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### Corn's Advantage

W. C. Palmer

Corn has an advantage over the small grains. Its growing period is during the warmest part of the year. The soil is then warmed up. This results in more plant food being made available. The days are then the longest and the sun shines the warmest. All these things are needed by a plant to make growth. From this it becomes plain why corn should produce more food on an acre of land than a crop that does not take advantage of the whole growing season.

Corn has another advantage, and that is that its nature of growth is such that it can be cultivated. Many may think that this is a disadvantage. The cultivation kills weeds and keeps the moisture from escaping. While corn uses as much moisture as a grain crop the cultivation given it reduces the amount of moisture that evaporates from the soil—in this way making the corn crop a moisture saver.

The corn crop has the advantage of season of growth, enabling it to produce more per acre than the grain crops, and the advantage of ending itself to being cultivated, which saves moisture and kills weeds, making it both a good producer and a crop to prepare the land for other crops.

### Potato Scab

Potato scab is one of the easiest diseases to keep under control. The method usually employed is to dip the seed potatoes in some disinfecting solution. Two kinds are used, the formaldehyde solution and the corrosive sublimate solution.

#### THE FORMALDEHYDE TREATMENT

The formaldehyde dip is prepared by pouring a pint of 40 per cent formaldehyde into 30 gallons of water. Dipping the potatoes in this solution for two hours will destroy the scab.

Thirty gallons of the mixture will treat about 30 bushels of potatoes. It can be renewed by adding new mixture made up in the right proportion as the old is used up, but it is probably best not to use less than one gallon of the solution to each bushel. Large amounts of mud should not be allowed to accumulate in the barrels. The barrels should be kept covered.

While the formaldehyde solution is somewhat poisonous, if taken internally, it is far less deadly than the corrosive sublimate solution, and is, on account of its peculiarities, less likely to be taken by mistake. If ordinary precautions are observed, there is very little danger of any person or animal being injured through its use; and, from the standpoint of safety, this remedy is decidedly more desirable than the corrosive sublimate solution.

#### THE CORROSIVE SULPHATE TREATMENT

The proportions for the corrosive sublimate solution are four ounces of corrosive sublimate to 30 gallons of water. The corrosive sublimate should first be dissolved in about a gallon of hot water before pouring it into the balance of the water required. Dipping the potatoes in this solution an hour and a half will kill the scab on the tubers.

This dip does not lose strength as the formaldehyde dip does; and may, therefore, be used almost indefinitely. The barrels, or whatever the solution is used in, should be kept securely covered, to prevent the evaporation of the water from the solution, which would make it stronger, and to prevent animals from drinking it.

#### DEADLY POISON

Corrosive sublimate is one of the most deadly poisons known. It must be kept out of the reach of children,

and its use must be most carefully guarded, to prevent animals from drinking of the poisonous solution or eating the treated potatoes. On account of the danger associated with the use of this remedy, the formaldehyde dip is generally far more desirable.

Ordinary 55-gallon barrels are convenient for dipping. Any number may be provided, according to the needs. One barrel should suffice for handling from 12 to 20 bushels a day. It is usually most convenient to put the potatoes in sacks for dipping in the barrel containing the solution. Potatoes must be cut and planted soon after dipping. If not, they should be spread out to dry.

### Tile Drains—Early Seeding

John Fitzer, With Commission of Conservation, Ottawa, Ont.

When I visited Essex County recently the farmers were plowing their tile-drained lands. Other farmers in the same neighborhood who have not yet caught the tile drainage fever were sitting around wondering when the water would dry up and allow them to get in their crops.

The beauty of it is that the farmer who has drained land is conserving that moisture for the use of his crops later on when the other farmers were waiting to dry out and be carried away into the atmosphere. We all know that moisture conservation is one of the principal factors in successful crop production. Waiting for soil moisture to be carried away by the sun is certainly poor management.

If the farmers of the more easterly sections have been able to visit Essex early this spring and had seen the advantages of tile draining in earlier seeding, there would soon be tile yards over every county in Eastern Ontario.

### Breeding Crippled Mares

All crippled and "heavy" mares should be bred in the fall of the year, soon after the hot weather has passed. This will bring the foaling time of the crippled mare in the fall of the year, and not cause her to carry a heavy fetus through the winter and make it difficult for her to get around. It is usually all a crippled animal can do to skirmish for feed, without having an extra heavy body to interfere with her locomotion. Many horses are loose together during the fall and winter, and if the crippled mare is not active, she is very liable to be kicked or hurt to the extent that abortion would occur. On the other hand, if a mare delivers a colt in the fall of the year, the owner will be able to give the good care of her because it will be profitable for him to do it.

#### A CAUSE OF ABORTION

Occasionally a "heavy" mare will fertilize during the spring season and carry the fetus to maturity, but many of them are fatigued during the hot weather to the extent that an abortion is the result. After one of these mares has lost a colt or two it is very difficult to get them to carry a colt to maturity, but if they are bred in the fall, and shown to be infallible following spring, the owner usually feels that it will be better to turn the mare out to pasture where, if she is not interfered with, she will probably carry the colt to maturity.

There are a lot of crippled and "heavy" mares bred in spring and two to three times that get absolutely no results whatever. These same mares can be put off and bred in the fall with good results. Some of them will need treatment if they should be treated with the iodine treatment and turned out to grass, and bred in the fall.—American Breeder.

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