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FIGHT SMUT AND SCAB

Treat Wheat, Oat and Potato Seed Before Planting.

A Dilution of Formalin or Formaldehyde Recommended, by Immersion or Sprinkling—Corrosive Sublimates Also Used for Potato Scab.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

GREAT losses frequently occur through the prevalence of smuts in the grain crops. Numerous experiments have been conducted in the Field Husbandry Department at the College in years past in making a practical application of the treatments recommended for killing the smut in grain. As the result of five years' experiments with five treatments, with wheat and seven treatments with oats it was found that very complete work was obtained by immersing the grain for twenty minutes in a solution made by mixing one pint of formalin or forty per cent. formaldehyde in forty-two gallons of water.

In preparing wheat for treatment care should be taken to separate the broken smut balls from the wheat, either by cleaning the grain or by placing the seed in water and removing the smut balls as they float on the surface. Not only is it necessary to treat the grain but the formalin solution should be used to kill the smut spores which are lodged in the bins, on the barn floors, on the bins, in the grain, or where the living spores have an opportunity of again coming in contact with the grain.

The immersion process is so complete in its results that it does not need to be repeated every year, provided it is repeated to prevent a further introduction of the smut spores.

The sprinkling process was also used in the test, and this method is followed by some farmers. It needs to be conducted with great care, however, as the grain will not all be destroyed, and as a result it is frequently necessary to treat the grain every year. One of the best sprinkling methods is to carefully moisten twenty-five bushels of wheat or of oats and by shovelling the grain over on a barn floor when it is being sprinkled with a mixture of one pint of formalin and from fifteen to twenty-one gallons of water. When the grain is uniformly moistened it should be covered with bags or blankets for three or four hours and then spread out to dry. Varying quantities should be treated proportionately.—Dr. C. A. Zavitz, O. A. College, Guelph.

Control the Potato Scab.

For seed select smooth, sound potatoes, as free as possible from scab, and disinfect by soaking them before they are cut for two hours in a solution made by adding half a pint of commercial formalin to 15 gallons of water. A couple of barrels with plugs in the sides near the bottom can be used to advantage in treating the seed. The potatoes can be placed directly in the solution or first put in crates or coarse sacks and then immersed.

After treatment spread the potatoes out on a clean floor or on the grass to dry. Wash all crates, bags, etc., which are used in handling the potatoes with a formalin solution. The same formalin solution can be used to treat successive lots of potatoes. Fifteen gallons is sufficient to treat from 20 to 25 bushels if ordinary precautions are taken not to waste too much of the fluid as each lot of tubers is dipped. If the potatoes are not all treated the same day it is advisable to make up fresh formalin for each day's work.

Corrosive sublimate (mercuric chloride) can be used also to treat potatoes to prevent scab. Soak the uncut tubers for three hours in a solution of two ounces of corrosive sublimate to 25 gallons of water. Corrosive sublimate is a deadly poison, and potatoes treated with it are rendered unfit for food for man or beast. Formalin is a clear liquid disinfectant. It is a 40% solution of formaldehyde gas and water. It can be purchased from almost any druggist. It is sold under the names of formalin and formaldehyde. It is important that the purchaser, whatever name he buys it under, secured a guaranteed solution of 40% formaldehyde. The stock solution should always be kept in a well-corked bottle, and should not be allowed to freeze.

If possible plant the treated seed potatoes on clean soil, that is soil that has not produced a crop of scabby potatoes. Practice a rotation of crops. If scab is very bad it is not advisable to plant potatoes on the same land oftener than once in five years. Heavy applications of barnyard manure should not be made to the potato crop, but if necessary given at some other point in the rotation. Plant potatoes after clover sod if possible. Avoid alkali fertilizers such as lime and wood ashes.—Prof. J. E. Howitt, O. A. College, Guelph.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

SLEEPING SICKNESS.

Something About Malady Now Known in Canada.

Sleeping sickness, or sleeping headache, as the Italian scientists prefer to call the malady which has appeared in Rome and several other Italian cities, is believed by Prof. Giuseppe Sanarelli, the distinguished Italian bacteriologist, to be the same as that which followed other waves of influenza. Pope Benedict XIII died from influenza in 1730. The after-effects of the epidemic at that time was so harmful that his successor, Benedict XIV, waived the fasting of churchmen during Lent and similar action was taken by Pope Leo XIII in 1890, when there was another wave of influenza, or la grippe.

Prof. Sanarelli, who has been studying the disease, says that the best way to avoid sleeping sickness is to keep the powers of resistance up to the highest point, as it seems to attack chiefly persons who are in a rundown condition. He also warns the public not to be unduly alarmed about the disease, and says he is unwilling to concede it is highly communicable or contagious until the actual cause of the malady is determined. And he does not think the germ will be discovered until after extensive experimentation with the brains of monkeys, such an expensive work that it can be carried out only with the aid of the millions of some philanthropic millionaire like John D. Rockefeller.

Prof. Sanarelli says because of the sporadic appearance of the disease it is reasonable to assume many persons carry the germs, but are immune to the disease until there is some sudden let-down in their physical condition which overcomes their power of resistance. As the malady always makes its appearance at the same season as infantile paralysis and cerebro-spinal meningitis, or spotted fever, and as it persists in reappearing occasionally between epidemics, Prof. Sanarelli says it is not strange that it is frequently believed to be identical with them. However, he thinks it is quite a distinct disease, as it is confined chiefly to adults and does not leave the serious effects of cerebro-spinal meningitis.

The malady has been diagnosed in widely scattered parts of the world in 1817, 1818 and 1819. At least 100 cases were reported from English cities in 1918, but it died out in June. Until this year it had not been reported in Italy since 1889 and 1890, when it appeared in Mantua. Many persons died then after a few days, sometimes even hours, of lethargic sleep, which could not be overcome by any means. Bulgaria also had an epidemic at that time, and cases occurred in Canada.

In most cases the illness begins with mental depression, which is followed by sleepiness which develops into complete prostration. Drooping of the eyelids and frequently a crossing of the eyes occur. Loud talking and even shaking will not arouse patients suffering acutely with the malady, who answer incoherently to all enquiries and fall immediately into sleep again. The face is generally colorless and devoid of expression.

Prof. Sanarelli is a member of the faculty of the University of Bologna and was formerly professor of microbiology and public hygiene at the University of Montevideo. He was also formerly Under Secretary of State for Agriculture in Italy.

The Musk Oxen.

The treeless coastal plains of northern America were at one time the home of the musk ox. The animal seems to have been exterminated in those regions fifty or more years ago.

An effort is now to be made to re-establish this interesting little species of the genus Bos in the territory, the plan being to import from Coronation Gulf or Melville Island a sufficient number of specimens to form a herd. This accomplished, they can be bred for the benefit of natives and white settlers.

Musk oxen are easily domesticated. Their meat is hardly distinguishable from beef, and their milk (about half the quantity yielded by an ordinary cow) is very rich. The shaggy hair of the outer coat covers a soft, long-fibered wool, equal if not superior to the finest sheep wool. Large bulls weigh from 600 to 700 pounds.

Musk oxen have not the roving instinct of cattle, and cannot be easily stampeded. When attacked by wolves (the principal enemy of game animals in the north), the adult members of the herd form a circle around the young, presenting an impregnable front.

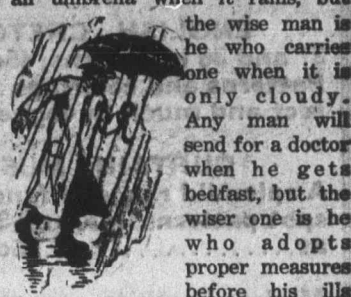
It is claimed that the musk ox combines all of the qualities most to be desired by a pioneer population in a desolate region. The wild wastes of northern Alaska, utilized as grazing ground for this picturesque beast, would thereby acquire important value, yielding great quantities of meat and wool.

Fall Fair Dates—1920

Strathroy	Sept. 20, 21, 22
Petrolia	" 23, 24
Sarnia	" 27, 28
Glencoe	" 28, 29
Wilkesport	" 30, Oct. 1
WATFORD	" Oct. 5, 6
Forest	" 4, 5
Bridgen	" 7, 8
Florence	" 7, 8
Wooming	" 7, 8
Alvinston	" 12, 13

In the Spring Time

Any fool knows enough to carry an umbrella when it rains, but



the wise man is he who carries one when it is only cloudy. Any man who sends for a doctor when he gets bedfast, but the wiser one is he who adopts proper measures before his illness become serious. During a hard winter or the following spring one feels run-down, tired out, weak and nervous. Probably you have suffered from a cold, the Grip or flu, which has left you thin, weak and pale. This is the time to put your system in order. It is time for house-cleaning.

A good, old-fashioned alterative and temperance tonic is one made of wild roots and barks, without the use of alcohol, and called Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, in tablet or liquid form. This is nature's tonic, which restores the tone of the stomach, activity of the liver and steadiness to the nerves, strengthening the whole system. First put up by Dr. Pierce over 50 years ago, now procurable at any drug store; or send 10 cents to Dr. Pierce's Laboratory, Bridgeburg, Ont., for trial package.

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