

5. Potato Canker.

Up to the present this disease, which is most virulent and destructive, has not been reported in Canada. It is quite possible that it may appear at any time, however, and vicecasing vigilance is necessary for prompt control.

When in doubt regarding any potato disease, forward samples immediately to the Dominion Botanist, who will be pleased to identify same and suggest remedies for their eradication. All letters and parcels under twelve ounces so addressed do not require any postage.

All spraying operations should be very thorough and must be carried out at the proper time to derive the greatest benefit. The materials used should be as pure as possible, and a good pump of sufficient carrying capacity and power is very necessary. More than one application may have to be given, but time, labor and material so expended will be more than justified by the increased returns of good tubers.

HARVESTING.

The proper time to harvest potatoes is a question that does not receive the consideration it should. Much time and labor may be economized by paying closer attention to this phase of the industry.

When the crop is not affected with Late Blight the harvesting should be done as soon as the tops die. Growth is then finished and the tubers are in good condition for storing. If allowed to remain in the ground until other crops are harvested, as is usually the case, the soil may become wet and the tubers start to decay.

A crop that is affected with rot, however, should be left as long as possible, as the majority of affected potatoes will show signs of the disease by then and may be removed and destroyed. In this way the most of the diseased tubers will be got rid of. If stored with the sound potatoes the whole crop may become infected and lost in a short time.

All harvesting should be done during dry weather. Tubers stored while wet are very liable to decay.

Potatoes should be stored in a dry, cool and well ventilated cellar. A method that has given excellent results is that of slatted bins. The bins are raised four or five inches from the floor and a space the same width is left between the bin and the wall. The slats are separated sufficiently to allow a free circulation of air throughout the tubers. With a system such as this, potatoes may be kept in good condition for a long period. Should any evidence of decay be noted, all the tubers should be gone over and the infected ones removed. This will control to a considerable extent further infection.

As a general rule, potatoes may be most advantageously marketed in the fall. An earlier return is thus realized and the possibility of loss by decay is obviated.

It is hoped every effort will be made by agriculturists to place the potato-growing industry on the extensive commercial basis it so deserves. At the various Experimental Farms and Stations in the Maritime Provinces, every effort is being made to render assistance in this regard, and the sincere co-operation of all growers is asked. Should any grower possess a new strain, which gives evidence of being superior to, or at least the equal of the standard varieties, a thorough test will be made of it by any of these stations on request. Any further request for assistance or information will be given prompt attention.