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FULL TEXT PUBLISHED

BULLETIN PREPARED BY CROP
PRODUCTION DEPT. OF
CALIFORNIA UNION.

(Prof. the Malheur Enterprise.)
Seed for the head lettuce crop of the Wapinitia Irrigation district was distributed to the growers Thursday evening at the Public Library by G. F. Prince, field manager for the California Vegetable Union for the Snake River valley district. He gave the growers a talk on growing the lettuce. The Enterprise is publishing below the text of a special bulletin which has been issued by the crop production department of the California Vegetable Union.

Mr. Prince is enthusiastic over the possibilities for vegetable growing in Malheur county. He asserts that first-class head lettuce and other high priced vegetable crops can be grown here and that a few years will see a great development along these lines in the Malheur River valley.

Mr. Prince's office is in Caldwell. Local managers will be placed in every community where there is enough lettuce planted to insure carload shipments.

Climatic Requirements.

In order to secure firm lettuce heads of good size and rich color for long distance shipment, the field should be located where weather conditions are decidedly congenial. Coolness is the first essential. This means not only cool air but cool soil as well. Extremely low temperatures on the other hand are sometimes injurious, particularly to lettuce which is maturing or ready to ship. Heavy rainfall has a tendency to produce loose or soft heads. Drying winds or sandstorms are detrimental, burning the tips of the foliage. High temperatures sometimes prevent development of firm heads and favor the development of certain diseases particularly "slimy" heads. More or less sunshine is desirable.

Soil Requirements.

High fertility is necessary for best results. Ample humus and decaying vegetable matter is desirable. Sufficient nitrogen is imperative if good leaf growth and color are secured. Impoverished soils are not adapted to produce lettuce without special treatment.

Moisture Requirements.

Adequate moisture within reach of the feeding roots is essential. This should not be excessive or uneven. Effective control of the supply is an important factor of success.

Varieties.

The standard variety which is commonly shipped from the far western states is called by seedsmen "New York," "Wonderful," and "Los Angeles." These names are used interchangeably. Certain strains of this variety have a tendency to produce a large percentage of pointed heads while others produce more flat or rounded heads. The type of head is also influenced in some cases by the weather conditions.

The produce trade often refers to the standard variety as "Iceberg," but it is not the variety known to seedsmen as "Iceberg." The latter is grown in a limited way for summer shipment and its foliage is tinted with splashes of russet coloring which is quite distinctive.

Suggestions to Growers.

Considerable thought has been given to the problem of lettuce growers who are producing a crop this season for the first time, and the following points which are intended to summarize the essentials of success are offered for their use.

1. Select the best piece of land available for the lettuce field in order to give the crop the best chances for success. Choose a location which is conveniently accessible and which is not too remote to receive frequent attention. Take a situation which is favorable from the standpoint of autumn frosts. Give the preference to soil which is rich and friable but not excessively hot or cold. Satisfy yourself that the drainage is all right and the land lays well for irrigation and is not too steep or uneven. Avoid alkali land or soil which is foul with weed seeds.

2. Do not undertake more than you can handle in connection with your other farm work. Restrict your acreage to a moderate and conservative area in order to acquire your experience on a scale of reasonable magnitude. Confine your operations to such a scope that you feel confident you can manage in a way that will insure high quality and high yields. Aim to succeed by intensive rather than extensive farming of this garden crop.

3. Manure your land heavily and early. Liberal quantities of fertilizing material should be used providing there is ample time for it to become properly decomposed, for in

this form it is readily assimilated by the plants. Best results from manured land are usually secured some time after the application is made, hence there should be no unnecessary delay in spreading the manure and working it into the soil.

4. It is better to select level land or land which has a slight but uniform slope than it is to endeavor to level a rough piece of ground shortly before planting. If necessary to make fills, the work should be done as early as possible. In fact, a year or so in advance of planting the lettuce crop may be better than work performed the same season, particularly if the fills are to be deep. However, the surface of the fields should have no irregularities and the land should lay so well that an even distribution of water over the field may be readily accomplished. If the fall is very great, rows may be run in a direction which will not make the furrows as steep as they would be if they ran parallel with the slope of the land.

5. Preliminary work in preparation of the land should consist of clearing off the rubbish and plowing the soil to a good depth. It will be found advisable to irrigate the land before it is put into beds in order to form seed beds which will hold up after furrow irrigation is given. Beds formed of very dry soil are likely to sink or settle in places when the water is first run down the furrows.

6. Beds may be constructed by furrowing out with listers, middle-breakers, or large shovels ten inches or more in width. If these are attached to a heavy framed cultivator two or more furrows may be made at each trip across the field. Raised beds or ridges made in this way are likely to be more even and more nearly parallel than furrows made with a single plow. Special implements are sometimes devised for performing this work as it is recognized that a well constructed bed is a great asset. The height of the beds should be uniform to facilitate machine work. The tops of the beds are smoothed and flattened by dragging over the surface preparatory to planting.

7. The seed is drilled in with handseeders as a usual practice. The Planet Junior No. 3 is preferred by those who desire a small machine and the No. 3 planter of the same make is popular amongst growers who desire a larger drill. The latter is recommended for extensive growers. Other makes of seeders such as the Iron Age may also prove satisfactory.

8. Planting should be regular, insure prompt and uniform germination and uniform growth. A narrow line to make after-cultivation easy and to produce a large even crop. Aim to plant the seed as shallow as possible yet cover it thoroughly with soil. One quarter inch will be deep enough providing it is thoroughly covered. Do not plant over half an inch deep at any time. Run the two rows on the raised beds 12 inches apart and about two inches from the edge of the beds.

9. The ridge method or the practice of growing on raised beds is firmly established in some of the larger lettuce districts of the irrigated west and it has been found to be a very fine system of growing lettuce commercially, yet there are certain soils which are probably not adapted to this method because they do not sub-irrigate sufficiently. It is necessary that the moisture should seep or percolate from the irrigated furrow to the rows where the seed is planted. Other ground may not be adapted to this system because the land is too steep. Water in the wide furrow might flow off too rapidly to irrigate the land properly. Under such circumstances narrow corrugations may be used and single rows planted, distances being regulated to suit the conditions. Ordinarily the rows may be made from 14 to 24 inches apart depending largely upon the mode of cultivation.

10. The safest plan to follow to accurate, at a proper depth and in relation to the irrigation immediately following the drilling of the seed. If the weather is damp this may not be necessary, but if it is dry and windy it should be done without fail. The surface soil is likely to dry out rapidly and as lettuce is not planted deeply the necessary moisture should be provided without delay.

11. Cultivation should follow each irrigation as soon as the soil is in proper condition to be worked, and be repeated every week or ten days. The object should be to maintain a loose dust mulch, to kill all weeds, and to prevent the formation of a baked crust on the surface of the land. This may be accomplished with a variety of tools. A small five-tooth horse drawn cultivator may be sufficient for tillage of the soil in the furrows. On a small plot it may not be feasible to purchase equipment for cultivation of the beds, because a good hoeing at thinning time may suffice. But where extensive acreages are produced and the beds are constructed at a unit, the two-row horse

tivator has proved satisfactory. It is a Planet Junior implement. It cultivates the beds as well as the furrows. Beet cultivators have also been used successfully where the planting is even. Push hoes and hand cultivators are also sometimes used especially for the surface of the beds.

12. Irrigation should be repeated frequently enough to provide an even and adequate supply of moisture throughout throughout the growing season. The number of irrigations required for best results will vary according to conditions, but ordinarily from three to five are recommended. In arid sections it may be necessary to irrigate twice per month or even oftener if the situation warrants it. Lath flumes inserted at the upper end of each row are used in controlling the flow.

13. In thinning the lettuce in the rows the character of the soil as well as the market requirements for the product should be considered. A rich soil may produce heads so large as to be objectionable from the trader's viewpoint if the plants are separated by too great a distance. Ordinarily 12 inches is not too close on good soil. Distances vary from 10 to 14. New growers sometimes make the mistake of leaving the plants too close together and they produce an inferior head of poor shape where such crowding occurs. Distances between heads should be uniform and never under any circumstances should more than one plant be left in a place. The thinning should be done carefully before the plants are large enough to injure each other by crowding. The plants are blocked out with hoes and thinned to one in a place by hand. All but the best plant in each clump or block are pulled out with the fingers.

14. Harvesting of the crop should be done as soon as the heads have been formed firmly and while the product is in prime shipping condition. The firmness of the heads may be determined by the feeling but the general condition of the field will be indicated by the appearance, especially by the color. Fully matured heads usually appear a little lighter colored on top. The change in the shade of the tops of the heads will signify that the size cannot be increased without causing the leaves to burst. In warm weather these mature heads will be the first to alime and in cold weather they will be most subject to injury from a freeze.

The stems of the plant are cut with a knife far enough below the head to leave the foliage intact. The best and most mature heads are selected at each cutting. It is generally necessary to cut over the fields two or three times depending upon the evenness of the maturity.

The heads are placed in crates stem up, top down. Crates should not be packed so full that the heads will be crushed or injured from the pressure of other crates which are loaded on top. Lettuce should not be exposed to severe wind or sunshine before packing. It should be delivered to packing house promptly and protected by canvas cover while on the road to be packed.

U. S. Grades for Head Lettuce.
U. S. No. 1 shall consist of lettuce of similar varietal characteristics which are fresh, well trimmed and fairly firm; which are not wilted, decayed or burst, and which are free from seed stems and doubles and from damage caused by freezing, top burn, disease, insects or mechanical or other means.

In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling not more than 10 per cent, by count, of any lot may be below the requirements of this grade but not to exceed one-half of this tolerance shall be allowed for any one defect.

U. S. No. 2 shall consist of heads of lettuce of similar varietal characteristics which are fresh, well trimmed, and which are free from seed stems and from damage caused by freezing injury, tip burn, disease, insects or mechanical or other means.

In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling not more than 10 per cent, by count, of any lot may be below the requirements of this grade but not to exceed one-half of this tolerance shall be allowed for any one defect.

U. S. No. 3 shall consist of heads of lettuce which do not meet the requirements of any of the foregoing grades.

U. S. Fancy No. 1 shall consist of heads of lettuce of similar varietal characteristics which are fresh, well trimmed, and firm; which are not wilted, decayed, or burst, and which are free from seed stems and doubles and damage caused by freezing, tip burn, disease, insects, or mechanical or other means.

In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling not more than 10 per cent, by count, of any lot may be below the requirements of this grade but not to exceed one-half of this tolerance shall be allowed for any one defect.

U. S. No. 2 shall consist of heads of lettuce which do not meet the requirements of any of the foregoing grades.

U. S. Fancy No. 1 shall consist of heads of lettuce of similar varietal characteristics which are fresh, well trimmed, and firm; which are not wilted, decayed, or burst, and which are free from seed stems and doubles and damage caused by freezing, tip burn, disease, insects, or mechanical or other means.

In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling not more than 10 per cent, by count, of any lot may be below the requirements of this grade but not to exceed one-half of this tolerance shall be allowed for any one defect.

Definition of Terms.
As used in these grades:
"Similar varietal characteristics" means that the heads in any container have the same color and characteristic leaf growth. For example, lettuce of the Iceberg and Big Boston types must not be mixed.

"Fresh" means crisp and green.
"Well trimmed" means that the head is protected by green wrapper leaves but those wrapper leaves have been noticeably injured by decay, worms, tip burn, or other means have been removed.

"Firm" means that the head is compact and feels solid.
"Seed stems" means those heads which have seed stems showing or in which the formation of seed stems has plainly begun.

"Fairly firm" means that the head yields readily to pressure but is not soft or spongy.

FREE SCHOLARSHIPS

Union Pacific System Announces Fifteen in 1922 and 1923

Corvallis, Ore.—A free agricultural scholarship, it has just been announced, will be awarded by the Union Pacific System to the highest ranking club boy in fifteen Oregon counties during the years 1922 and 1923. The scholarship will be in the College of Agriculture, or the short winter course of the Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Oregon, and will be worth \$75.00, plus transportation.

The counties in which the scholarships will be given are: Baker, Crook, Des Chutes, Gilliam, Harney, Hood River, Jefferson, Morrow, Malheur, Multnomah, Sherman, Union, Umatilla, Walla Walla and Wasco.

For the 1923 requirements it is proposed that ten acres of wheat, five acres of corn, one acre of potatoes, or any of the live stock projects now being conducted under the Boys' and Girls' Club Work, shall be grown or completed by each person entering the above competition. The requirements for 1922 are similar to the ones of 1923, except that the competition shall be upon projects now in effect, such as calf clubs, pig clubs, potato and corn clubs, etc., and prizes are offered only in such counties as can be arranged before the close of the present season.

The winner in each county will be chosen from among the ten boys ranking highest in the county club projects, on the following basis: 75 per cent on rank in club work; 25 per cent on activities of the boy in community affairs.

The rank of these boys in community affairs, and the county winner, will be determined by a committee of three, consisting of the County Superintendent, one person appointed by the Director of Extension in the Oregon Agricultural College, and a third person to be chosen by these two members.

The scholarship must be used within a year of the date of award, except where the boy is a regular attendant at school. In this case, it may be used the year following, or at the next session following the time the boy finishes school.

The action of the Union Pacific System is due to the fact that its president, Mr. C. R. Gray, formerly a member of the governing board of the Maryland Agricultural College, was attracted by the work of boys' and girls' clubs as a factor in interesting the coming generation in farming; and he believes that the System he heads should further this work by offering scholarships, thereby helping worthy boys to obtain training in scientific agriculture.

BLOOMERS FOR THE KIDDIES

Wide Knee Garment Favored for Warm Weather Wear; They Are More Comfortable.

The mandarin influence on styles, noted in many of the spring suits for younger women, is credited with inspiration for a child's novel frock. Of course a wash fabric such as linen, chambray and sateen could be used for the outfit, but as originally designed Chinese yellow silk was employed for the major portions of frock and bloomers, with bands of soft-fabric in Chinese blue and with touches of embroidery in a matching blue trimming it. The hat carries out the Chinese note in the fabric, color combination and general shape.

For warm weather wear there is quite a leaning to the wide knee bloomers for children, the argument being that they are more comfortable than those held at the knees by elastic bands. And one manufacturer has developed a clever little bloomer style dress so arranged that the bloomers button right into the dress. A waist or deep yoke must be a part of the frock, so that the band to which the bloomers are buttoned may be invisibly attached, but the idea is a very practical one.

The lineup of smart and dainty frocks for girls of 4 to 10 or 12 years seems unusually attractive this season. Among the charming models recently seen may be mentioned a serviceable frock of blue and white gingham in a quarter-inch stripe with slightly long waist, the short skirt having inverted pleats at either side to give fullness and deep collar of white sport frock of red and white checked flannel, with white kid collar and cuffs and narrow white kid belt. A georgette party frock was fashioned on the lines of the little bishop frock generally worn by tiny babies. The dress was in white, trimmed with embroidered butterflies in various shades scattered over its entire surface.

SOME BUSINESS MEN THINK CIRCULAR LETTERS ARE GREAT DOPE, BUT THEY LIVE MERCHANTS AIN'T USIN' 'EM MUCH ANY MORE, PREFERRING TO PUT HIS MESSAGE IN THE PAPERS, WHERE IT CAN BE THROWN AWAY UNREAD!



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