

Reply to "Comments on a Fertilizer Experiment"

R. Austin, B.S.A., Dept. of Agriculture, Willand, Ont.

WITH the information furnished in the Wm. Davies fertilizer advertisement which appeared in Farm and Dairy, issue of March 25th, it is not surprising that Mr. J. A. Hunter felt prompted to write a protest against such, or to express surprise that anyone who had studied fertilizers at the O.A.C. should let his name go as sponsor to such sweeping statements. I wish to make it clear to readers of Farm and Dairy, however, that my name was used in connection with this advertisement entirely without my consent.

I altogether agree with Mr. Hunter that the advertisement is quite misleading since the conditions under which these results were obtained are not taken into account. Those seeking information on fertilizers are asked to believe that the larger yield obtained by the student using factory mixed fertilizers is due to the brand of goods. Such important considerations as soil conditions, previous cropping, spraying, etc., are not even hinted at as being factors always largely responsible for differences in yields.

The following conditions under which the results were obtained by these two young men will be of interest to your readers, and must necessarily be taken into consideration in accounting for the results secured:

The experiment was with potatoes, each growing Delawares. Roy McKenzie Barron, of Fonthill, Ont., used as fertilizer 100 lbs. nitrate soda, 300 lbs. basic slag and 200 lbs. of potash. In addition to this eight loads of manure were applied. The soil was sandy loam, the surface soil being fully 10 inches deep. The previous year a crop of timothy hay had been grown on the field. The seed was not treated for scab, nor sprayed during the growing season to prevent blight. Between June 6th, planting time, and October 1st, when the potatoes were dug, he cultivated five times, and on the latter date harvested 135 bushels. Valuing the marketable potatoes at 60¢ a bushel, these would bring in \$77.40. Labor, fertilizers, seed, etc., cost him \$44.25, so that he had a margin of profit of \$33.15.

Will Cryder, of Allanburg, the other competitor, used 500 lbs. of Davies potato grower, and six loads of barnyard manure. This field was clay loam, with five inches of surface soil in good condition. This field had been down in alfalfa for several years previous to being broken for this crop. The seed was treated with formula to prevent scab and planted on June 3rd. Two sprayings of Bordeaux mixture were given to prevent blight, and three cultiva-

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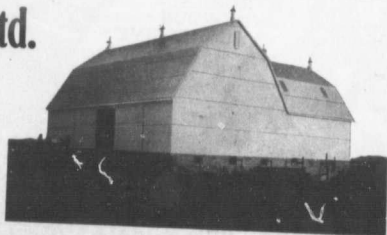
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