

Herald and News FARM NEWS



Different Fertilizers In Growing Spuds Tested At Tulelake Field Station

During 1952 potatoes were grown at the Tulelake Field Station and fertilized with different kinds of fertilizers. Samples from each fertilizer treatment were placed in crates and buried under bulk potatoes in bins of the storage elevator. The following data was collected from the results of these tests.

Variety Used: Netted Gem
Date Placed in Storage: October 7, 1951
Date Removed from Storage: March 14, 1952
Number of days in Storage: 157

Kind of fertilizer	Amount of available of each	PERCENT WEIGHT LOSS DURING STORAGE	
		(average of 4 replications)	
1. phosphorous only	120 lbs. of available	4.7	
2. nitrogen only	120 lbs. of available	4.2	
3. nitrogen on phos.	120 lbs. of each	4.5	
4. nitrogen, phos. and potash	120 lbs. of each	5.3	

Potatoes lose most of their weight during storage by water escaping from the tuber. A slight additional loss is from the conversion of sugars to carbon dioxide and water. The shrinkage of these potatoes was very uniform regardless of what fertilizer was used to grow them. However, the treatment (No. 4) where a complete fertilizer had been used showed a slightly higher rate of shriveling which may be significant. The average weight loss of all these trials was 4.7 per cent which indicates that if 1000 lbs. of field run potatoes from this lot had been placed in storage, only 853 lbs. of field run potatoes would be taken out.

Kind of fertilizer	Amount of available of each	PERCENT GRADE OUT		
		U.S. 1's	U.S. 2's	Culls
1. Phosphorous	120	69.1	22.7	8.2
2. Nitrogen	120	71.4	22.4	6.2
3. Phos. and Nitrogen	120	58.4	33.1	8.5
4. Phos., Nit. and potash	120	69.2	23.0	7.8

Crickets Can Be Kept Outdoors

Crickets will usually stay out of doors, except for years when they breed in large numbers. Then they tend to migrate inside houses, where they feed on fabrics. Chloroform or DDT dust along the baseboards of the floors and across door sills will keep them outside, according to University of California Farm Advisor Ken Baggett. Use a dust containing five per cent DDT or two per cent chloroform, he recommends. Blow the dust into cracks and other hiding places but make certain it does not contaminate food.

Pyrethrum-sodium fluoride or pyrethrum-sodium fluoride are also effective against crickets but are dangerous to use. They are severe stomach poisons and must be used carefully according to directions on the containers.

Field run potatoes were sealed in crates, stored among the bulk potatoes over the winter, and taken out and graded with the above results. Although the treatment fertilized with nitrogen alone shows the best keeping quality, the difference is small. One conclusion which is very evident is that the use of phosphorous or potash in your potato fertilizer does not improve the keeping quality of potatoes. Observations on appearance and netting showed that those fertilized with nitrogen alone were just as good as any other treatment.

The results of this year's experiments support the conclusions of several previous years work on this same problem.

OPERATION

BOSTON — Arthur Godfrey, television and radio celebrity, Tuesday was admitted to the Massachusetts general hospital for an operation to correct hip injuries suffered in an accident years ago.



THIS PICTURE SHOWS THE VALUE of using 2, 4-D in wheat. Swath in the foreground was sprayed with the chemical and is virtually free of the weeds which are so abundant in the background.

Bee Barter System Eyed

A barter system of payment for clover pollination services is being suggested this season by some beekeeper.

Some beekeepers have contracted to provide a strong colony of bees in return for 10 lbs. of alkali clover seed after harvest.

Pollination fees are a development of recent years. The practice of charging pollination fees developed among beekeepers as honey prices declined when sugar became plentiful after the war.

When honey prices were satisfactory it was customary for beekeepers to leave a supply of honey with farmers for the privilege of placing bees in clover fields.

A wide spread realization of the effectiveness of bees in increasing clover seed yields led to greater demand for bees on the part of seed producers.

Pollination fees in this area have not been as high as they were in some other areas. Honey flow from alkali fields here has been quite good.

Fees paid by clover growers last year varied from nothing to over \$4.00 per colony of bees. There has been quite a lot of variation in fees paid.

There has also been considerable variation in strength of colonies provided by beekeepers.

QUICK TRIP

WASHINGTON — President Eisenhower left Tuesday on a quick visit to "Shan-shi-La" retreat in the Catoctin Mountains of Maryland, the hideout used by former President Roosevelt and Truman.

2, 4-D Proves Worth Over Period Of Time As Good Weed Killer In Pastures

"Once a miracle, now a standard," that's the capsule history of 2, 4-D weed killer, the chemical that can be sprayed on grain fields, hayland and pasture to kill weeds without hurting the crop or feed.

When weed spraying in cropland started, less than a decade ago, it seemed impossible that a chemical would kill only the weeds and not harm the crop. Now weed spraying is common practice on many farms in the Pacific Northwest.

There are several formulations of 2, 4-D. The one recommended for this area is the amine formulation. This formulation is least likely to cause injury to nearby sensitive crops or trees. Yet it will control tarweed, chicory, pigweed, lambquarters, smartweed, fireweed, cow cockle and little bluestem.

2, 4-D is almost unbelievably powerful. Four ounces of active ingredient is enough to kill two or three thousand pounds of living weeds. In wheat, barley, and grassland in this area, a quart of 2, 4-D amine per acre is the usual recommendation. This supplies one pound of the active ingredient—2, 4-D acid.

Wheat or barley should be sprayed when the grain is six to eight inches high. Grassland and pasture can be sprayed almost any time after growth starts—but 2, 4-D should not be used on clover or alfalfa, or other "road-leaved" leaf crops.

Weed control pays off two ways. It pays off at harvest time—particularly with grains where you cut the dockage due to weed seeds.

It also pays off in improving the land. As weeds are gradually brought under control, the land itself becomes more productive because more of the fertility and soil moisture is going to crops and less is going to waste in nourishing weeds.

Even with the advances agricultural chemistry has made in helping control weeds, the annual loss to farmers in the United States is still estimated at three billion dollars. Every dollar invested in weed spraying helps cut this loss.

Blue Tongue Watched Here

State veterinarians are keeping a close eye on developments in connection with the appearance in California of blue tongue, a virus disease of sheep, according to the state department of agriculture.

So far as Oregon officials know, there is no sign of this disease here. But Director E. L. Peterson says his division of animal industry officials have informed him blue tongue has been found in something like 200,000 sheep in California. There is tentative diagnosis in two other sheep states.

Blue tongue—it gets its name from the discoloration and swelling of the tongue and muzzle of sheep—has existed in South Africa for years. Because that country has had wide and long experience with the disease, California is bringing a scientist from South Africa to assist in developing control measures there.

Officials emphasize that there is no evidence of the disease in Oregon. They do say, however, that it behooves everyone concerned to be on the alert for any possible sign of it in this state.

Winter Wheat Crop Forecast Puts Crop Behind Last Year; Hay Crop Down

WASHINGTON — The Agriculture Department Monday forecast this year's winter wheat crop at 1,002,800,000 bushels.

This figure was 18,100,000 bushels more than the 714,700,000 bushel forecast of a month ago. It compares with last year's crop of 1,002,800,000 bushels and the ten-year (1942-51) average of 977,337,000.

The new estimate did not alter prospects of a good production crop being applied to the 1951 wheat crop to prevent creation of vast wheat surpluses.

The department made no forecast on the spring wheat crop, but stated it will be at the average of 250 million bushels. The estimated winter and spring wheat crops would be 1,252,800,000 bushels.

Secretary of Agriculture Benson has said that if the combined crop totals at least 850 million bushels, it would be necessary under the present law to have acreage reduction and rationing to qualify for next year's production.

Supplies of this year's production will be a record of around 500 million bushels from past crop.

By comparison, last year's total wheat crop was 1,291,470,000 bushels, third largest of record. The ten-year average is 1,034,640,000.

The department said that it expected on May 1 that 12.6 per cent of the acreage needed to winter wheat will not be harvested because of poor condition and other factors. This abandonment compares with 10 per cent last year and 11.6 per cent for the ten-year average.

The acreage to be harvested was put at 41,520,000 acres, compared with 39,348,000 last year and 43,249,000 for the ten-year average. It forecast the acre yield as an average of 16.4 bushels compared with 15.9 last year and 17.4 for the ten-year average.

The 1951 crop was increased 162,000,000 bushels, compared with 100,000,000 for the ten-year average. The department said about 90 per cent of the rice acreage needed to be harvested for the 1951 crop and 41.2 per cent for the ten-year average.

The harvested acreage was estimated at 1,430,000 acres compared with 1,325,000 last year and 1,000,000 for the ten-year average. The 1951 crop of rice was estimated at an average of 10.4 bushels compared with 11.2 last year and 12.2 for the ten-year average.

Milk production in April was reported at 10,854,000,000 pounds compared with 10,100,000,000 in March, 10,123,000,000 in April last year and 10,369,000,000 for the ten-year average.

The production in April was reported at 1,001,000,000 bushels compared with 922,000,000 in April last year and 929,000,000 for the ten-year average.

Production of the hay crop in May was reported at 45 per cent of normal compared with 41 per cent for the ten-year May 1 average. Production of pasture in May was reported at 83 per cent of normal compared with 87 per cent a year ago and 82 per cent for the ten-year May 1 average.

The indicated acreage for the next year's production, respectively, of winter wheat by state is: Idaho 735,000, 21.5 and 19,000; Washington, 2,035,000, 21.5 and 19,000; Oregon 903,000, 21.5 and 19,000.

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