

brother farmers. Of late years I have been in the habit of ploughing in my wheat at the time of seeding with a gang plough, leaving it in the furrow. In the spring after the ground has become dry, the last of April or early in May, I harrow lengthwise of the furrows, then crosswise, loosening up the ground thoroughly. I should like to do this just before a rain. If the land is to be seeded with clover, I sow on the seed and harrow it in. This I think far more safe than sowing early and trusting to the heavings of the frosts and the wash of rains to cover it. Early sown clover is often killed by the droughts so common in April.

I have been amused at the earnestness with which some of my neighbors would remonstrate with me for harrowing my wheat. "Such a fine piece of wheat," say they, "to be spoiled in that manner! He ought to be sent to the mad-house."

And afterwards, when the crop showed for itself it was not ruined, "O, it was such a good piece of land, it will produce a good crop in spite of your experiments," A field of wheat looks bad while under the process of harrowing, as it is prostrated and partly covered with earth; but after a shower it starts up fresh and vigorous, like a field of corn refreshed by a shower after being hoed. I have often examined as to the amount pulled up, and do not believe it will average a bushel upon ten acres. Farmers, try it; and be not frightened by the appearance. I never heard yet of a field injured by it.

MYRON ADAMS.

—Genesee Farmer.

CURE FOR THE POTATOE ROT.

Or a method, for protecting Potatoes, after they have been harvested, from the further spreading the Potato disease.

BY A. A. HAYS, M. D.

The rapid decay which continues after the roots have been removed from the soil, is often of a most remarkable character, and aside from its economical bearing, is a subject of scientific importance. During the last season, I made trial of some chemical agents, which specifically arrest all vegetation; hoping to discover an application which would enable us to preserve the diseased potatoes from further changes. Early in the course of the experiments, it was noticed that a reduction of temperature by exposure to cold air, greatly diminished the rapidity of decay, while a slight increase of temperature hastened it; moisture being present or not.

Heat in a moist atmosphere increased the destruction, and samples which had been cooled, and thereby partly protected, readily passed through all the changes when again exposed to warm and humid air. After using several substances by direct contact with diseased parts of potatoes, I soon found that the mixture of sulphureous acid, nitrogen, and common air, such as exists when sulphur is burnt in closed vessels, would prevent the further progress of the disease in tubers already affected, and when exposed in contact with tubers, passing through all stages of the disease, no further change in the prepared ones was induced.

The trials were varied, and the uniformity of the results has led me to conclude, that the fumes of burning sulphur, coming in contact with potatoes partly diseased, will arrest the further progress of the disease and prevent decay. It is proper that this conclusion should be received as an expression of fact, under the circumstance of experiments on a small scale, and with no more than two varieties of potatoes; but I confidently expect that the importance of the application will be seen in the largest exhibition of its effects.

The practical use of the sulphureous acid gas is very simple and not expensive. Crude sulphur inflamed in a shallow cast-iron vessel, or an earthen pot; furnishes the fumes which may be led by wooden pipes to the lower part of bins filled with the roots, until the unoccupied space is filled with them. As the fumes cool, they become heavier than air and will then enter every interstice. By placing the pot of burning sulphur in an empty barrel and inverting over it a barrel filled with potatoes, having a light rack in place of a head, the fumes will slowly rise within and impregnate the mass; the barrel and contents being then removed, and the head replaced, the exposure may be considered as ample. Where the quantity is large, it would be more economical to leave a space vacant, below the loose floor on which they repose, and introduce these fumes until every part of the heap of potatoes has received a share.

It should be remembered that this application will injure, if not destroy the vegetating power of the tubers, and that although this result may be highly desirable for all that are preserved for food, those intended for seed should not be so treated.

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