

AROUND THE FARM

BY DON COIN WALROD
County Extension Agent

"It is corn planting time when the oak leaves are as big as a squirrel's ear" is a saying that we have heard and now the oak leaves at the lower elevations have more than reached that point. At any rate, the season of the year is here when corn plantings can be made.

Gardeners have reported the relatively new variety of sweet corn called Iochief to be an excellent one, and we have found it so ourselves. However, it is slightly later than the Golden Cross Bantam, the sweet corn that is probably grown more than any other. Most gardeners have found that the time for harvest can be stretched considerably by staggering planting dates of blocks of their favorite variety, or by planting once with several varieties having different maturing dates.

Corn has a number of insect pests, and if the family corn patch hasn't done too well recently, it might be worthwhile considering an application of some of the new soil insecticides. Approval has now been given on the use of aldrin and heptachlor for use on corn. These insecticides will give good control of wire-worm, seedcorn maggot, and the western spotted cucumber beetle. These insect pests affect germination causing reduction of stands and stunting of the plants by feeding on the new corn roots.

Aldrin or heptachlor thoroughly worked into the soil prior to planting will effectively reduce the ravages of these and possibly other soil borne pests such as symphylids. Oregon State college Circular of Information 540, "Control of Soil Insect Pests Attacking Sweet Corn" gives full details about the use of aldrin and heptachlor.

A companion circular, "Control of Insect Pests of Potato Tubers" gives similar information on the

control of the wireworm and spotted cucumber beetle besides the tuber flea beetle. The same insecticides are used except that a third one, deidrin may be used. Both of these bulletins are available from the extension office, courthouse, St. Helens.

Recent frosts have strawberry growers worried — and guessing how much of a crop they have left. Fields along the bottom areas were the most severely damaged with possibly as much as 50 to 60 per cent of the blossoms destroyed. Many of the higher fields or those with the best air drainage escaped such severe damage.

Estimating crop losses from frost is difficult and cannot be determined on the basis of counts of open blossoms or even blossoms still tightly closed. While it is true that many growers lost most of the open blossoms, some fruiting spurs not so far along are quite free of frost damage.

Favorable weather from now through harvest might still bring fair to good yields. Growers should attempt to conserve what moisture they have in their fields by controlling all weeds with shallow cultivation. Light irrigations would be in order if the surface is dry.

On frost damaged fields that have not had nitrogen fertilizer earlier this year, and where irrigation is available, 20 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre might be worthwhile.

The nitrogen can be side-dressed and washed in with an irrigation, or it can be applied through the irrigation water. Nitrogen plus the water will help to increase leaf surface which will reduce the possibility of sunscald during the last pickings.

Growth regulating sprays thoroughly applied and properly timed were reported to have increased yields 10 per cent last year. Probably more of these materials will be used this year to compensate for losses from the frost.

Spittle Bug War Must Begin Now

Field observations show that dusts for spittlebug control in strawberries will give best results if applied during the next few days, depending on the weather, indicates Don Coin Walrod. Five per cent methoxychlor dust at 50 pounds per acre in bearing fields will control spittlebugs and aid in the control of the strawberry fruitworm (omnivorous leaf tier).

A second application of the methoxychlor dust three weeks after the first is needed for full control of the strawberry fruitworm. However, to avoid any possible residue problem, growers should not make the second application within two weeks of harvest, cautions Walrod.

A three-quarters per cent rotenone dust can be used for spittlebug control but it will not be effective against the strawberry fruitworm. With either rotenone or methoxychlor dust, best results are obtained from a power duster equipped with a hood over each row to confine the dust and increase penetration and coverage.

Spittlebug nymphs hatch as the fruiting spurs are unfolding. As the yellow nymphs enlarge, they secrete the protective masses of spittle which accounts for the name spittlebugs. Spittlebug feeding on the tender leaves, flower parts, and small strawberries results in deformed fruit and reduced yields.

The amount of spittlebug injury may vary with in the field or between fields. Spittlebugs develop rapidly in fields having southern exposures. Spittlebug development is also greatest on warm days. The best control is obtained when dusts are applied after the eggs have hatched but before the tiny nymphs have much protection from the spittle masses.

Frequent spot checks of his field will help the strawberry grower decide when to use spittlebug dusts for best results.

Mexican Theme Marks Festival

Over 300 Columbia county homemakers attended the Homemakers Festival which was held on Wednesday, May 5, at the Rainier high school, according to Mrs. Margaret Allyn, home agent. Mrs. Aldon Ashley, county committee chairman, presided. The theme was Sombbrero Days.

The Mexican exhibit, in charge of the Chapman unit, with its gay colored pottery, glassware, rugs, hangings and other articles added a foreign atmosphere to the day's program.

All unit officers were installed in a candle lighting ceremony conducted by Mrs. Myrtle Carter, Oregon State college extension home furnishings specialist. She also brought greetings from the college.

During 1953, Mrs. Carter planned and executed the furnishings for the new Azalea House, a cooperative dormitory for girls at OSC. The colored slides of Azalea house, which she presented, were exceedingly interesting to Columbia county homemakers since they, along with other members of Oregon home extension units, helped finance it.

The guest speaker, Mrs. Carl Brandenfels of St. Helens, in her travelogue, gave her audience interesting glimpses of Mexico and the life of its people. She pointed out that one could find great contrasts in Mexico and many of its people have made little progress during recent years.

Four committee members and 81 unit members with 100% attendance at all regular meetings during the past year were honored.

Eleven members of the Chapman unit had 100% attendance.

Fifty-eight unit members modeled their dresses made recently in the Better Dress workshop. Some of the ladies modeled accessories such as gloves, bags, belts, buttons, scarves and jackets which they made to complete their costumes.

Thirteen units were awarded with certificates and seals for meeting the requirements of a standard unit. Beaver Homes, Fern Hill and Mayger-Downing received certificates, while Canadian-Deer Island, Vernonia, Lindberg, Yankton, Chapman; Colum-

bia City, Delena, Mist-Nehalem, Scappoose and Timber Route received seals.

The traveling gavel was again awarded to Yankton unit for having an attendance of 87% which was the highest percentage attendance at the festival.



YOU'LL BE GLAD AFTER —

WHEN you refurnish your home after a fire, you'll be glad you took this Hartford agency's advice to increase your insurance to keep pace with today's greater insurable value of your furnishings.

Without obligation, you can have your insurance policies reviewed too—just call—

VERNONIA INSURANCE

Bill J. Horn, Agent
Phone 231 — Vernonia
905 Bridge Street

NEW LOW PRICES

Ladies Suits and 2-Pc.	
Dresses from	\$1.50 up
Coats from	\$1.60 up
Toppers from	\$1.50 up
Dresses from	\$1.50 up
Skirts, plain	75c

TREAT YOUR CLOTHING TO QUALITY CLEANING AT — SEAWRIGHT'S Cleaners - Tailors Phone 1211

White Wash Use, Formulas Given

Although most formulas for whitewash mixtures specify fresh slaked lime, this lime is generally hard to get and hydrated lime must be substituted in the formula, indicates Don Coin Walrod, Columbia County Extension Agent.

Comparisons between formulas indicate that hydrated lime can be substituted for the freshly burned product in the proportion of four to three.

A satisfactory formula for exterior whitewash designated for the use of hydrated lime is as follows: Dissolve 15 pounds of common salt in 7½ gallons of water. To this solution add 50 pounds of hydrated lime and mix thoroughly to form a thick paste. Then thin it to the desired consistency with fresh water.

Where a mild disinfectant action is desired, 1 quart of crude carbolic acid can be added to the above mixture, according to Walrod. Alum added to the mix reduces flaking.

Mayan hieroglyphics have never been deciphered.

Time Now Right To Make Posts

Spring weather makes it possible for owners of farm woodlots to selectively thin their Douglas fir stands with an eye to using the thinnings for fence posts, says Don Coin Walrod, county extension agent.

Prior to this time the bark would not slip easily, making peeling a difficult job. It is essential that the bark be removed from post material when it is to be treated by a cold-soak method using materials such as pentachlorophenol, says Walrod.

Normally, Douglas fir is not well suited to using as fence posts, but when given an adequate treatment the life of such non-durable woods is increased from about six to 15 or more years. However, the fact that the posts need to be peeled and seasoned before soaking means that the user needs to anticipate his needs ahead of time.

Pentachlorophenol, normally called "penta" for short, has an advantage over most other wood preservatives in that it is more toxic to wood decaying agents than creosote and it is practically insoluble in water so it is not leached out.

Penta is easier than many other preservatives in that a hot soak treatment is not required and hence the fire hazard is minimized. Danger is not prolonged.

Freshly cut, green Douglas fir posts treated by the "salt method" also provide excellent, lasting posts and is a "best buy." The advantage in this type of treatment is in the fact that there is no delay in seasoning and the labor involved is less. However, the penta treatment gives a slightly better post.

4-H Rabbit Club Members Plan Tour for Saturday

Four-H rabbit club members in Columbia county will be able to see commercial rabbit raising during a tour in the Portland area on Saturday, May 15, announces Harold Black, county 4-H extension agent.

Two places to visit include the Lowit Blueblood rabbitry and the Rabbit Meat Company. Black states that various phases in rabbit management, such as feeding, butchering, sanitation, breeds of rabbits and equipment will be seen.

Those planning to attend should meet at the Scappoose grade school at 9:30 a.m. on May 15. Everyone is to bring their own lunch.

More than 15,800 persons were killed in week end traffic accidents last year.

In 1953, 269,360 pedestrians were injured in U.S. traffic accidents.

PILES (HEMORRHOIDS)

and other rectal disorders.
• COLON AND STOMACH AILMENTS
• RUPTURE (Hernia)
Treated Without Hospital Operation

FREE Descriptive Booklet Write or Call

THE DEAN CLINIC

Open 10 until 5 Monday through Friday.
Start 8 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
Chiropractic Physicians... in our 43rd year—
3026 NORTHEAST SANDY BOULEVARD
Telephone EAst 3918 Portland 13, Ore.

Take Stock

... by checking all clothing now. Have it clean for summer use. We can handle your work to your satisfaction.

This week's unclaimed number for \$5 cleaning credit: 070381.

RADIANT CLEANERS

ONE WAY TO BEAT THE HIGH COST OF LIVING

100-bag Tree Tea - - - - - 99c

KING'S Grocery - Market

Phone 91 Riverview
"Where Your Money Buys More" At the Mile Bridge

JUNE'S STYLE CENTER

Fashions for the Young in Heart

You'll never be a hermit if you serve

OLD HERMITAGE BRAND

KENTUCKY STRAIGHT BOURBON WHISKEY

Oregon's largest-selling straight bourbon!

\$2.65 per 1/2 pt.
\$4.10 per pt.

FULLY AGED

THIS WHISKEY IS 4 YEARS OLD - 86 PROOF - THE OLD HERMITAGE COMPANY, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY