

Quackgrass Is Menace In Area, Can Take Over If Not Handled

By HAROLD B. SCHIEFERSTEIN

Quackgrass is found in all parts of Oregon and especially on irrigated lands. It spreads rapidly and will take possession of an area once it becomes established.

Although considered a serious pest by most people, quackgrass does have some feeding value, and produces a fair amount of palatable and nutritious forage.

The roots of quackgrass form a dense network near the surface of the soil and are an excellent soil binder. It is used to some extent for this purpose.

It is, however, a serious pest in cropland, increasing the cost of farming and reducing quality of the crops grown. Many states, including Oregon, classify quackgrass as a noxious weed and it is

illegal to sell any small seeds containing more than a few quackgrass seeds. In some localities, not even a few of the seeds are permitted.

Quackgrass is not confined to the farms only, but is often found on city lots and in the suburban areas where it can cause no end of trouble to the gardener who is trying to grow something of use or beauty.

The principal means of spread is by seeds which may be transported in many ways. Seeds resemble the seeds of other grasses and are difficult to separate from other grasses as well as other small seeds. Cleaning costs are usually added to the cost of producing the crop.

The rootstocks of quackgrass are long and slender, of a yellow-

ish white color. They are about 1/8 inch in diameter and hollow except at the joints which occur every inch or two along the rootstocks.

It is at the joints that true roots are formed; these may branch to become rootstocks or may turn into shoots that develop new plants, adding to the size of the patch.

Most rootstocks are within seven or eight inches of the surface and many of them are equipped with hard sharp points which enable them to penetrate hard soil or other objects encountered while creeping or extending beyond the borders of the patch.

Any joint, dislodged and transported to another part of the field can start a new patch. Quackgrass is an extremely hardy per-

ennial and ordinary farming methods tend to increase the amount of quack in a field.

However, cultivation can be an effective means of controlling quackgrass if done during the dry summer period. Plowing should be the first operation and this done in such a way as to leave the ground rough, exposing the roots to the drying action of the sun and wind, until thoroughly dry. The next operation is with a spring type cultivator or harrow at right angles to the plowing. Such harrowing tears the roots from the soil; these should be bunched and burned. Cultivations should continue throughout the summer or as often as the quackgrass shows signs of growth. Cultivations are best when made at right angles to each other.

An effective aid in securing better control following cultivation is the use of a smother crop. This crop is seeded in the early fall following cultivation and should be seeded at about one and one-half to two times the normal rate of seeding. Rye and winter barley have both worked well here. If 50 to 100 pounds of nitrogen fer-

tilizer, per acre, is applied a dense leafy crop should result.

Own a 'Jeep'?



Authorized parts, sales and service for all — 'Jeep' vehicles

BASIN MOTORS

424 So. 6th TU 4-7778

Now Is the Time to Immunize Your Stock



FRANKLIN

Vaccines, Medicinals and Supplies for Cattle, Horses, Sheep Hogs and Poultry

Our LIVESTOCK DEPARTMENT is designed to Save and Serve.

CO-RAL TROLENE
Systemic Grub KILLERS

Your One Stop Shopping Center

We Give 2/11 Green Stamps

MERRILL PHARMACY

Merrill, Ore. Pk. 2451

Job - Rated DODGE
Power House Farm
TRUCKS
Cunningham & Rickey Motors
So. 7th & Commercial

10-YARD Dump Truck Service
• Logging Loads
• Sand and Gravel
• Cinders
• Top Soil & Fill Dirt
2 1/2-YARD FRONT END LOADER ON TRACK
For Hire by Hour or Contract
Steve Dunn Trucking
TU 2-2029 1 Block E. of So. 6th on Hilliard

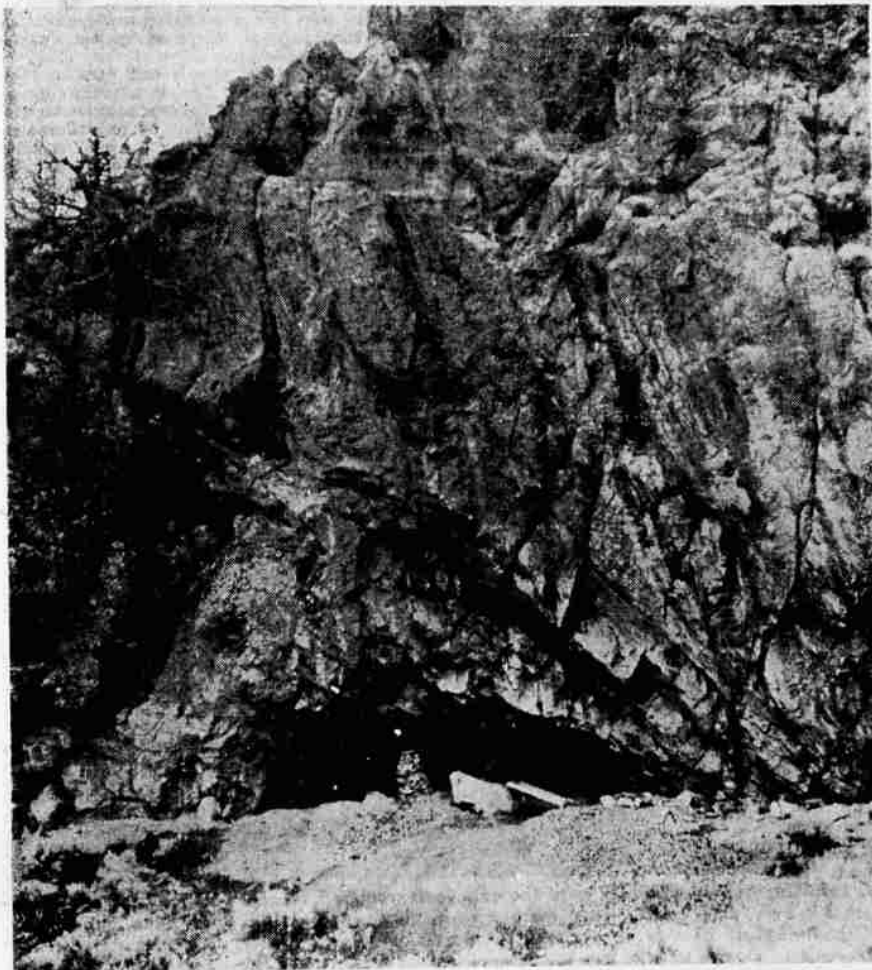


Low Priced GMC Trucks Include Many Dollars In Extra Standard Equipment, Such As ...

- Wood body floor with steel skid strips • Steel moldings around window glass • Foam rubber seats
- Fast-ratio cruising axle • Strongest rear axle
- Heaviest front cross-member • GMC truck-built engine • Synchronesh transmission • M-400 bearings with 7 times longer life • Double-wall cab and body construction • Wrap-around bumper • Fuel filter.

Jim Olson Mtrs.

522 So. 6th



"MANY GENERATIONS HAVE LIVED IN THIS CAVE," states John Cowles of Rainier who believes that his recent findings in the Cougar Mountain Cave 11 miles northeast of Fort Rock are as old as, or older than, discoveries made in other Fort Rock caves. — Photo by Parks



JOHN COWLES, whose specialty is wild life photography, has taken great pains in careful excavation of the circular cave 35 feet wide and reaching back 35 feet. Digging to a depth of six and one half feet took 63 days.