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Season reminders for November-December

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SEASONAL REMINDERS



HORTICULTURAL NOTES FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

By OFFICERS OF THE HORTICULTURAL BRANCH

THE main cultivation of orchards and vineyards should now be completed and any further working of the soil should be restricted to the control of weed growth. Continuous cultivation of clean ground serves no useful purpose but can be very harmful by accelerating the loss of organic matter from the soil.

THINNING

The thinning of late stone fruits should be carried out before the stone sets. The earlier the thinning the more effective will be the results.

Apples should be thinned as soon as the natural drop is finished and the danger from looper caterpillars and beetles is past. Remove all misshapen and blemished fruits and leave only sufficient for the tree to bring to satisfactory size.

PESTS AND DISEASES

Apples.—November is a most important month for the control of pests in the apple orchard because of the extensive damage which can be caused by such pests as Looper Caterpillar, Climbing Cutworm and Spring Beetle at this time.

Apply a petal fall spray of—

Arsenate of Lead—3 lb.

White Oil—1½ gallons.

Water—100 gallons.

Alternatively a 0.1 per cent. D.D.T. spray may be used effectively against many pests causing damage during this period of the year including Apple Jassid.

For Bryobia Mite use a spray of Parathion (E605) at the concentration recommended by the manufacture.

Pears.—Where necessary supplement earlier sprays for the control of Pear Scab with a petal fall spray of 2:4:50 Bordeaux mixture. It should be remembered that the Josephine and Winter Cole varieties are very subject to russetting by copper sprays. Lime Sulphur 1 in 50 can be used as an alternative.

Vines.—Vine diseases are difficult to control once established and therefore, precautionary sprays and dusts should always be applied even though there are no signs of the disease.

For Black Spot, spray before blossoming and after fruit set with 6:6:40 Bordeaux mixture. Varieties such as

Ohanez, Sultanas, and Wortley Hall are very susceptible to black spot and need special attention.

Guard against Powdery Mildew by dusting with sulphur immediately after fruit set and at regular intervals thereafter. Colloidal or wettable sulphur sprays may be used as an alternative or these materials may be incorporated in the Bordeaux spray for Black Spot.

Fruit Fly.—Regular baiting for Fruit Fly is important at this time to prevent the build up of this pest during height of the stone fruit season. All citrus

and stone fruit trees carrying fruit require attention. Besides baiting gather all fallen fruit regularly and destroy by boiling or burning. Loquats should be thoroughly stripped as this fruit may provide a suitable breeding ground for the fly.

GENERAL.

The cincturing of currants should be carried out when most of the flower caps have fallen.

Remember to tuck in loose shoots which may be damaged by strong winds.

FIREBREAKS AND SOIL CONSERVATION

BY OFFICERS OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

THOUGH it is generally realised that ploughed firebreaks are an erosion hazard, many farmers are forced to use the plough due to the lack of other more suitable machinery or due to the presence of too much trash for a tyne implement to handle. Erosion damage is commonly caused by concentration of water down a long furrow and if this flow can be interrupted and diverted the hazard is not so great.

In order to obtain this effect, Mr. E. P. Hogben, of Wickopin, uses a novel but effective method which could well be copied by other farmers. Every four or five chains while travelling uphill, Mr. Hogben turns a complete left-hand turn (see Fig. 1); this blocks out the furrow and water is diverted out along the bottom arc of the circle, the water thus being discharged in small quantities.

If there is a steep side slope to the right, the water will run back into the furrow, so it is necessary to work the furrow as in Fig. 2.

While travelling downhill it is more difficult to design a method for producing the same result unless the plough has a suitable automatic or a screw lift. It is necessary to veer away from the fence at about 30 degrees till about 1½ chains from the fence, the plough is lifted out and after turning (see Fig. 3) the furrow is crossed while travelling in an uphill direction and the line then continues downhill.

If two cuts are made the second cut only need be worked in this manner.

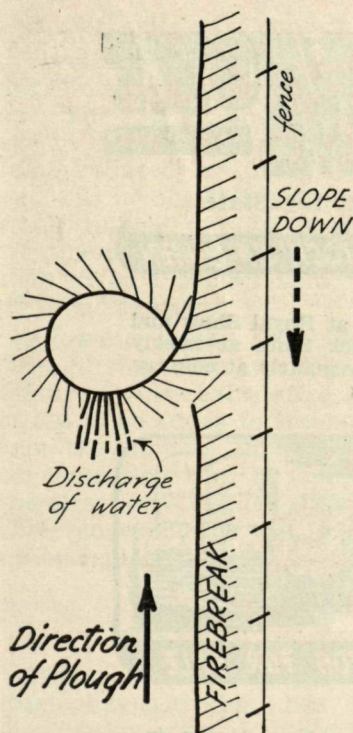


FIGURE 1.

TRAVELLING UPHILL & WITH
DOWNHILL SIDE TO LEFT

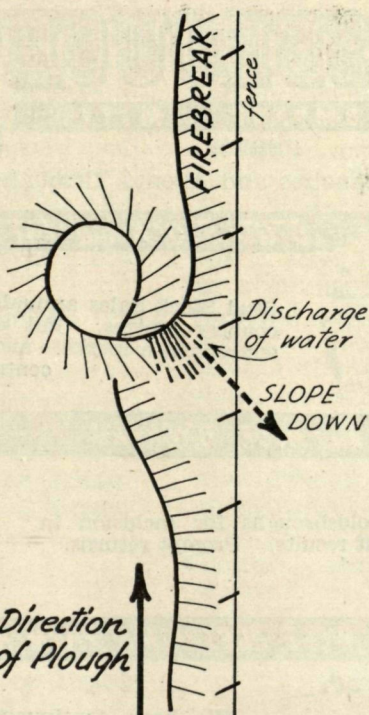


FIGURE 2.

TRAVELLING UPHILL BUT,
WITH SLOPE TO THE RIGHT

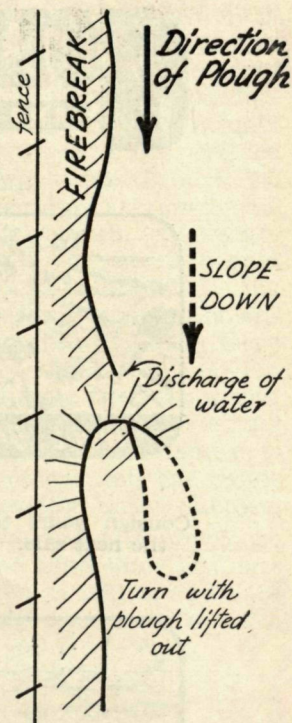


FIGURE 3.

TRAVELLING
DOWNHILL

HINTS ON DIPPING

By OFFICERS OF THE VETERINARY BRANCH

NOW that shearing is in progress, sheepmen must again turn their attention to the dipping of their flocks for the control of external parasites. These will include both lice and keds, and on some properties the sheep itch mite may also need to be considered.

The choice of a dip will depend upon the kind of parasite it is desired to control and in this respect it must be remembered that a dip which is effective against one parasite will not necessarily destroy others.

The sheep body louse (*Domalinia ovis*) which is able to propagate under

hot dry conditions has a wide distribution and occurs both in the agricultural and pastoral areas. For the control of this parasite the use of an arsenical dip is strongly recommended. A single thorough dipping in an arsenical preparation can usually be relied upon to eradicate lice from a flock. Provided

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they are used with care, the gammezane or benzene hexachloride (B.H.C.) dips are also effective for the control of body lice. They suffer, however, a disadvantage in that they tend to "strip" or become reduced in strength during use and this is most likely to occur when a small volume of dip is used for the treatment of a large number of sheep such as in a shower spray or in a dip of small capacity.

Allowance for this reduction in strength has been made by the manufacturer when calculating the amount of dip to be added to the bath to maintain the dipping fluid at an effective concentration and it is essential that the directions supplied should be strictly observed when the dip is being topped up or replenished.

CONTROL OF KEDS

The so-called sheep tick or ked (*Melophagus ovinus*) has a restricted distribution and is confined to the higher rainfall areas of the South-West portion of the State.

It must be emphasised that arsenical dips alone are not effective for the control of keds and that a dip containing either derris or gammexane must be employed. The use of one of the quick-acting dips which contain both arsenic and derris (these are also effective against lice) or of a "gamma" dip is consequently recommended. When "gamma" dips are used care must be taken to compensate for stripping.

Best results will be obtained by dipping immediately after shearing since the majority of the parasites will be removed with the fleece and those that remain will be more readily destroyed by the dipping fluid while the wool is short. To avoid infection or the absorption of arsenic through open wounds, it is however advisable to delay dipping until shear cuts have healed.

The capacity of the bath should be accurately estimated and the dip added in the proportions directed by the manufacturer to ensure that it is used

at the correct strength. The bath should be of sufficient length to ensure that the sheep are completely immersed and thoroughly saturated with the dipping fluid and the head of each animal should be ducked beneath the surface on two occasions as it swims through the dip. Where shower dips are employed, dipping within a month of shearing is essential and the sheep should be kept moving and retained in the spraying enclosure long enough to ensure that every portion of the fleece become thoroughly saturated. When sheep are carrying more than six weeks' wool, penetration and thorough wetting of the fleece with a shower spray is most difficult to achieve and the result of treatment is usually unsatisfactory.

All sheep on the property must be dipped at the same time since any undipped animals such as lambs, and particularly rams, will soon reinfest the flock.

DIPPING COMPULSORY

Under the Stock Diseases Act regulations, dipping for the control of keds and lice is compulsory in the South-West division of the State, in the Dundas, Esperance, Westonia and Yilgarn Road District and in those portions of the Merredin, Narambeen, Lake Grace and Phillips River Road Districts situated east of the No. 1 Rabbit Proof Fence and is required to be completed within six weeks of the date of shearing. In addition sheep intended for sale off shears are required to be dipped prior to removal from the owners property.

In flocks affected by itch mite, complete eradication can only be achieved by dipping in a lime-sulphur solution and this should be carried out within a fortnight of shearing. Arsenical dips, while not capable of completely eradicating itch mites, will keep the parasites in check, and on properties where dipping with an arsenical preparation is practised as a regular annual routine, itch mite infestation is never likely to become a serious problem.

TOBACCO NOTES FOR NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

By T. G. HANEY, B.Sc. (Agric.)

PLANTING out should be well on the way by the first week in November and finished by the end of November. This year, two grades of fertiliser are being used. Standard fertiliser is to be used on old ground, but for newly cleared country, Tobacco fertiliser No. 2 is recommended. This contains copper and zinc, trace elements which are known to be deficient in the area.

Before transplanting, seedlings should be sprayed with a 0.1% solution of DDT. To this can be added lead arsenate at the rate of 2oz. to 3 gallons of water. This should be done after the plants have been watered prior to pulling. This mixture is also recommended for spraying in the field every ten days. A 0.2% solution could also be used if desired.

Growers should now know from experience that it is useless planting out on land which has carried a heavy clover pasture for several years. The leaf will not ripen and goes black when put into

the kiln for the colouring process. This tobacco will not sell. Also, beware of planting out in swampy land. Tobacco with a high percentage of chloride has an objectionable aroma and will not burn.

It is advisable to prime off the bottom leaves when the plant reaches a height of 18 to 24 inches. This procedure allows better circulation of air around the base of the plants thus reducing the danger of blue mould attack. Also, keep sucker growth down to a minimum at the same time. Keep the crop free from weed growth.

WHEATBELT ACTIVITIES FOR NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

THE month of November should see hay-carting completed with grain harvesting commencing in the early districts. Stud seed plots for areas selected for next season's seed should be carefully harvested to avoid admixture. Order super-phosphate requirements for cropping and pastures so that these will be delivered in good time for next year's operations.

Ewes for early mating should be "flushed" on good feed for three weeks prior to and during mating. A "scratched-in" crop of oats which has been used for winter grazing and allowed to recover is very suitable for flush-

ing. Ballidu and Fulghum are good oat varieties for grazing and recovery.

At least two per cent. of rams should be used with pure Merino flocks and three per cent. for fat lamb production where a concentrated lamb is desired.

Preventive inoculation of toxic paralysis should be carried out at this time of the year if there is reason to fear an outbreak of this disease. Keep an eye on the pastures and if Wimmera rye grass is used, remember that this remains green longer than most annual species so avoid over-grazing so that this plant has an opportunity to set seed.

Most districts will complete harvesting during the month of December and it is a good idea to reserve additional supplies of seed of the early wheat varieties in case the next season opens late.

Cut straw and thatch haystacks as a good fodder reserve is well worth special attention.

This will be the main mating month especially for cross-breds. Merino and Dorset horn ewes will mate in November and other British pure breeds do not come into season until January-February.

The stubble paddocks should provide some useful grazing when harvesting operations are completed. Check fire fighting equipment so that it is ready for use if it should be needed. Carry out rabbit poisoning with phosphorus baits during the summer months.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER POULTRY NOTES

By R. H. MORRIS, Officer in Charge, Poultry Branch

EARLY hatched chickens will be coming into the lay and following the deworming at 18 weeks of age these birds should be kept graded so that all the birds in the one pen come into production together.

Immediately the first egg is dropped, the birds should be given a laying ration which contains 16 per cent. of protein and an adequate level of calcium and phosphorus. Remember, meatmeal, whalemeal, whale solubles, bonemeal and oyster flour play an important part in poultry feeding.

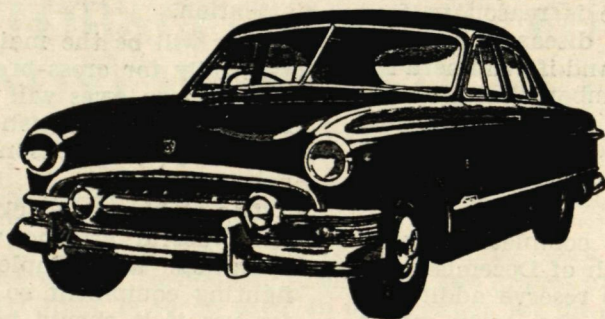
Special attention should be paid to egg quality during the summer months.

Collect eggs three times daily.

Store eggs in a cool draught-free place.

Market three times a week.

Do not under any circumstances have male birds running with females during the summer months. Small-scale producers in particular are requested to pay attention to this detail as the number of fertile eggs marketed each year is high enough to cause considerable harm to the general welfare of the industry.



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