

USDA income rules changed

Effective in June, 1987, income eligibility criteria for the U.S.D.A. surplus food program, commonly known as the cheese program, will be as follows:

Family Size	Monthly Income (Gross less medical Expense)
1	\$596
2	802
3	1,008
4	1,213
5	1,419
6	1,625

For each additional family member add \$206 per month.

The next U.S.D.A. surplus food giveaway in Vernonia will be June 18 at the American Legion Hall, 627 Adams Avenue.



Jewell High School 1987 graduating class.

Jewell School graduates ready

Jewell School will graduate a class of ten high school seniors at commencement exercises at the school on May 30 at 8 p.m. Leland Samuelson is Valedictorian and Diana Bryan is Salutatorian.

The additional graduates are Ken Hill, Tim Hammerberg, Lane Karabail, Loren Thompson, Julie Riley, Chris Davis and Tim Wooley.



The Red Tomato

By Debbie Taylor

Lime; you read about it and hear about it. But until you see with your own eyes what it can do, you won't believe the difference lime can make.

Last fall we sprinkled wood ashes in a patch of clover we were growing as a green manure; this spring when the clover started growing again it was easy to see where the ashes were sprinkled. The clover that received the ashes was twice as tall, had fuller leaves and was a darker green. Seeing this drastic difference, even though the clover without the ashes looked good, has made us believers in adding lime to the soil.

Lime is finely ground calcium and/or magnesium carbonate, a very soft mineral that dissolves easily in soil, raising the pH level and making it less acidic. Lime itself is not a fertilizer, but it increases the fertility of the soil by raising the pH and making available nutrients that are normally tied up.

Lime also has a physical effect upon soil. When added to clay soils, lime causes particles to gather into groups, making larger physical units in the soil. Water and air find it easier to penetrate such a soil than a soil composed of fine clay particles. Our maritime soils are mostly clay and usually on the acid side because of leaching



from heavy rainfalls. A potentially rich, but acidic soil, will turn from poor to good, or good to better, with a healthy dose of lime.

To increase the pH of the soil by one unit most garden books recommend adding 50 to 80 pounds of lime to every 1,000 square feet of soil. And because of heavy winter rains repeated applications will need to be made every year or two.

There are different types of limes available but most of the experts believe dolomite is superior. It contains magnesium and calcium, trace elements that are vital to plant growth, and maritime soils tend to be highly deficient in both.

Wood ashes are a rich source of lime, and as an added bonus they also contain potash, phosphoric acid and magnesium. But use them sparingly. About one or two 10-quart pails of ashes over each 1,000 square feet of garden per year.

When making major amendments to the soil it is a good idea to have the soil tested before doing so, but if that isn't worthwhile to you, Steve Solomon, in 'Growing Organic Vegetables West of the Cascades', recommends applying a ton per acre (which breaks down to about 50 pounds per 1000 square feet) per year until there seems to be no more improvement in the growth of your plants. Lime is not costly and can be found in our local stores. Adjusting the pH is the most basic, important step to improving your soil.

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There will be no regularly scheduled plant tours before June.

However, organizations and schools may request a special tour by contacting Boise Cascade.

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