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Also a small assortment out of a large order of China given some time ago.

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HUGE POTATO YIELDS

Seed From Northern Ontario
Outyields All Others.

How to Lower Mortality of Young Lambs—Best Methods of Caring For Both Ewe and Lamb Explained.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

PLANS are being carefully evolved by the Department of Agriculture to continue experiments, begun last year, which it is expected will have far-reaching results for the potato industry in Ontario. The investigations which officials of the Department are making are thorough and extensive, and consequently somewhat slow. But it is confidently believed that within a few years potato seed grown in Ontario will be in great demand not only by other parts of the Dominion, but by many districts of the United States. This, it is anticipated, will be a distinct boon to the farmers of the province.

The two-fold program which was inaugurated last year of certifying a high standard of potato seed and making a survey to detect diseases is to be carried on on a much wider scale this coming season. Reports from the various inspectors have now been compiled by the Department, and the statistics are of considerable interest to the progressive and up-to-date agriculturist. The two foundation varieties which the Department is showing—Irish Cobbler, the early seed, and the Green Mountain—have been the subject of widespread discussion. There has been much difference of opinion as to which is the better for general table use. The reports for last year clearly prove that the Green Mountain is the best variety for the general farmer. Seed of these two varieties from three different sources—Northern Ontario, New Brunswick and Old Ontario—has been experimented with and planted in clay and sand in nearby districts in different parts of the province. These are the following average yields per acre:

Irish Cobbler—Northern Ontario, 153.4; New Brunswick, 148; Old Ontario, 127.

Green Mountain—Northern Ontario, 177.5; New Brunswick, 137.3; Old Ontario, 167.3.

The general average per acre on the different plots was:

Irish Cobbler planted in sand, 151.5, and on clay, 126.1, which shows a yield of 25.4 bushels more to the acre from seed planted on sand.

Green Mountain planted on sand, 169.3, and 153.2 bushels planted on clay, a yield of 16.1 more bushels per acre from seed planted on sand.

The results when the yields from all sources for Irish Cobbler are compared show the average number of bushels per acre was 142.1, and Green Mountain, 161.4 bushels. Thus it will be seen that the Green Mountain gave the larger yield, being 19.3 bushels per acre ahead of the Irish Cobbler variety.

With Ewes at Lambing Time.

The two main factors contributing to a satisfactory lamb crop are the proper feeding and care of the sheep during the six months previous to lambing time together with care and detailed attention given to the flock during the lambing period. Plenty of exercise coupled with a sufficient amount of the right kind of feed to maintain the flock in good thriving condition will usually result in the birth of active, rugged lambs for which the mother will have a liberal supply of milk.

The general matter how well cared for, the attendant must be on hand frequently, day and night, during the period the lambs are arriving. A little attention at the proper time will often result in the saving of not a few lambs.

Absolute dryness and freedom from draught are very essential for the flock, and when the lambs are expected in March or even early April provision should be made for reasonable protection from the cold.

Wool balls in the stomach is often the cause of much loss in young lambs. This trouble as well as difficulty in getting the lambs to nurse may be avoided by clipping away all loose and dirty wool from around the udder and quarters of the ewes.

Provision should be made for a few small pens located along the warmest side of the building. The ewe to lamb is much safer separated from the main flock and in cases of difficult parturition, weak lambs, ewes disowning their lambs and numerous other difficulties that may arise they can be looked after a great deal more satisfactorily when confined in small enclosures. It not infrequently happens that a ewe has difficulty in delivering her lamb; this is more common in the case of young ewes with their first lamb. When the lamb has come forward far enough so that the nose and front feet are in sight and the head is unable to pass through the ewe should be assisted by gentle pulling on the forehead. If this fails smear the inside of the vagina well with linsed oil, this has the effect of softening and allowing the opening to stretch and will, unless the case is a very

severe one, give relief. No action should be taken until it is reasonably certain some assistance is needed and before investigating the hands should be perfectly clean and disinfected.

Lambs may be born weak and apparently lifeless, and particularly in case of difficult delivery. These may be revived by quick action on the part of the attendant. First remove the phlegm from the mouth, then hold the mouth open and blow gently a few times to start lung action. Next lay the lamb on its belly and gently beat it on the sides next to the heart just back of the shoulder.

—Prof. J. P. Sackville, O. A. College, Guelph.

CONDITIONING HORSES

Must Start Four to Six Weeks Before Spring Work Begins.

Time Now to Build Hotbeds—How to Construct It, Ventilation and Watering Most Difficult Problems, Injure Early Vegetables.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

THE experienced farmer knows the importance of having his horses in the best possible condition to stand the strenuous work of spring. Upon his horse power depends, in no small degree, his success in getting his seed sown early in a well-prepared seed bed in the proper tith to bring best possible returns, for early seeding and a deep, fine seed-bed mean more bushels in the granary in the fall.

The actual practice of conditioning for spring work should commence from four to six weeks before the land is likely to be ready for the plough or cultivator. All changes in feeding should be made gradually. Straw in the roughage ration should gradually be replaced by hay until finally nothing but good quality hay is being fed. Careful feeders generally save their best hay for the spring work. The horse that has been getting little or no grain must not be immediately put on a full ration. Commence with a small feed, say half a gallon of rolled oats or, at most, twice per day and gradually increase this as spring draws near until the horse is approaching full feed. While the horse is still on a small ration the percentage of roughage fed to the whole ration may be continued large. That is, a full feed of concentrates is not necessary until work begins but something approaching a full feed should be reached just before seeding opens.

Once hard work has begun the grain or concentrate ration must be gradually increased and the roughage proportionately decreased. The more severe the labor the smaller the proportion of roughage and the larger the proportion of concentrates should be. From eight to fourteen pounds of oats per day according to weight of animal, should be enough for the average farm horse just before seeding starts and something in the neighborhood of one pound to one and one-half pounds of roughage per day during the "conditioning" period that their muscles become hardened and that their shoulders gain the power of resistance to prevent galls and sore later on. Preparation for the spring work should be a fleshing and hardening process, and it cannot be accomplished without good feeding, grooming and regular light work in harness. When heavy work begins, gradually increase the grain feed up to from ten to fifteen pounds daily according to the weight of the horse, and the hay to such an extent that the animal is getting a total ration of grain and roughage of from two to three pounds per hundred pounds of horse, this depending on condition and amount of work done. Always give plenty of pure water, mostly before feeding grain if possible.—Prof. Wade Toole, O. A. College, Guelph, Ont.

Starting Early Plants.
Growers desire to have vegetables as early as possible, and for this reason it is necessary to start plants like cabbage, cauliflower and beets in hotbeds. Others like tomatoes and peppers have too long a season of growth to ripen a sufficient amount of the crop to make it pay. This method gives us from four to six weeks start.

Hot beds should be on the south side of a fence or building. Obtain good fresh manure, turn twice to get fermentation well started. Put it in a pile about eighteen inches to two feet in height, and a foot larger each way than the frame, being careful to tramp it thoroughly. To do this put it up in layers of six inches. Then put on the frame, which should be eighteen inches at the back and twelve inches at the front, facing south. Put in four to six inches of soil and put on the glass. Air every days for the first four days to get rid of the gases generated by the fermentation. The soil is then raked

TORTURED BY RHEUMATISM

"FRUIT-A-TIVES" Brought Quick and Permanent Relief



MR. P. H. MCHUGH
103 Church Street, Montreal.

December 10th, 1917.
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and made ready for sowing. The seed is generally sown in rows three inches apart, about 10 seeds to the inch. When the seedlings are showing the first true leaf they are transplanted to other beds, the plants being set two inches apart each way. With cabbage, cauliflower, beets and lettuce, this one transplanting is all that is necessary. Tomatoes, egg plants, pepper and such plants require two transplantings, the last one four inches apart each way, or into four inch clay pots or quart berry baskets.

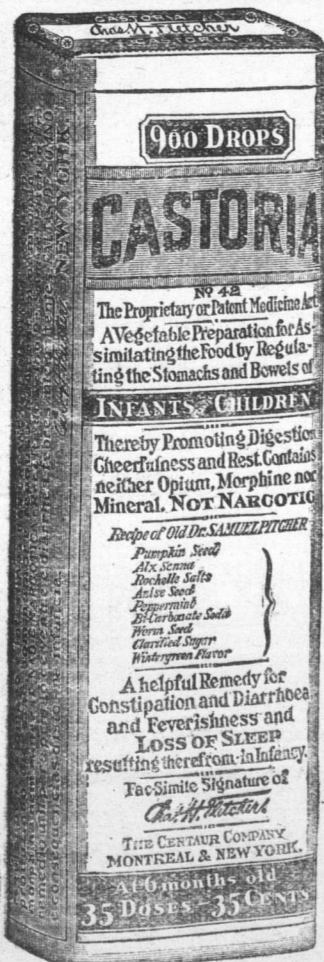
Ventilation and watering are the two most difficult problems in hotbed management. Ventilation should be given whenever possible. Even on stormy days the sash should be lifted even if it is only the thickness of a lath that is placed under it. Many growers use a piece of lath three inches long. This gives them three different distances of ventilation, and it may be laid on the glass when not in use, and will be always ready. Always have the opening away from the wind. You should also ventilate after watering to prevent scalding.

Water carefully, only give what the plant requires, especially in the early season, and only in bright days, in the morning. The plants must be dried off by night. As the plants grow the watering will, of necessity, be often, but care and thought should be used at all time.—A. H. MacLennan, Vegetable Specialist.

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