

Formalin has given better results than bluestone in treating oats and barley.

SUMMARY.

The bunt or stinking smut of wheat is a fungous disease.

It is not native but introduced.

It is spread by the minute black spores which adhere to grain.

The wheat plant is most subject to infection the first 3 days after sprouting.

A vigorous plant has more resisting power than a weak one.

Therefore all seed should be as clean and plump as can be obtained.

Conditions of soil unfavorable to healthy growth of wheat favors the smut.

Too deep or very early sowing favors smut.

Smut can be prevented by the use of bluestone or formalin.

Use 1 lb. bluestone to 6 gallons water, or 1 lb. formalin to 32 gals.

Many use too little liquid.

Wheat will absorb about three quarters of a gallon when dipped and oats will take nearly double.

Allow about a gallon per bushel to have plenty.

Carelessness of application has resulted in much loss.

Grain loses vitality after treatment by delay in sowing.

Loose smut of wheat destroys the whole head but is not common in the West.

Smut in oats and barley are distinct species and do not affect wheat.

Formalin is best for use on oats.

Analysis of bluestone does not show there was much of a poor quality in use here but formalin was not found to be of uniformly good quality.

Samples of bluestone or formalin may be sent to the Analyst, Department of Agriculture, Regina, to be tested.

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