

THE STORING OF TUBERS FOR SEED.

Potato tubers intended for seed should be stored in a cool, dry cellar, as it is important that they should not sprout while in storage. If the cellar is warm and moist the tubers will sprout, and the conditions will be more favourable for the development of diseases than where the atmosphere is relatively dry.

CUTTING THE SETS.

The sets should not be cut until required for planting, as the longer they remain out of the ground after cutting the greater will be the loss in vitality. If, however, it is necessary to cut a few days ahead, immediately they are cut cover the sets with slaked lime. It is also important that the sets be covered with soil as soon as they are placed in the drill.

In an experiment conducted at the Experimental Station, Rosthern, Saskatchewan, Breer Standard potatoes cut and planted at once gave a yield of 379 bushels per acre, while sets planted two weeks after cutting yielded only 209 bushels per acre - showing a loss of 170 bushels per acre due to reduced vitality on account of the sets being kept for two weeks after cutting.

SOURCE OF SEED.

In many cases the source of the seed is of more importance than the variety. Seed of poor vitality from a heavy-yielding variety will not produce as large a yield as seed of good vitality from a poor-yielding variety. In districts where potato tops dry up before frost, the seed is liable to be poor in vitality, due to maturing in hot, dry weather or to the premature drying-up of the tops. Where it is impossible to grow tubers of strong vitality, it will pay to procure seed from parts of Canada where the potato tops remain green until killed by frost. In some parts of the province of Quebec and eastern Ontario it is not always possible to produce potato tubers of good vitality, taking one season with another, although in some years very good seed tubers may be grown. In these districts the yields of potatoes can, in many cases, be doubled or even trebled, by annually introducing from some other part of Canada good seed—seed of strong vitality.

Here is an example from an experiment conducted at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, in 1915. This is only one year's results, but it is backed up by years of experience along the same line.

In 1913 samples of potatoes were forwarded to the Experimental Station at Fredericton, N.B., and grown there until 1915. In the spring of 1915 tubers produced from the seed sent from Ottawa were sent back to the Central Farm and planted side by side with seed that had been grown at Ottawa and which originated from the same lot as the Fredericton seed.

The results of this test are given in the following table:—

Variety.	Plants appeared above ground.	Yield per acre.				Plants appeared above ground.	Yield per acre.			
		Marketable.		Unmarket- able.			Marketable.		Unmarket- able.	
		Bush.	Lb.	Bush.	Lb.		Bush.	Lb.	Bush.	Lb.
Boyer,	18 June	50	36	18	24	18 June	92	24	61	36
Gold Coin	24 "	32	36	17	36	17 "	156	12	110	..
Irish Cobbler ...	21 "	59	24	66	12	17 "	244	12	103	24
Green Mountain	24 "	79	12	44	..	17 "	220	..	118	48
Carman No. 1.	19 "	0	0	22	..	19 "	248	36	110	..