

SMUT.

Some fields of oats were visited that would lose one-fifth in yield from smut. Every one is familiar with the formalin treatment for this disease, but it is reprinted here for reference.

This work must be done *thoroughly*. Every particle of surface of every grain must come in contact with the solution to give full results. Again—*Be thorough*.

Smut Formula.—One pint formalin to 42 gallons of water. Sprinkle or immerse.

POTATOES.

This crop has, generally speaking, been light. A good deal of damage has been done by scab and blight. Crops that were planted early have often been very weedy, owing to the wet weather after the cultivating season was over.

SELECTING THE SEED.

Best results are obtained by planting tubers from *plants* producing the largest number of the desirable size and type of potato.

Heaviest yields are obtained from single, tall, strong-growing plants. Short, heavily branched vines generally produce a large proportion of small potatoes.

Cut one or two strong eyes to the "set," leaving as much of the potato as possible attached. In light soils plant deeply; in heavier soils plant shallow, and "hill up."

Do not allow the "sets" to dry before being planted. If necessary to cut ahead, sprinkle the sets with slaked lime, plaster, or in some such way prevent drying. Drying-out means a serious decrease in the yield.

SCAB.

Immerse the potatoes for two hours in formalin and water, 1 oz. of formalin to 2 gallons of water.

LATE BLIGHT OF POTATO.

Spots appear on edge or tips of leaves and extend over the leaf. In moist weather they present a dark, water-soaked appearance, with a purplish tint. In dry weather they are brown, without definite markings. Spots are watery and the leaf wilts. Disease extends to the tissue of the potato, rendering it subject to rot.

The disease may be carried over in the potato. Some varieties resist the blight more than others, but this is influenced by the locality in which the potatoes are grown.

CONTROLLING THE DISEASE.

If possible, plant "seed" from non-infected tubers. When the potato-vines are about 6 inches high, spray with Bordeaux mixture, and then spray with the same mixture twice later, at intervals of about ten days. Do not plant potatoes on land on which potatoes had been grown the year before.

How to make "Bordeaux Mixture."—Dissolve 4 lb. of bluestone in 35 gallons of water (or less, and dilute to 35 gallons). Slake 4 lb. of lime and add to the bluestone solution, making a total of 40 gallons.

Note well: Always dilute the bluestone solution before adding the lime. Apply with a spray-pump.

Here is a cheap time-saver for use in spraying potatoes: Get two old mower-wheels (or other small wheels), attach shafts to the axle, and build a platform between the wheels. Make the axle long enough that the horse between the shafts can walk between two rows of potatoes and that the wheels straddle these two rows. Fasten the spray-pump and barrel to the platform, use a T on the hose, and fasten two nozzles to the rear of the platform so as to suit the width of the rows. Connect the nozzles with the T. With a slow, reliable horse, one man can operate the outfit.

SOFT ROT IN POTATOES.

This rot should not be confused with the rot caused by the late blight.

The first indication of this disease is that the plant turns to a sickly yellow colour; the leaves seem to contract and turn in on the edges, while growth is retarded or stopped. If one of the affected vines be pulled up, it will be found that they have become almost, if not quite, rotted off, while the "seed" will likely be