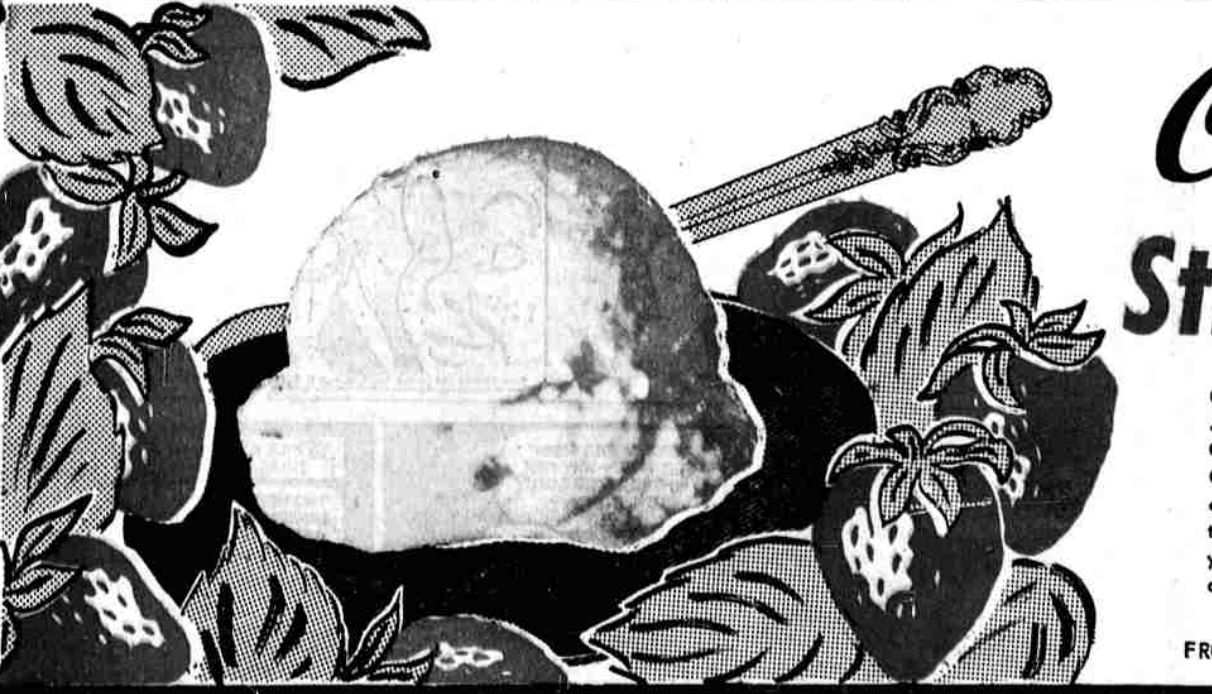
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