

Klamath Basin Has Potato Plant Millionaires

Many potato growers may be surprised to realize that the number of plants in their own field exceeds one million. Plant millionaires are our claim to fame. The few potato growers who may be dollar millionaires also own oil wells.

With a three-foot row spacing and a 12-inch plant spacing, the number of plants per acre is 14,520. It only takes 70 acres to make the plant total exceed one million.

A nine-inch drop requires over 19,000 seed pieces per acre. Some growers space plants and rows closer together.

The Basin's 20,000-acre normal potato planting involves nearly 400 million seed pieces. Nearly one thousand 360-sack carloads of seed go into the ground each spring.

A 15-fold normal increase results in production of around five million hundredweight in a good season from 360,000 hundredweight of seed. But shipments of marketable stock vary. The 1,000 cars of seed planted last spring will probably result in total shipment of about 8,500 cars according to current estimates. About 18 per cent below a 10,334 car total a year ago.

Except for White Rose, Kennebec, Pontiac and other variety seed production plantings for which planting stock is imported each year's crop here also provides seed for the following year. Very little russet seed is imported. Planting stock of these varieties can be produced here also if growers will make the necessary effort. Scott Warren demonstrated very effectively that it can be done with White Rose.

Russets account for more than 80 per cent of our plantings. Growers have learned that locally produced certified seed is dependable. Seed Certification specialists state that some of the best russet seed available anywhere is produced in Klamath County.

Seed potato certification was adopted as an extension project early in the development of potato production in the Basin. Early seed certification work here was done personally by Professor Hyslop who was head of the Farm Crops Department at Oregon State College until his death in Klamath Falls while doing inspection work here during the war.

Since the war, establishment of greenhouse facilities for test planting provided a very effective and dependable tool for evaluating quality of seed potatoes.

If we did not produce suitable seed stock here, around 800 carloads of russet seed would have to be shipped in each spring. The freight bill alone would cost over a quarter million dollars. And experience with imported seed has not always been satisfactory.

The problem in production of suitable seed potatoes is to keep percentage of disease infection within reasonable limits. A tolerance is practical for virus diseases. Even for leafroll which is the most serious virus disease in russet production here a tolerance is practiced. Certification rules permit up to one per cent leafroll infection as measured by greenhouse test planting. Some seed growers, however, have apparently been successful in eliminating leafroll infection entirely.

Eye indexing, unit planting, planting in locations isolated from other fields, aphid control and removal of diseased plants early in the season are practices employed by Klamath seed growers to eliminate virus infection.

Another very serious disease of potatoes is bacterial ring rot. Certification rules over the nation are uniform in rejecting lots in which even a trace of ring rot infection is found. This policy can be credited with having practically eliminated serious losses in commercial crops. Ring rot is extremely infectious.

Certification rules provide no tolerance for nematode infestation. Once this pest has been introduced into soils it is there to stay. Soil fumigants control it effectively enough to permit commercial production but are not effective enough to eradicate infestation. The need to fumigate increases potato production costs about 10 per cent.

Although nematode infestation

Tree Farming

Tree farming—growing repeated forest crops on the same lands—is well established on private timberlands in Oregon and the Klamath Basin areas.

More than 200 tree farms have been certified in the state, affecting more than four million acres—approximately 33 per cent of the private commercial forest land in the state. Of these, more than 65 are located in the Western Pine region, including Klamath County. Only Georgia and Texas rank ahead of Oregon in the number of tree farms.

Although ancient Roman trading ships were as long as 180 feet and carried 1,200 tons or so of cargo, they lacked compass and a real rudder.

may occur many different ways: maintenance. Control of harmful soil organisms such as nematode and verticillium wilt is equally important. Plant pathologists report that wilt is not spread through seed stock. This fungus is a cumulative disease. It does not become of economic importance till very high numbers of wilt spores occur in soils. Astronomical numbers of wilt micro sclerotia are produced in dead potato vine tissue. For this reason, collection of vine residues and root stalks and destruction by burning is desirable. Verticillium will kill potato plants prematurely by choking the vascular system with fungus growth. Tuber size and yield is reduced.

KLAMATH BASIN POTATOES

Year	Acres	Average Yield Per Acre	Carloads Sold	Value
1916	230	bu = 60#		\$ 3,515.00
1917	224			31,062.00
1918	487			21,129.00
1919	496			60,000.00
1920	550		10	29,550.00
1921	1112	101.4 bu (USDA)	27	181,666.00
1922	2031		135	425,000.00
1923	5804		425	686,786.00
1924	6176		825	617,925.00
1925	4215		1100	1,100,000.00
1926	5742	211.6 bu (USDA)	1250	1,312,000.00
1927	10037	223.4 bu	2020	663,000.00
1928	8406		2100	483,750.00
1929	9339	298.9 bu	2065	1,400,000.00
1930	13920	281.3 bu	3113	1,750,000.00
1931	14635		4372	1,650,000.00
1932	15284	312.5 bu	6750	4,800,000.00
1933	20559	278.5 bu	7150	1,530,000.00
1934	20038	343.5 bu	8776	2,111,068.00
1935	18890	312 bu	7653	2,568,608.00
1936	19500	420 bu	10453	2,959,257.00
1937	17215	360 bu	7933	5,143,842.00
1938	26510	357 bu	7396	5,894,070.00
1939	24300	322 bu	10318	9,000,000.00
1940	25900	366.7 bu	12555	10,256,409.00
1941	28098	350 bu	12002	10,289,672.00
1942	24125	380 bu	11955	8,620,000.00
1943	15050	347 bu	7854	8,700,000.00
1944	16500	443 bu	10663	8,771,400.00
1945	19227	362.5 bu	9667	8,111,309.00
1946	19057	504.5 bu	15140	6,345,000.00
1947	14945	450 bu	9266	12,414,547.00
1948	19961	443.5 bu	11488	16,405,849.00
1949	24355	458 bu	11629	7,367,277.00
1950	21260	350 bu	8900	9,471,000.00
1951	20200	317 bu	8538	6,140,800.00
1952	18526	465 bu	7777	6,484,100.00
1953	18346	484.5 bu	10432*	8,512,544.00
1954	19570	483 bu	8632	5,499,576.00
1955	20000	408.3 bu	10334	13,340,000.00

* Do not include stock feed under 2 inches

Progressing With The Basin!

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Basin Farmers Use Heavy Nitrogen Quantity For Fertilizer

Basin farmers cough up over one and a half million dollars for commercial fertilizer every year, says County Agent Walt Jendziewski.

The bulk of this is for nitrogen in various forms. In the very recent past, agriculture depended primarily on legume crops to increase nitrogen supplies in soils. The nitrogen fertilizer industry has contributed greatly to increased agricultural efficiency.

Legume crops still very effectively capture atmospheric nitrogen. The job is actually done by

A dark storage place helps preserve the color of jams, jellies and preserves.

moderate bacteria which trade the alone. Additional value is there for phosphate and potash content. And the beneficial effects on soil structure, aeration, water penetration and water holding capacity are probably of even greater value than the plant nutrients involved. Improvement in soil structure is one benefit which commercial nitrogen fertilizer does not give.

Most farmers are hesitant to plow down a crop of alfalfa. Even short third cutting growth is usually grazed off. Much good results from plow down of crowns and roots. But plow down of a good heavy second crop can bring ideal of nematode control benefit.

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Sunday, February 26, 1961

A Familiar Landmark IN THE PROGRESS OF THE KLAMATH BASIN



ALBERS has become a very familiar name with the people in the Klamath Basin. They rely on the quality of our products and the integrity of our personnel. We have endeavored to carry only the finest lines in seeds, feeds and farm and garden supplies. We welcome your visit to our store at all times. With us it is always a pleasure to serve you and help you with the selection of items that will best fit your needs.



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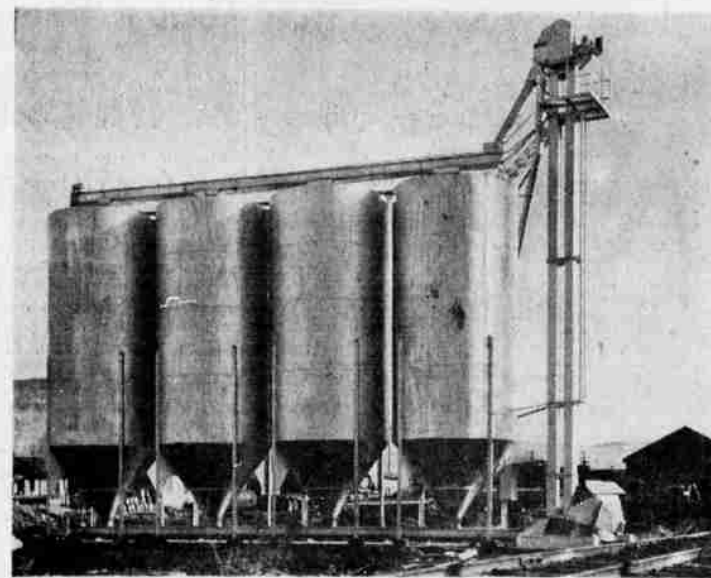
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