

To do this proceed as follows: Count out a hundred kernels, the run of the grain, sow in some of your own soil in a shallow box placed in a sunny window and kept at comfortable living-room temperature. Keep soil damp but not wet. Note the growth for two weeks. If only part of the seeds germinate or if the plants grow very slowly it will be necessary to sow proportionally more seed to the acre.

TREATMENT FOR SMUT.

The cost of treating grain for Smut is so very low as compared to the increased yield likely to result therefrom that it should be considered as one of the indispensable practices of every grain grower.

Always treat wheat and oats.

The following treatments will be found most effective:—

Blue Stone Solution.—5 pounds commercial bluestone to 50 Imperial gallons of water.

Formalin Solution.—1 pound of formalin (normal strength) to 40 Imperial gallons of water.

Steeping Method.—In bluestone solution, immerse grain not less than two minutes—not more than three minutes. In formalin solution, not less than four minutes and not more than five minutes.

Sprinkling method.—Heap grain on clean floor. Sprinkle either solution over it with broom or can; mix well; 40 gallons will treat 40-50 bushels of grain. When using bluestone, spread out to dry at once after mixing. Form grain into pile when using formalin, and cover for three hours with bags—then spread out and dry.

Moist grain cannot feed the drill as freely as dry grain—adjust your drill.

NOTE.—For detailed information on subject, ask for Exhibition Circular 24 or Experimental Farms Bulletin 73, Publications Branch, Ottawa, Ont.

SOIL PREPARATION.

FOR WHEAT, OATS AND BARLEY, ON SUMMER FALLOWED LAND.

The treatment to give the land both before and after seeding depends upon the character of the soil and the fall preparation.

All land should be harrowed as soon as it is possible to get thereon in the Spring. The harrowing helps warm it up and conserves the moisture.

All land should be in good shape for seed, that is, fairly fine on the surface, quite firm and as smooth as possible before any seed is sown thereon.

After you think the field is just right, give it another stroke of the harrow. Thorough, yes, extraordinary soil preparation pays and pays well.

ON STUBBLE LAND.

For fall-ploughed stubble land the treatment should be the same.

Unploughed stubble land to be sown to wheat might be burnt over the first warm, windy day in the spring, then given one or two cuts with the harrow before seeding, and once over after seeding.

If stubble will not burn readily or if it is moderately short and therefore need not be burned over, double disc before seeding, and harrow afterwards.

Where it is intended to sow stubble land to oats or barley, spring ploughing $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ inches deep will be found to be the best preparation. If not possible to plough, then treat as for wheat.