

U. S. Seed Raisers Grow Record Crops to Meet Unprecedented Wartime Demands

American Producers Must Make Up for Imports Now Cut Off

In a remote outpost of New Caledonia a sergeant bellows from the door of a mess hut, "Hey, Murphy, how about those vegetables?"

"Coming right up, Sarge!" And Private Murphy moves at a fast clip from the camp garden, laden with fresh vitamins and minerals in the form of sweet corn, tomatoes and string beans for the evening meal.

This scene is not as fantastic as it sounds, even in the middle of a war, according to the War Food administration. It's a fact that Uncle Sam is sending many hundreds of tons of vegetable seeds to all parts of the world with the armed forces. Wherever a permanent camp is set up, and other factors are favorable, fighters who otherwise would get none of the bulky, perishable vegetables are themselves raising the familiar things they know and like with seed from home.

Seeds are so small, compared with the vegetables they produce, that they are an economical method of exporting food via either steamer or airplane. In European countries, for example, as much as five tons of tomatoes can be raised from a single ounce of seed. Rutabagas, another favored vegetable there, will produce as much as 500 bushels from the seed contained in a pint jar.

The total vegetable supply, through June, 1944, is estimated by the department of agriculture at 391 million pounds. Of the allocable portion, (379,500,000 pounds), 73 per cent or 277 million pounds will go to American farmers, to Victory gardens—of which 22 million are sought this year—and to other civilian consumption. This is a somewhat larger supply than was available in 1943. Some varieties to which gardeners are accustomed may not answer roll call this spring, and there will be a scarcity of cabbage seed, but no U. S. gardener, says WFA, need be without plenty of vegetables.

Another allocation of 9,600,000 pounds or 2.5 per cent goes to Lend Lease outlets. About five million pounds will be available to Russia, and some four million pounds to the United Kingdom. An additional 1.3 per cent, or about 4,450,000 pounds, will be divided among the other Allied countries and liberated areas. A total of 3,818,000 pounds, or 1 per cent, will be apportioned to U. S. territories, the Red Cross, friendly nations, etc. U. S. military and war services will receive substantial quantities.

All of these exports and shipments total only 4.3 per cent of the total seed allocation. The remainder of the allocable supply, 84 million pounds or 22.2 per cent, will go into what is known as "contingency reserve," a reserve to be used as need arises.

Seed needs during recent years have made increasingly large demands on America's domestic supply. Balancing available seed against claims to bring about a fair division among the claimant groups, and assisting the necessary expansion in vegetable seed production, has been a part of the War Food administration's overall food production and distribution programs.

Seeds Came From Europe. Small vegetable seeds were produced almost entirely in continental Europe prior to 1939. When the outbreak of war cut other supply lines, it also stopped, for example, the importation of cabbage and cauliflower seeds from Denmark and Hol-



Enough seed for five tons of tomatoes is in the little pile on the scales. According to the department of agriculture, one ounce of seed can grow into that much, if carefully cultivated, as is the practice in Europe.

land. Great Britain's growers, who once looked to the European seed market to answer most of their needs, faced a serious shortage. Seed requirements had increased in accordance with a 50 per cent acreage increase, while the accepted sources of supply diminished. Russia suffered a dangerous domestic seed source loss when Germany invaded the Ukraine. And other areas were in similar difficulty.

As a natural result, production of almost the entire load of vegetable seed for world needs was assumed by U. S. seedsmen.

What those growers accomplished is history, and the prospect for 1944 is for a still further increase in acreage and in yield.

The 1943 vegetable seed harvest was the largest in United States annals, latest figures showing production of 355 million pounds. This is a 91 per cent increase over the three-year (1939-41) pre-Pearl Harbor average of 186 million pounds.

Very few American farmers grow vegetable seeds as their only cash crop. However, many give vegetable seeds first place, particularly in the Pacific coast states. A government survey has shown that production of 29 out of 48 seeds topped the 1942 record harvest for a total increase of 21 million pounds over the 334 million pounds harvested last year.

Beans, peas and corn accounted for 331 million pounds of seed in 1943, 6 per cent more than the 1942 production of 313 million pounds. The figure for small or light seeds, such as beet, carrot and cucumber, totaled about 24.1 million pounds last year, 16 per cent more than the 1942 crop of 20.8 million pounds. The harvest on these small seeds fell below expectations due to a smaller yield per acre for 27 of the seeds and a total harvested acreage 16 per cent less than was intended.

Yields Multiplied. Phenomenal increases in acreage yields on some seeds were recorded. Brussels sprouts, with an increase of 371 per cent, led the list. Other large increases were 228 per cent for okra, 225 per cent for mustard, 194 per cent for kale, and 172 per cent for salsify.

Total crop production for 1943 exceeded 1942 by 27 times for brussels sprouts, 370 per cent for mustard, 358 per cent for dill, 343 per cent for mangelwurzel, 213 per cent for okra, 202 per cent for kale, 195 per cent for looseleaf lettuce, 181 per cent for Chinese cabbage, 173 per cent for chicory, 165 per cent for carrot, 153 per cent for onion, and 150 per cent for leek seed. Greatest decline in total production probably will be recorded for broccoli, cabbage, romaine lettuce, pepper, kohlrabi and parsnip seed.

Larger acreages of most kinds of vegetable seed, 30 out of 48, helped offset decreased yield per acre of a majority of the crops. Biggest reductions in acre yield were reported for cabbage, 40 per cent less than 1942; broccoli, 56 per cent; pepper, 70 per cent; parsnip, 73 per cent; kohlrabi, pumpkin, chile and cauliflower, each 76 per cent less.



Legumes such as clover are a valuable source of natural nitrogens, as every farmer knows. More seed will be needed for cover crops in 1944, present estimates show.

Supply of Grass and Clover Seed Is Extremely Low In Face of Unusually Heavy Midwestern Requirements

Wet weather in Minnesota, which reduced the crop more than one-third in that state, was chiefly responsible for last year's smaller Blue Grass seed harvest. Production of 1,516,000 bushels of cured seed totaled only about one-third as much as the 1942 crop of 4,525,000 bushels. Nebraska and North Dakota also showed a considerable drop in pro-

duction. Recovery of 21-pound seed from cured seed of the 1943 crop averaged 49.74 per cent, compared with 52.67 per cent for 1942, a difference of about 2½ pounds of clean seed weighing 21 pounds per measured bushel from every 100 pounds of cured seed.

Of particular importance to the Northern Plains states and the Corn

Total land in seeds harvested in 1943 was 423,391 acres, with 80,824 acres covering the small or light seeds and the remainder in garden beans, peas and corn. These figures compare with 397,234 total acreage in 1942, and 77,900 acres in the light seeds.

Production of certified seed potatoes last year set a new record, 42 per cent higher than the 1942 record crop. The harvest totaled 29,044,868 bushels, compared with 20,491,817 in '42. This represents more than 6 per cent of the U. S. production of all potatoes, and is nearly 2½ times the 10-year average (1932-41) of 12,619,399 bushels.

Hay and Cover Crop Seeds.

Seed for forage and cover crops is receiving more attention than usual this year. The 1944 conservation program emphasizes cover crops to help increase production, with a consequent need for more seed.

Harvest of legume and grass seeds will be encouraged in 1944 under the provisions of the Conservation Practices Program of the Agricultural Adjustment agency. Payment of \$3.50 for each harvested acre will be allowed up to a maximum of 25 acres on any farm. Seeds included are legume and grass seeds with the exception of timothy, red-top, Austrian peas, Kentucky blue grass, cowpeas and soybeans.

The clover seed harvest, taken as a whole, did not fare so well. Red clover seed acreage was expanded 15 per cent, with an estimated production of 1,142,900 bushels, 11 per cent more than the 1942 crop of 1,026,100 bushels. Acres harvested were upped to 1,279,600, an increase of 169,300 acres over 1942. Yield dropped from .92 of a bushel per acre to .89 of a bushel. Acreage increase was largely in Wisconsin and Michigan.

Timothy seed, with an estimated 1,499,600 bushels, dropped 11 per cent below the 1942 harvest of 1,678,500 bushels of seed. The decrease is reported due to a smaller acreage (394,000), since yield per acre of 3.81 bushels is only slightly less than the 3.84 bushels for 1942 and is more than the 1932-41 average of 3.21 bushels. Harvested acreage for seeds was smaller in all important states except Wisconsin and Pennsylvania but acreage cut for hay was larger than the previous year, apparently because of a greater need for timothy hay than for the seed.

More Lespedeza.

Lespedeza seed production totaled 159,920,000 pounds, a 67 per cent increase over the 1932-41 average of 95,564,000 pounds, but 6 per cent smaller than the 1943 crop of 170,500,000 pounds. A 9 per cent reduction in yield per acre more than offset a 3 per cent increase in plantings. Yield was only 195.5 pounds, due to summer and fall drought, as compared with 216.8 pounds in 1942. Total acres were estimated at 814,000.

The harvest during the coming season of increased amounts of grass and legume seeds, vegetable seeds and of seed crops in general is highly advisable, says the War Food administration. It will raise the national seed supply and provide for increased domestic farm production to meet expanding war requirements for food and fiber. And it will provide seeds to help meet the needs of the Allies and of the liberated countries as they are freed from Axis control. Making as much seed as possible available to European farmers when that phase of the war ends, will aid them to rehabilitate their land so that they can grow more food and fiber for themselves, thereby lowering their requirements for farm commodities from the United States.

Belt this year will be Sudan grass seed. Some states, such as Illinois, Kansas, Montana, Iowa and the Dakotas, have so far had so little rainfall that grasses which help to hold the topsoil will be in unusual demand. Sudan also provides good grazing. Well as reported dry in many states, with dust already blowing in Iowa and Kansas. Two million pounds of Sudan seed are already scheduled for import during 1944, and an increase in domestic production is being sought by WFA.

Star Dust

STAGE-SCREEN-RADIO
By VIRGINIA VALE
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

JACK BENNY'S feeling that he hadn't been given adequate publicity, and that Bob Hope and Jimmie Durante had, brought up a reminiscence about Hope. Someone said that Hope works at it—that, if he sees four soldiers standing on a street corner he grabs a pianist and does a show for them. "Back in 1938," said somebody else, "Bob was doing a summer fill-in show, and we never could find him when we'd scheduled interviews, because he'd be off somewhere doing a benefit. He did benefits for churches, for clubs, for everybody who wanted him. He thought we were crazy to expect him to spend time on a newspaper interview when he could be working hard, for nothing, for someone else."

"Columbia Presents Corwin" stepped right to the top with the first broadcast; those Tuesday night programs have broken down the resistance of people who say haughtily that they never bother to listen to any broadcasts but music. Of course, Norman Corwin long since



NORMAN CORWIN

made radio history; he has always had new ideas, and is a pioneer in radio technique. He has won practically all possible awards. This series of dramatic presentations, done with excellent actors, ought to bring him a special one, and a host of new listeners.

Marie MacDonald's going through the Hollywood "streamlining" process—voice lessons, dramatic coaching, dancing lessons, having her hair done a dozen different ways—preparatory to playing a nice part in Hunt Stromberg's "Guest in the House." Before going to Hollywood two years ago she was soloist with Tommy Dorsey's band and specialty dancer and singer at two smart New York night clubs.

Nobody can say that John Carra-dine isn't versatile. He has the heavy role in Wallace Beery's new "Gold Town." Movie geeks know him by his work in "Stagecoach," "Reunion in France," etc. And he's recently been touring in Shakespearean repertoire!

If you had visited a rehearsal of CBS' "Crime Doctor" you would think you'd stumbled onto a bunch of small boys playing cops and robbers. "Take that—bang! bang!—you're dead!" you hear, but it's a grown man saying it. It's all because of the shortage of blank bullets and the lack of a reasonable facsimile. There are enough cartridges for performances, but not for rehearsals.

Connee Boswell, the Blue network songbird, has been appointed head of a nation-wide morale boosting organization of people who have "arrived" despite physical handicaps. Connee has been an infantile paralysis victim since childhood.

Twentieth Century Fox did the country a service when they bought screen rights to "Winged Victory," the army air forces show now playing to packed houses in New York. The cast of 350 goes to Hollywood next month, starts the picture in June. It's a swell show, amusing, informative, soul-stirring. The cast includes a number of men who've made pictures and done radio work, as well as Corp. Layne Britton, a former make-up man who made up Joan Crawford, Robert Taylor, Greta Garbo, Walter Pidgeon, and even did his stuff on Charlie McCarthy!

Fannie Brice, who once was a star in the stage "Ziegfeld Follies," has been signed by Metro for its screen version of the Follies. She will appear in a sketch, "Sweepstakes," and will also do her famous Baby Snooks routine.

ODDS AND ENDS—Radio statisticians are trying to discover if any other network announcer beats Milton Cross' record: the chief heckler on "Chamber Music Society of Lower Basin Street" is on his 23rd year as announcer. Dorothy Shay has arrived—originally appearing as guest on CBS "Carnival," she's now a permanent member of the show, co-starring Alex Templeton and Morton Gould. "News Front," fifth of "This Is America" series, is dedicated to 320 war correspondents, 16 of whom have lost their lives. 12 years ago George Sanders gave a piano recital for television; he plays and sings in "Action in Arabia."

TO YOUR Good Health

by DR. JAMES W. BARTON
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

RISE IN TEMPERATURE

A physician about to start on a day's fishing trip had an early breakfast, walked to a nearby store to make a purchase but just "didn't feel right." He took his pulse, 108 while sitting, and his temperature, about 103. He went back to bed, called in his next-door neighbor, a physician, told him about his pulse and temperature but felt no pain or distress anywhere in his body.

Dr. Barton The neighbor physician carefully examined him but could find nothing to cause the rise in pulse and temperature. His pulse and temperature remained high for a week, so he remained in bed absolutely free of pain or other symptoms. As temperature and pulse became normal by the end of the week, he arose and went about his work, none the worse. Neither he nor his neighbor physician ever knew what caused the rise.

When a case with a rise in temperature is in hospital and cause of rise is unknown, it is called P.U.O. meaning pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin.

What may be the cause of some of these cases of rise in temperature with no apparent cause? In Clinical Medicine, Dr. M. Pinson Neal, Columbia, professor of pathology, University of Missouri school of medicine, in discussing this matter says:

"What about the patient with a fever where no cause is evident—rash, pain, cough, diarrhoea, lungs or other condition? Among the common causes not easily recognized are the severe type of goiter, dangerous growths, tuberculosis, syphilis, heart disease and nervous exhaustion."

Goiter can be recognized by means of the metabolism test which shows rate at which body processes are working.

Growth can be detected by means of X-rays and barium meal. If growth is on skin, breast or uterus, a small portion can be cut away and examined under microscope.

Tuberculosis can be detected by X-rays of chest and examination of sputum. Syphilis can be detected by the usual blood tests. Heart disease may be detected by electrocardiogram, severe pain in chest, breathlessness.

What about nervous exhaustion? How can this be detected? It has been found that "there is an ever-increasing number of individuals who are physically and possibly mentally exhausted and living in anxiety states who have prolonged unexplained fever without any organic disease." Rest, relaxation, relief from responsibilities, and a balanced diet bring temperature to normal.

Put Seasick Sailors On Shore Duty

Recently I was reading of the number of cases of seasickness among officers and men of the naval services. In Annals of Internal Medicine, Dr. R. S. Schwab reports his examination of 115 naval personnel with chronic seasickness severe enough to bring them to the hospital. He found that 50 per cent of these men showed abnormalities of the digestive tract. By use of the barium meal and X-rays, the following conditions were discovered: (a) irritability of the upper and lower openings of the stomach, (b) increase in flow of stomach digestive juice even when patient was fasting, (c) some increase in the number of "olds" or creases in the lining of the walls of the stomach, and (d) loss of peristalsis.

A large percentage of persons who suffer with seasickness show nervousness and emotionalism. Dr. Schwab makes the definite statement that "a man with pronounced dizziness, nausea, vomiting, headaches, with fear and discouragement is not as able as one who is not so affected. This difference is not easy to measure but it involves alertness, skill, temper, resistance to infection, cold, heat, and immersion in the sea."

Men who suffer with chronic seasickness should not be allowed to enter the service. If already in the service they should be given jobs ashore if their abilities are of value to the service. We will await with deep interest the trial of the new cure for seasickness discovered by Drs. Wilder Penfield, Montreal, and C. H. Best, Toronto, and their associates.

QUESTION BOX

Q.—Can you give me a remedy for a cough caused by phlegm?
A.—If cough brings up phlegm you need a remedy to cut or loosen phlegm. See your physician. Don't buy a cough medicine to stop the cough.

Q.—What causes excessive stomach gas?
A.—Most cases of stomach gas are caused by sluggish liver and gall bladder.

For you to make

5520



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Disputants Chained to One Another in Ethiopia

Strange, but effective, is the Ethiopian method of dealing with persons attempting to escape financial obligations. If a creditor feels that a debtor is going to run away before his debt is paid, the creditor has the debtor chained to him as a measure of safety. The same method is applied to any pair of disputants unable to agree over any kind of legal question.

In Ethiopia, the court room is generally the most convenient street corner, and any stranger passing by is called in to be the judge. Often the quarreling parties will accept the "judge's" decision. If not it's the chains until both of them can agree.

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Buried Erect

So that they may face the day of resurrection on their feet, the dead of New Guinea are buried standing up.

Making a Slip Cover For Favorite Chair

THERE are two ways to make a slip cover. One is to pin and then cut the actual material right on the chair; the other is to cut muslin or old sheets on the chair and then use the pieces for a pattern.



Whichever method is used, fit and pin the pieces smoothly but do not stretch them. Allow ½-inch seams and a 4-inch tuck-in around a spring seat. Notch the seams to show how they should be joined. When fitting a pattern, mark each piece with an arrow, as shown, to indicate which way the grain of the goods should run.

At the bottom of the sketch the pattern pieces are shown pinned to the material. If figured fabric is used, be sure to place the pattern pieces so that the design is centered for the back and the seat of the chair.

NOTE—This illustration is from BOOK 3 which also contains working directions and diagrams for other types of slip covers and many illustrated ideas for giving your house a fresh start this spring. Price of BOOK 3 is 15 cents. Address:

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Temperature of Theater Goes Up With Excitement

The emotional excitement of a hair-raising Wild West show or a tense love scene has been known to raise the temperature of a theater from 8 to 10 degrees. Temperature rises similarly in auditoriums while following a heated debate, an eloquent speech, or a stirring song.

Eyesight of patrons is also believed to be improved when the film is accompanied by the stimulation of music.

Hear 'em Crackle!

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