

GROWING POTATOES—PREVENTING DISEASE.

(Continued from last month.)

The scab is a fungus growth on the skin of the potato making it unsightly for market and causing considerable waste in cleaning for the table.

To kill the scab we first wash the seed so that the fungi side reaches every part of the skin.

Make the solution with one ounce of corrosive sublimate dissolved in one gallon of hot water, added to seven gallons of water, or in this proportion for any quantity required. We use the sheep dipping tank, but two barrels, or an oil barrel sawn in two is handy.

Leave the potatoes in the solution ninety minutes, draw off the solution in the other barrel or any wooden vessel, or dip out the potatoes when they are ready to cut and plant and will not produce a scabby crop except they are handled in crates or bags that have had scabby potatoes in them, or planted on land that has produced a crop of scabby potatoes.

There has been a popular opinion that fresh stable manure caused the scab. We staked out a plot and applied fresh manure directly on the seed after dropped, but the crop from all parts of the field was smooth and clean including this plot.

This takes a little additional time and expense, but we have found it to pay us well from ready sales at top prices.

Blight.—Early in August, 1895, we noticed the under and older leaves on our potatoes showing brown patches on them which was then spreading rapidly.

Although too late to get best results we undertook to spray with Bordeaux mixture the middle and end of August, with only crude implements at our disposal, with the result of an increased

yield of 36 bushels to the acre from the sprayed over the unsprayed parts of the field.

1896 found us prepared to do first-class spraying at short notice, and again the blight commenced the last days of July, and we made three sprayings with Bordeaux the first, middle and end of August. At the time of the last spraying we found the unsprayed rows completely dead with the blight, and the sprayed rows were beautifully green yet and remained so up to the time of frost, late in September, and yielded $87\frac{1}{2}$ bushels to the acre more than the unsprayed.

The same variety (Empire State) was used for the test, all planted the same day under the same conditions, and care as far as possible except the spraying.

At the Cornell University Agricultural Experimental Station in 1897, the potato plots cultivated on the level yielded 325 bushels per acre against 288 bushels from plots hilled up, showing an increased yield in favor of the level cultivation of 37 bushels per acre with Carman No. 3.

At the same station the R. N. T. No. 2, unsprayed with five cultivations yielded 234 bushels.

Sprayed four times with five cultivations yielded 305 bushels.

Sprayed four times with seven cultivations yielded 347 bushels.

Showing an increased yield of 71 bushels per acre from spraying for blight, and an increased yield of 113 bushels per acre as the result of spraying and two extra cultivations.

Varieties.—The best varieties ever introduced have lost in vitality in a few years, which makes it necessary to orig-