

POTATO CANKER HAS BEEN IMPORTED INTO CANADA.

Owing to the light potato crop in the Dominion in 1911, importations of potatoes became a necessity. Generally speaking, these importations were intended for table use only, but as the season advanced a considerable number of inquiries have been received from farmers respecting the use for seed of such imported potatoes.

For this reason it would seem advisable to warn potato growers against the use for seed of potatoes imported from the British Isles and other European countries.

Not only has it been found that European varieties do not yield as well as the Canadian, but the very destructive and communicable disease known as Potato Canker (*Chrysophlyctis endobiotica*, Schl1b.) has recently been discovered in a shipment of potatoes imported from England.

Bulletin 63, issued by the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, fully describes and gives illustrations of this disease, copies of which may be had free on application.

The following points will enable farmers and others interested in growing potatoes to realize the exceedingly dangerous nature of this disease, the establishment of which in this country would be nothing short of a national calamity.

1. The only way in which the disease can be introduced is through the planting of affected tubers.

2. The use of diseased tubers for seed may, in the worst cases, result in the complete destruction of the entire crop.

3. When once introduced the disease germ infests the soil for a period of eight years, which means that for at least eight years no sound potatoes can be raised on land thus infected.

4. None of the known remedies for other plant diseases will prevent the appearance of the disease.

5. The disease is spread readily through infested soil carried by wind, animals, farm implements, old bags or other means.

The common Late Blight (*Phytophthora infestans*) which is well known to every potato grower, and which may at times assume a very destructive character, is easily prevented by spraying; Potato Canker, however, is much more serious than this or any other potato disease at present known.

This destructive disease is now been discovered in potatoes imported from England.

Every care has been exercised to prevent the distribution of shipments known to be infected. They have been destroyed immediately.

None of this disease exists at present in Canadian soil. Within a few days the planting of potatoes will be general throughout the country. In view of this fact every person interested in growing potatoes on however large or small a scale is hereby strongly urged to refrain from using for seed any kind of potatoes imported from the British Isles or other European countries.

Even though such potatoes may appear to be sound in every way, and though they may be cheaper than Canadian grown, they will almost certainly—if used for seed—be the means of establishing this most dangerous disease.

And as already indicated, this disease, once established, will result in causing an incalculable injury to the profitable and important potato growing industry.