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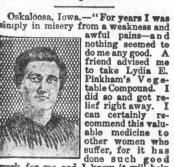
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# INCREASE POTATO CROP

How to Check Serious Diseases in Ontario.

Leaf Roll and Mosaic Are Firmly Established and Reduce Yields One-third - How to Detect Diseases and Only Way to Control

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

HE two most serious seedborne potato diseases in Ontario are Leaf Roll and Mosaic. Other seed-borne potato diseases common in the Province are Black Leg, Rhizoctonia, Blight, Wilt and Scab. Leaf Roll and Mosaic cause a very marked reduction in the yield, and the fact that these two diseases are so prevalent in Southern Ontario accounts for the poor crop of potatoes that has been

obtained in many parts of the Pro-vince for the past four years.

Leaf Roll.—The cause of this dis-ease is unknown. Data gathered by the pathologists of the United States and Canada shows that Leaf Roll may reduce the yield to about one-third of the normal crop.

Symptoms.—SymptomsofLeaf Roll are very variable. Affected plants

are always more or less dwarfed and in some varieties the leaves assume a characteristic upright, almost staring habit, instead of drooping over in ing habit, instead of drooping over in the normal way. Rolling of the low-er leaves is always associated with the disease. The rolled leaves on plants affected with this disease begin to die early. The harsh, leathery texture of such leaves is a constant symptom. The tubers of affected plants are small and are borne genplants are small and are borne generally on very short tuber-branches (stolons) or even attached in a cluster to the stem. Tubers from affected plants invariably produce diseased plants. There is also evidence to show that the disease may spread from plant to plant in the field

Prevention.—The only sure way of avoiding loss from Leaf Roll is to secure fresh seed from districts free from this disease. Fortunately, this is possible, as Northern Ontario and certain sections of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island are comparatively free from this trouble. In experiments carried on in Old Ontario by the Agricultural Representatives with seed potatoes from South Ontario, New Brunswick and Northern Ontario, it was found that the average amount of Leaf Roll in the plants from the seed from the three different sources was as

served in many fields in Ontario. When severe there is a very noticeable reduction in the crop. Data gathered by the pathologists of the United States and Canada shows that this disease may reduce the yield by one-half.

Symptoms.—The foliage of plants affected with Mosaic is somewhat wrinkled or corrugated and mottled with faint, light green or yellowish spots. The stalks of the diseased plants are often more bare near the ground than those of healthy ones, partly because the affected foliage does not spread out and drop down normally, and partly because the lower leaves sometimes fall off in the last stages of severe attacks. The tubers of affected plants are normal-looking and Symptoms.—The foliage of plants fected plants are normal-looking and

fected plants are normal-looking and sound and their keeping or eating qualities are not impaired.

Prevention.—If Mosaic is abundant in a field the surest and quickest way of eliminating it is by obtaining fresh seed from a non-infected district. Such seed can be obtained at the present time from tained at the present time from Northern Ontario.

General Suggestions For the Prevention of Seed-borne Potato Diseases. In order to avoid loss from Leaf In order to avoid loss from Leaf Roll and Mosaic, the source of seed is of the utmost importance. Seed potatoes free from these diseases can be obtained from Northern Ontario. Only certified seed, however, can be relied upon. For information con-cerning certified northern groups procerning certified northern-grown po-tato seed write Mr. Justus Miller, Assistant Commissioner of Agricul-ture, Parliament Buildings, Toronto,

Even certified northern-grown seed is not a panacea for all diseases. In order to avoid loss from such seed-borne potato diseases as Black Leg, Rhizoctonia, Wilt, Blight and Scab, the following precautions should be

taken:
1. Select for seed smooth, sound tubers, as free as possible from scab, black, hard lumps on the surface, and abnormal discolorations of the skin or flesh.

2. Disinfect all seed before cut-

ting with formalin or corrosive sub-limate. The latter substance is the more reliable for the prevention of Rhizoctonia.

Rhizoctonia.

3. When cutting potatoes have at hand two or three knives and a jar containing a 20 per cent, solution of formalin. After cutting into a tuber which shows signs of rot drop the knife into the formalin, discard the diseased potato and take a fresh

knife from the formann solution to. the next cutting.

GUILE ADVCCATE, WATROOD, APRIL 4 1919

4. Spray every year with Bordeaux mixture for the prevention of Late Blight and Rot. Such spraying is an insurance which it is not safe to

5. Rogue the growing crop once or twice during the summer, or at least that portion of it from which the seed is to be saved. This operation seed is to be saved. This operation consists in the removal and destruction of any plants showing signs of such diseases as Leaf Roll, Mosaic, Black Leg, Rhizoctonia and Wilt.
6. Practice a rotation of crops and if possible plant potatoes after clover sod.—Prof. J. E. Howett, O. A. College Guelph

lege, Guelph. GET ON LAND EARLY

The Dates to Plant for Heaviest Yields.

To Make Most Money From Wool Shearing Mast Be Done Properly and Wool Handled Carefully-A Few Hints Which Have Saved Farmers Dollars.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

HERE is a best time to sow each class of farm crops to secure the highest returns. It is difficult, however, to which are the most favorable dates for the best returns of the different crops in all seasons. The results of experiments conducted over a series of years form a good general guide. Some crops give best results from later seedings. Seasons vary so much that in some years the grains are practically all sown by the dates at which it is only possible to start sowing in other years. It is of the utmost importance, however, to start cultivating the land as early as it is dry enough to work to good advantage. The first cultivations should take place for those crops which should be first sown. In this connection it is interesting to study the results of an experiment which was conducted in each of five years at the Ontario Agricultural College. Spring wheat, barley, oats and peas were sown on each of six dates. One week was allowed between each two dates. The experiment was conduct-ed in duplicate by sowing with the grain drill and broadcast by hand in each instance. The following table gives the average results for the ten tests in the five-year period:

Bushels of Grain Per Acre. 
 Bushels of Grain Per Acre.

 Spring Bar 

 Seedlings.
 Wheat.
 ley.
 Oats.
 Peas.

 1st
 21,9
 46.2
 75.2
 25.4

 2nd
 19.2
 45.9
 76.0
 28.8

 3rd
 15.4
 39.8
 64.2
 28.5

 4th
 13.0
 37.1
 55.8
 25.5

 5th
 8.4
 27.6
 45.2
 21.5

 6th
 6.7
 18.4
 37.0
 19.5

It will be seen that the spring wheat gives decidedly the best returns from the first date of seeding. There is not much difference between the first two seedings of barley and oats, but there is a slight advantage from the first date in the case of bar-ley and from the second date in the case of oats. The peas, however, gave the highest returns from the second and third dates, and even the fourth gave a higher average yield than the first date. After the first week was past there was an average decrease per acre for each day's de-lay as the season advanced of 27 pounds of spring wheat, 47 pounds of barley, 48 pounds of oats, and 20 pounds of peas.

These esults are of special interest and are worthy of careful attention at this particular time.

Sheep Shearing. Shearing and Tying the Fleece.— Shearing should only be carried on under the most favorable conditions; under the most favorable conditions; upon bright, warm sunshiny days when the sheep are dry of fleece and the wool has "risen" somewhat from the body. Cleanliness and care in the removal of all fleeces is very essential and the shearing floor should be swept after each fleece has been removed and tied. This will eliminate a great deal of foreign matter which, although it may add weight, does so at the expense of quality. Dung Locks or Tags.—It will be noticed with many fleeces that there are certain hard dung locks or tags adhering to the britch ends. These contain a great deal of moisture and if left on and rolled into the fleece

contain a great deal of moisture and if left on and rolled into the fleece produce a damp heavy condition that means a higher shrinkage and hence less value. They should, whenever resent, be snipped off with the snears before the sheep is shorn or else pulled off by hand after the fleece is spread out for rolling. They can very easily be packed and shipped separately, bringing more money this way than if left upon the fleece. The

Clear Stomach, Clear Mind.—The stomach is the workshop of the vital functions and when it gets out of order the whole system clogs in sympathy. The spirits flag, the mind droops and work becomes impossible. The first care should be to restore healthful action of the stomach and the best preparation for that purpose is Parmelee's Vegetable Pills. General use for years has won them a leading place in medicine. A trial will attest their value,

# SPRING CLEANING

same is true of all partit crotted letter

as well.

Rolling the Fleece.—Spread the fleece out on the floor, being careful not to pull it apart and with the flesh side down. Then fold the belly wool and both sides in until your fleece represents a strip about 18 inches wide. Starting at the tail end, roll tightly toward the neck, thus leaving the shoulder wool, which is always the superior portion, on the outside of the roll. The grader always estimates the grade by the appearance and

the grade by the appearance and quality of this wool over the shoulder and heart-girth, that over the hind-

quarters usually running a grade or

two lower.

two lower.

Tying the Fleece.—Having rolled tightly, tie both ways with the special paper twine supplied by the Department. Never under any consideration use binder twine as the fibres become attached to the wool and follow right through into the cloth where they always show up quite prominently. Many mills have refused to have anything whatever to do with clips that have been tied with binder twine. If the paper twine is not available use any stout cord other than binder twine. Tie each fleece separately, never tying two or three together in the same bundle. Furthermore, avoid as much as pos-

Furthermore, avoid as much as pos-

Furthermore, avoid as much as possible the shipping of loose wool. If you have two or three different, breeds of sheep, possibly a grade flock and a pure-bred flock, it is wise to keep the wool from each breed separate and pack it so.—Director R. W. Wade, B.S.A., Ontario Department of Agriculture

A number of varieties of beans

are in cultivation, but to meet the present demand the Small White Pea bean is particularly suitable. Care

should be exercised in securing well matured seed of strong vitality as many of the beans grown last year are unsuitable for planting.

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infected with dust and germs. The danger of this lies in the fact that injuries—slight at first, if not attended to, may become inflamed, foster, cause great suffering and inconvenience, and frequently lead to blood-poisoning.

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