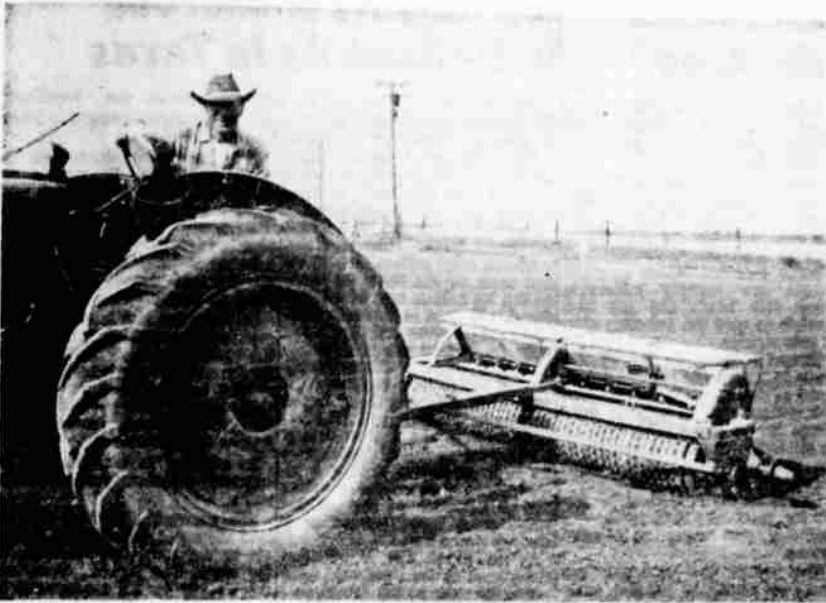




MYRON TAYLOR is shown here seeding improved grass-clover pasture on his farm northeast of Spring Lake with a Brillion grass seeder. This seeder is owned by the Klamath Soil Conservation District and is rented out to farmers and ranchers. Taylor has been a supervisor of the district since it was organized 10 years ago.

—Photo by Baldwin



FORAGE PRODUCTION on range areas such as this one in the Klamath Soil Conservation District have been materially increased by reseeding grass. This area has been reseeded to Crested Wheatgrass. —Photo by Baldwin



TRASH DAMS like this one on the Lee Holliday and Son ranch north of Weyerhaeuser mill are being used to stabilize ditches and gullies. The ditchbanks will be seeded with streambank wheatgrass. —Photo by Baldwin

Over The Garden Gate

FRUIT TREE PRUNING

By J. D. Vertrees, County Agent

The framework, health, and fruitbearing capacity of all kinds of fruit trees are determined within the first two years after planting. Within this time, the selection of good framework branches is made and the shape of the tree is built. Good selection of branches will determine a well-shaped and long service tree which will not spread and break as age and large crops place more demands on limbs.

Young trees should have well spaced and wide angled branches selected. The old method of four or five branches originating about the same place on the trunk leads to split and broken trunks as the crops become more heavy with maturity. A leader should be selected near the center with three to five good branches spaced on the trunk at intervals of not less than six inches apart. These, then, form the structure of the future tree. Additional pruning on young trees is not necessary.

On older and bearing trees, moderation is the by-word for pruning. With apples being the predominant fruit tree with our Klamath home owners, remarks are mostly directed to these fruits.

Removal of vigorous branches inside trees usually is not profitable. If the tree is too crowded inside, good spraying or easy picking is not possible, some wood should be removed to enable good spray coverage.

Oddly directed and misshapen cross limbs should come out. Water sprouts and suckers should be removed. These are the long, slick willow-like shoots which grow fast in one year. The small spurs on both young and old growth should be protected since these will bear the fruit.

Over-pruning and removal of too much wood in one year will reduce the crop the following season. The best practice for the home owner is light pruning each year. Heavy pruning on occasional years will often reduce yield.

One practice is often different for the home owner compared with the commercial orchardist. Long ladders for picking tall trees are usually not available. Most home owners prefer a lower growing tree. With training on young trees and gradual shaping on older trees this can be done. Gradually prune the tallest branches back each year, forcing fruiting spurs out lower on the limbs and low new growth. A severe cutback on an older tree will almost prevent crop production for one year.

Pear tree pruning is much the same for the home owner as apples. Usually the main limbs are more erect. Top shoots are often clipped back more to give extra strength to the fruit spurs.

Peaches and apricots may require a little heavier pruning than apples. The new long willow shoots should be removed; the structure of the tree may be trained more basket-like, and top

pruning may be more desirable to force more fruit spurs.

Cherries require less pruning than other trees. Sour or pie cherries should be pruned for a well-shaped tree when young and then very little pruning done. Only thinning plus the removal of damaged or dead limbs will be necessary. Sweet cherries will usually form a well-shaped tree. Removal of damaged or diseased wood is all that is necessary as the tree bears.

In pruning any fruit trees plan or visualize the necessary steps before you begin. Cut clean. Any cuts which will not grow over in two seasons should be painted.

Do not over-prune. It is better to take two years than do it in one season.

An old and neglected tree may take drastic cutting to get into shape, but crop loss will result the first season.

Prune usually in late February or during March. Pruning should be done before the leaf buds develop.

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ATTACHED AND UNATTACHED

HARTFORD, Conn. (UPI)—A church group comprised of both married couples and single folks here is called "Pairs and Spares."

TEMPTATION

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (UPI)—After recovering his stolen car, Francis Fenn found a note attached to the steering wheel reading: "Please do not leave your keys in the car anymore—things like that tempt me."

WON'T BLOW OPPONENT'S HORN

PLAINVILLE, Conn. (UPI)—While taking part in a Lions Club paper collection drive during the recent campaign, Probate Judge Robert G. Irving, a candidate for reelection, was assigned to a truck that carried posters for his opponent. He switched trucks.

TOLLWAY'S AUTOMATION

CHICAGO (UPI)—Collection machinery on the new Illinois Tollway collects any combination of coins adding up to the proper fare, counts it, gives the patron a "go-ahead" if the sum is correct, records the transaction and gives the data by micro-wave radio to the tollway commission's central accounting office.