

The dry weather makes it much easier to deal with the potato beetle, though they are more abundant in dry than in wet seasons; the poison is not washed off by the rain, and consequently it is far more effective.

After numerous experiments on this head I have adopted the following plan. Most of my neighbors either knock off the beetles, or pick them off, or sprinkle the plants with poisoned water. The first two modes are objectionable on account of the number of times they have to be repeated. If you pick your plants clean to-day you must go over them again next week, for others will be hatched. Moreover, the repeated tramping hardens the ground, and makes the labour of raising the potatoes, either with plough, fork or hook, very much greater. The third mode involves the carrying of too much water. I always now use the London purple. It is very much cheaper than Paris green, and being lighter, there is more in a pound. Mixing it with 60 or 80 parts of ashes or fine road dust, by passing it two or three times through a sieve of wire gauze containing about ten meshes in an inch, I can carry enough in a large bucket to poison half an acre of potatoes. I fit a handle to an old pint tin and fill it with the poison; then walking along a row I sprinkle the plant by jarring the handle with a light stick. In this way I can go over an acre in a day. I have grown this year about two acres. The dust should be put on when the air is perfectly still, so that the lighter parts of the mixture which contain most purple shall fall on the leaves. Dew or no dew is of no consequence; when once dusted the leaf will retain the poison until it is washed off by rain. A little flour is said to be effectual in preventing this, but my experience has not confirmed it, and I see little or no use in adding it to the mixture. In the early spring, when the plants are just coming up, it is a good plan to poison slices of potatoes and lay them among the rows. It helps to save the very young plants when they are so small that it is difficult effectually to poison them. Later on, as soon as the young plants appear, I choose a time when the barometer and the sky indicate dry weather for at least a few days, and get the plants thoroughly dusted. This is easy if the potatoes were cut small, because there is only one head. If this is well done, and no rain follows for forty-eight hours, the whole ground will be clear of grubs, and hundreds of beetles will be also found lying about with their legs spread out—a sure sign that they