



Department of  
Primary Industries and  
Regional Development

## Journal of the Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, Series 3

---

Volume 1  
Number 4 *July-August, 1952*

Article 22

---

7-1952

### Season reminders

T G. Haney  
*Department of Agriculture*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://library.dpird.wa.gov.au/journal\\_agriculture3](https://library.dpird.wa.gov.au/journal_agriculture3)

 Part of the [Agriculture Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Haney, T G. (1952) "Season reminders," *Journal of the Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, Series 3*:  
Vol. 1: No. 4, Article 22.  
Available at: [https://library.dpird.wa.gov.au/journal\\_agriculture3/vol1/iss4/22](https://library.dpird.wa.gov.au/journal_agriculture3/vol1/iss4/22)

This article is brought to you for free and open access by the Agriculture at Digital Library. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of the Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, Series 3 by an authorized administrator of Digital Library. For more information, please contact [library@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:library@dpird.wa.gov.au).

# SEASONAL REMINDERS



## TOBACCO NOTES

By T. G. HANEY, B.Sc. (Agric.), Officer-in-Charge, Tobacco Industry

**N**OW that the sales are over, growers should be ready to take good care of the tobacco seedlings for next season's crop. A good stand of healthy seedlings goes a long way towards an even crop, and is the first step towards better tobacco.

The application of benzol should commence at the beginning of September or when seedlings' leaves are about the size of threepenny pieces. Don't take chances with "blue mould." *Prevention is better than cure.* The recommended concentration is to have one-hundredth of the seedbed area as evaporating surface for benzol. In an 18ft. x 3ft. seedbed, the total area is 7,776 square inches. Therefore the amount of evaporating surface for benzol required is 77.6 or 77½ square inches. If the tins used are 3in. in diameter, 11 tins are required. Shallow tins are recommended, for economy in the use of benzol. It is not advisable to pour back into the drum any benzol remaining unevaporated in the morning, since the lighter fraction of the benzol always evaporates first, and if this is done, there is a tendency towards the end of a drum for an accumulation of the heavy fractions which do not evaporate so readily. Too much emphasis cannot be placed on keeping the beds as airtight as possible.

### PEST CONTROL

The most common insect pests to invade the seedbeds are red-legged earth mite, slugs, cut-worms, seed-harvesting ants, and clover beetle. The mite and ants can be controlled by spraying with 0.02% solution of DDT emulsion. Dusting is not recommended in the beds because of possible injury to young seedlings caused by over application. Slugs can be controlled by the placement of metaldehyde baits, and cut-worms and clover beetles by placing bran-Paris green-molasses baits in appropriate places. It is recommended that seedlings be sprayed with 0.02% DDT spray immediately before pulling for transplanting, to give them protection against insect attack prior to the first poisoning in the field.

Seedlings should be "hardened off" before pulling for transplanting. Keep beds as dry as possible for several weeks before transplanting. This practice will force seedlings to develop a good, healthy root system and thus withstand the shock of transplanting.



## TRANSPLANTING TO THE FIELD

It is best to pull seedlings in the early morning, and plant in the afternoon, when it is not too hot. Take care in planting, since replanting takes time and an uneven stand in the field produces tobacco of inferior quality, because of lack of competition between plants, and consequent lack of uniformity in harvesting, curing and grading. After each day's planting, the bran-Paris green-molasses bait should be laid around each plant to prevent loss from beetles, cutworms, and slugs. Make sure that no bait comes in contact with the plant. An alternative dust is made by mixing 2½lb. of 2% DDT dust with 24lb. pollard. This bait is applied dry. Where wireworms are causing

misses in the crop, it is advisable to mix a handful of 0.25% Gammexane with the soil two days before replanting. If a paddock is known to be infested with wireworms, a preliminary treatment of 0.25% Gammexane dust applied at the rate of 50lb. an acre should give adequate control.

Every ten days after transplanting, it is recommended that the crop be dusted with 2% DDT dust. This will control all pests of tobacco such as leaf miner, budworm, and looper, and will also give some control against grasshoppers. Rate of application in a half-grown crop would be about 50lb. an acre. The first cultivation should commence about ten days after planting.

## CHECK WATER SUPPLIES FOR BEES

BY OFFICERS OF THE APICULTURAL BRANCH

**D**URING the summer months, beekeepers should make sure that ample water is available to their bees at all times, not only to safeguard the health of the bees but to retain the goodwill of other primary producers, particularly the owners of the land upon which the bees are situated.

Never rely on the nectar alone to supply the water necessary for the hive. Nectar flows have a disconcerting habit of ceasing suddenly, leaving the bees without sufficient water.

If relying on natural water, make inquiries in the district to ensure that permanent supplies are available. It is risky to depend on supplies which may cut out during summer months leaving the bees waterless.

At all times it is advisable to place two or three 44-gallon drums, with the tops removed, around the apiary. Some sticks or palm leaves should be left standing in the water to allow bees to crawl out safely if they happen to fall in.

Before placing the bees on any site, make sure that it is effectively guarded against bushfires. An area of bare ground at least ten feet out from all the hives should be cleaned up immediately the hives are placed in position.



# A BUSY PERIOD IN THE WHEATBELT

## *Fallowing, Haycutting and Shearing*

BY OFFICERS OF THE WHEAT AND SHEEP BRANCH

**S**EPTEMBER and October activities will keep farmers busy in the wheat and sheep areas. Fallow will probably need attention and should be worked over if required. In these days farmers are less punctilious in working fallow as they have realised that over-cultivation is apt to encourage soil erosion, particularly on lighter soils.

Haycutting is an important seasonal task and it should be remembered that the cutting of cereal hay should be completed not later than two weeks after the crop has fully flowered.

Hay deteriorates when exposed to sun and rain, so should be carted as soon as it is sufficiently dry to stack. Where carting is likely to be delayed, make large stooks.

Meadow hay should be cut when the bulk of the pasture is in full flower and subterranean clover should be cut when just beginning to wilt. Delays in hay-making should be avoided, as exposure to the weather causes unnecessary chemical loss of the valuable and nutritious leafy portions of the plant and the green colouring matter which is particularly valuable as a source of vitamin A.

The modern trend towards mechanised haymaking equipment has cut down many of the losses formerly encountered. Power mowers, side delivery rakes and pick-up-balers enable hay to be baled direct from the windrows so that many of its valuable nutrients are retained.

September is the main shearing month and flockowners should study the various pamphlets on shearing and preparation of the clip which are available from this Department.

Large numbers of fat lambs will be marketed during the month so flockowners should book killing space at the export works and ensure that the lambs are handled carefully to avoid bruising.

With the shearing completed, weaners should be placed on good grazing and the ewe flock should be competently classed. Culls should be sent to market or placed on suitable feed for fattening, and ewes intended for mating should be placed on paddocks where they do not become overfat before mating. Very fat ewes are difficult to "flush" and may only register low lambing percentages.

Dipping to control lice and tick is compulsory and should be carried out three to six weeks after shearing, with an approved dipping preparation used according to directions. During October drench for the control of worms.



# SPRINGTIME IN THE ORCHARDS

BY OFFICERS OF THE HORTICULTURAL BRANCH

**C**OVER crops which are planted in the autumn will be in full flower during early September and at this stage the best results will be obtained if they are ploughed or disked in. If left too late the plants become tough and do not decompose as readily as when turned under while succulent.

Pruning of all deciduous fruit trees should now be finished, but it is possible that, through wet weather, labour shortage, etc., this work is behind schedule and, if so, every endeavour should be made to have the work completed and all prunings destroyed by burning before the buds break.

## DISEASE AND PEST CONTROL

**(a) Stone Fruits:** At pinking stage of bud burst all varieties of stone fruits should be thoroughly sprayed with 6-4-40 Bordeaux mixture for the control of such diseases as shot-hole, peach leaf curl and rust. If a further spray is required, an application of lime-sulphur 1-100 can be applied. Apricots, however, should never be sprayed with lime-sulphur after petal fall or damage to fruit will result.

**(b) Apples and Pears:** Oil sprays as an ovicide for the eggs of bryobia mite and for the control of scale insects would have been applied in July-August, but where heavy infestations occur a further spray with lime-sulphur one gallon in 10 gallons of water is recommended just before the buds break.

For the control of pear scab use Bordeaux mixture 5-4-40 or Bordinette 1lb. to 10 gallons of water at spur-burst and if necessary follow up again at petal fall with half strength mixture.

For varieties such as Josephine and W. Cole which are very susceptible to spray russet a 3-5-40 Bordeaux mixture should be used. An alternative spray for these varieties is lime-sulphur 1-75.

The poor setting of apple and pear crops in the Great Southern areas last season was largely due to thrips in plague form. Damage from this pest can be considerably reduced by .1% D.D.T. spray applied while the buds are in the pink stage.

At petal fall it is advisable to spray apples with a combined spray mixture of white oil 1 gallon and 3 lb. of arsenate of lead powder to 50 gallons of water for the control of looper caterpillar, cutworm and San Jose scale.

**(c) Citrus Fruits:** The harvesting of the navel orange crop should now be finished. Do not neglect to strip the trees of fruits that were missed when picking as they are potential breeding places for fruit fly.

Spray at weekly intervals with—

1oz. sodium fluosilicate,  
2½lb. sugar (white),  
4 gallons of water,  
or the proprietary mixture "Lurotox".

## SPRAY PLANT

Make certain that the spray unit is left in readiness for the spring spray for looper caterpillars and spring beetles on apples and pears.

## GRAFTING APPLES AND PEARS

As with other orchard practices the most suitable time for this work varies according to the district but generally



can be commenced as soon as the bark lifts freely where bark grafts are used. Cleft and whip-tongue grafts can be done any time during the dormant season.

Only dormant scions which were previously selected from disease free and proved consistent bearing trees should be used.

The most popular method used is the Strap Graft on account of its ability to callous over large wounds and eventually to form a perfect union.

## THINNING.

Heavy crops of early stone fruits will require thinning towards the end of October. This operation is easily and quickly performed while the fruit is quite small. Thin out any misshapen and blemished fruits and leave only sufficient for the tree to bring to satisfactory maturity.

There is always a demand for well grown fruit of good quality.

The district Horticultural Instructor should be consulted in reference to any of your orchard problems.

# SOIL CONSERVATION NOTES

BY OFFICERS OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

**A**T this time of year pastures and crops are beginning their period of most rapid growth. Moving about the farm and the district farmers have the opportunity to notice the progress and benefits of established pastures, particularly where subterranean clover is included. The importance of improved pastures in crop rotations for increasing productivity and to achieve soil conservation cannot be too often emphasised. Plans for establishing further areas of pastures in 1953 may well be considered now.

Looking around the farm at this time of year there may be noticed strips or patches of poorer growth among the cereal crops. Often these will prove to be areas from which surface soil has been removed by water or wind erosion. The loss in production is quite evident and it is worthwhile to consider whether soil

erosion on the property requires serious attention.

Advisers of the Soil Conservation Service are available to help farmers with their erosion problems. So that work can be efficiently organised requests for visits should be sent as early as possible to the Soil Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture.

## A REMINDER

**H**AVE you registered your orchard? One fruit tree or a single vine is an orchard for the purposes of the Plant Diseases Act and must be registered accordingly. The registration fee for less than one acre of trees or vines is 1s. Apply Department of Agriculture, Perth.



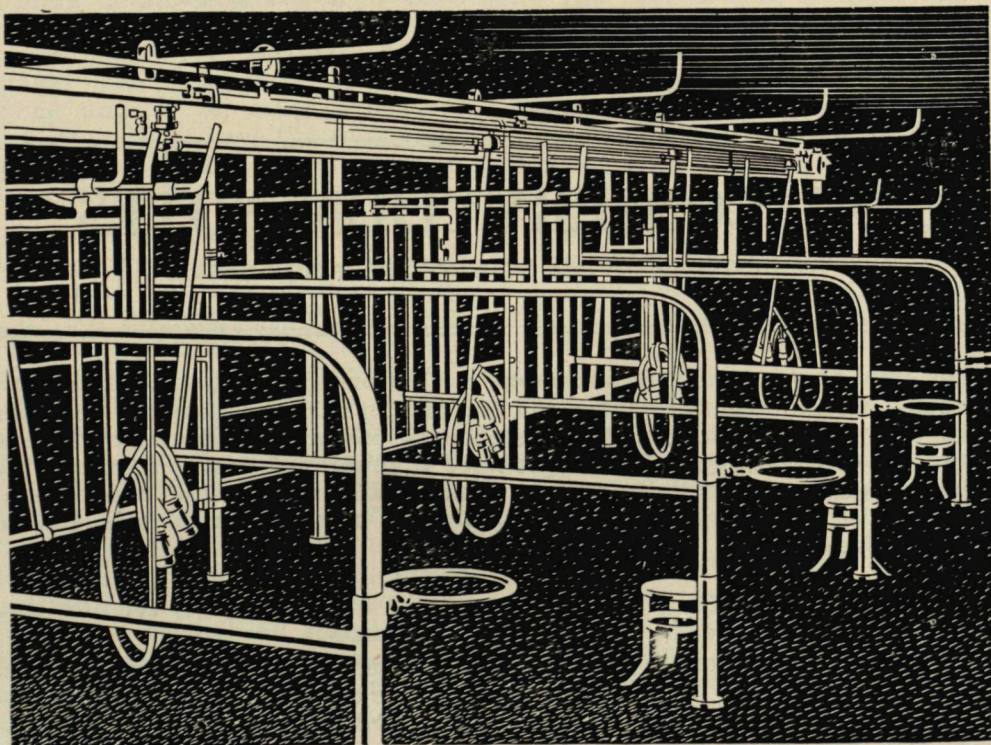
# HYGIENIC ALL-METAL Milking Bails

The strong, simple construction of "Cyclone" all-metal Milking Bails ensures many years of hard service. Easy to clean and keep clean, these bails are the most hygienic available—so simple in operation that handling time is cut to a minimum.

*Illustrated is the walk-through yoke type.*

Contact "Cyclone" for further details and prices of other types.

All "Cyclone" designs conform with Dept. of Agriculture requirements.



by **Cyclone**

**CYCLONE COMPANY OF AUSTRALIA LTD.**

BROWN STREET - - - - - EAST PERTH

And at Melbourne - Sydney - Adelaide - Brisbane

Please mention the "Journal of Agriculture, W.A.," when writing to advertisers