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## All Crops Remain Backward in L. A. County Due to Cool Spring, Summer

All crops remain backward because of the cool spring and summer, according to Harold J. Ryan, Agricultural Commissioner in a report on conditions in Los Angeles County. The lack of hot weather was beneficial in some respects and harmful in others. Cool and cloudy days lengthened the berry season. Cauliflower, spinach, potatoes and lettuce were among crops favored by cool weather. Hot weather crops almost stood still.

Mildew, usually not a problem this late in the year, continues to damage melons, cucumbers and squash. Aphids also have injured a wide variety of crops and the condition is aggravated since nicotine insecticides are almost non-obtainable.

With few exceptions, large crops of California fruits and vegetables are expected and the prospect for adequate farm labor in peak harvest months is uncertain.

In commenting on fruit crops and prospects, Ryan said that while the next Fuerte crop is spotted, good production is in prospect for this fall and winter. After an exceedingly heavy bloom and good preliminary set, a considerable drop of small avocados is in progress.

The Antelope Valley cling peach crop is forecast at 65% and the freestone at 60% of normal. Bartlett pears are estimated at 70% of normal.

In most parts of the county the spring bloom of citrus fruit indicates a normal crop for the coming year. In some areas a heavy drop of small fruit has begun but so far has not reached more than normal proportions.

Valencia packing houses are

operating at full capacity in order to move the big volume of small sized oranges. Eating quality and juice content are good.

District agricultural inspectors estimate walnuts at 60% of a full crop.

As is customary lemon picks in summer months will not be heavy. Grapefruit has matured slowly and low sugar content limited picking. Demand at present exceeds the supply.

If cool weather continues there will be a fairly large volume of boysen and youngberries in July. A hot spell would shorten the season, Ryan stated.

Carload shipments of cabbage were heavy during the past month and Eastern markets furnished an outlet for a substantial part of the large volume that otherwise would have been marketed locally.

Light supplies of cauliflower from coastal areas brought good returns. Seed beds have been planted and average fall and winter is expected to be as much or more than a year ago.

Celery has shown a wide range in quality and the best grades sold for high prices until late in the month when the market fell off sharply. Pickling cucumbers have become an important crop in this county with at least 750 acres nearing harvest. Plants made a good start but need warm sunshine.

Local sweet corn has grown slowly and only a small volume will be ready before the middle of the month.

Squash bugs are causing trouble in squash and cucumber plantings.

Tomato fields in the San Fernando Valley and other parts of the county look good. Spotted wilt, however, is evident in some plantings. Potatoes in Saugus and also in the south end of the county are in excellent condition; harvest will get under way in August, according to Ryan's report. Spanish onions are meeting good demand. Many of the new fields have a high percentage of "seeders" but this defect is not lowering quality to any great extent.

## Opportunity for West Industrial Expansion Seen

The West is on the threshold of its greatest opportunity for industrial advancement, C. E. Johnston, chairman of the Western Association of Railway Executives, Chicago, told the annual meeting of the Pacific Traffic Association in San Francisco.

When Japan is defeated, Mr. Johnston declared, the West will move into the postwar era with tremendous manufacturing facilities, expanded harbor facilities, steel plants and other war industries for which economical peace time uses can be found.

These facilities, he said, with the abundance of diversified raw materials close at hand and skilled labor, now available in the west, combine to make possible the great opportunity to grow industrially. Potential markets of the west are virtually unlimited. Across the Pacific millions of people who will surely aspire to higher standards of living. The west can advantageously meet many of their needs.

The railroads, now operating at peak efficiency, have tremendous confidence in the future of the west and will cooperate to the fullest extent in aiding the expanding economy destined to come to this great area, Johnston said.

The speaker warned, however, that the future must be built by all our men and women, exercising to the fullest extent their own initiative and ingenuity. They must retain their freedom to direct their own efforts and govern their own lives, he asserted.

If we are not secretly yearning and openly striving for the accomplishment of all we ask, our prayers are vain repetitions," such as the heathen use.—Mary Baker Eddy

## Victory Gardens

It's hard for many folks to realize that Southern California has a year-around climate suitable for growing vegetables. Some "would-be garden experts" with only eastern experience, who are lecturing in the county, have said "You can't grow vegetables in California in the winter."

That certainly is far from true. Many crops do better if planted in the early fall than in the spring. It's true that you can not grow tomatoes, sweet corn, peppers, string beans, squash, cucumbers, etc. all year—they frost too easily. But ours is a superb climate for many things.

**Fall Gardens**  
 For us that is fortunate. Vegetable preservation is largely unnecessary. We can grow them the year around. Right now is the time to get started with plans for a fall garden. Spring crops are about finished and very soon the land they occupied will be vacant. Apply compost liberally. Wet it down and work it under and allow the ground to stand two to four weeks before you plant. Incidentally, if you don't have a compost pit, better start one. You will get about five tons of good manure equivalent from each ton of dry grass clippings, leaves, prunings, weeds, etc.

If no compost is available, apply barnyard manure at the rate of one to two barley sackfuls (2½ cubic feet to the barley sack) to each hundred square feet. Apply chicken or rabbit manure at the rate of one-fourth to one-third sack to a similar area. Work under as in the case of the compost.

If you had no Victory garden this spring and are just starting, get off the weeds, apply some commercial fertilizer—1½ pounds (4½ measuring cups) of Victory Garden Special containing 6 per cent nitrogen or 9 ounces (1 cup) of sulphate of ammonia, containing 20 per cent

nitrogen, to 100 square feet. Wet it down, spade it under, and let it stand two to four weeks before planting. Organic manure or compost will not be so necessary on new ground until after the first crop because of accumulations of weed tops and roots.

**Garden Layout**  
 In starting a new garden, lay out the rows level from end to end so that water will circulate back and forth in irrigation furrows. In the change-over from spring to fall crops, realign the furrows for better irrigation. This will mean that some furrows will be short and others will be long, no doubt, if the land slopes. A 25-foot furrow needs no slope at all. One inch to a hundred feet is plenty for long rows.

Remember the rainy season is coming and will be a factor in the garden you are now establishing. Better plant on raised beds rather than flat surfaces so that the soil at the base of the plant will not be under water.

**Kinds to Plant**  
 Beets, carrots, chard, head or leaf lettuce, mustard greens, onion seeds or dry sets for green onions, turnips, can all be planted directly in the field during August. Buy cabbage, broccoli, and celery plants from the nursery late in August or early September. Note carefully: Do not grow any celery in gardens near the Venice district during September, October, or November. Reason—disease and quarantine.

**Garden Peas**  
 In late August or September start garden peas but be sure to coat the seed with Spergon for disinfectant before planting. Plant two kinds at one time—early maturing bush variety, such as Laxton's Progress, together with a later bush variety like Stratagem and possibly even the pole type like the Aldeman. Put the seed about an inch deep and two inches apart. Rows of bush varieties about three feet apart, and of pole varieties five or six feet apart. The pole varieties will need a six-foot trellis. Start pest control on peas immediately when they are up, using nicotine sulphate dust or spray for aphid control at least every ten days or two weeks. Apply sulphur dust occasionally to prevent mildew.

**Summer Squash**  
 You should have harvestable fruit four to six days after the

## Captain Speed Stationed At Terminal Island

Captain John Alfred Speed, USMC, returned recently following 31 months' South Pacific duty. He is now stationed at Terminal Island where he is second in command of a Marine Corps detachment. He is the holder of two Presidential citations and a Pacific Theater of War campaign ribbon with seven stars.

A son of Rev. John Speed, former pastor of First Baptist church, he was graduated from Torrance high school where he was an outstanding track star. Captain and Mrs. Speed were Sunday guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Jones, of 1612 Cota ave.

**Forest Supervisors Retire**  
 Retirement from active government service of two old-time forest supervisors, David N. Rogers, Plumas National Forest, Quincy, and Roy Boothe, Inyo National Forest, Bishop, was announced by S. B. Show, chief of the U. S. Forest Service in California.



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**Edward Dietlin With Hawaiian Sea Frontier**

Edward A. Dietlin, seaman second class, USNR, of Torrance, has been attached to the Hawaiian Sea Frontier for 13 months.

He attended Torrance high school, and before entering the service in March, 1944, was employed by Doaks Aircraft, Torrance. Previous to his present assignments he was stationed at San Diego.

Dietlin is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Dietlin of 2022 22nd st., Torrance.

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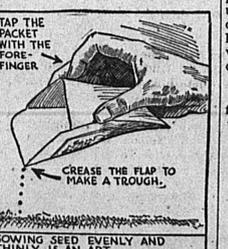
"Second Fiddle"  
 SUN. · MON. · TUES. "China Girl" ALSO "I Accuse My Parents"

## Care in Seeding First Step To Garden Success

Careful seeding is one of the most important steps in growing a garden. The soil should be thoroughly irrigated before sowing begins. Irregular germination is probably caused in most instances by a lack of moisture. Germination results from heat and moisture, and during the summer the sun's rays usually generate sufficient heat to start germination. The matter of providing water thus becomes the gardener's personal problem.

Check plots should be established in the area where the seeds are to be started. They may measure approximately seven by eight feet square although the exact size may be determined by the dimensions of your garden. These check plots should be limited at the borders by walls of dirt from seven to nine inches high. The plots should then be filled with water so that the entire section receives a thorough soaking. If necessary the check plots should be flooded two or three times. From this point the land ought to be allowed to mellow for several days after which it may be spread and raked finely.

If the double row or raised bed method of planting is to be followed furrows should be dug about thirty inches apart and five to six inches deep. The seeds should be sown on the shoulder of the bed about one inch back from the furrow. There should be sufficient moisture in the soil to germinate the seed and bring the seedling above the surface. If the bed appears to dry out before the seedlings appear then run water slowly through the furrows, allowing it to penetrate laterally so that the roots will receive the necessary moisture. Be careful that the water does not flood over the tops of the raised beds. Should this occur the surface will bake and harden, thus



making it exceedingly difficult for the seedlings to push above the ground.

If the ground has been properly prepared and the seeds possess good germinating qualities then success will be yours. Don't waste seed just because a packet costs but a few cents. Heavy sowing means that more plants will have to be pricked out and either transplanted or thrown away. Be sure to allow sufficient room in your proposed Victory Garden for the transplants.

Vegetable seedlings may be transplanted after approximately three inches of growth has been completed. Transplant on a cloudy day if possible, taking great care to see that the roots are not allowed to dry out. Read carefully the instructions on the packets in which the seeds are packed. Valuable planting instructions will be found. You will hasten germination in many instances by soaking the seed for several hours prior to planting. Parsley seed is one type that reacts very favorably to this sort of treatment.

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