



Potatoes sprayed to prevent late blight.

Unsprayed potatoes.

In a three-year experiment conducted at the Central Experimental Farm in controlling late blight there was an average difference of 94 bushels per acre of marketable potatoes in favour of the sprayed. The importance of keeping the plants growing and the tops uninjured by insects and disease was well brought out in an experiment in Vermont where it was shown that there was an increase of 119 bushels per acre during the month of September when the tops remained green and uninjured.

The cost of spraying with Bordeaux mixture is not large compared with the great average increase in yield and value of the crop from the use of it. Some years the results may not be marked but it is the average results which should be considered. A good spraying machine is important.

FORMULAE RECOMMENDED.

Bordeaux mixture.—For Early and Late Blight and for Flea Beetles:—

Copper sulphate (bluestone)	4 to 6 pounds.
Unslaked lime	4 "
Water (1 barrel)	40 gallons.

Dissolve the copper sulphate by suspending it in a wooden or earthen vessel containing four or more gallons of water. It will dissolve more quickly in warm water than in cold. Slake the lime in another vessel. If the lime, when slaked, is lumpy or granular, it should be strained through coarse sacking or a fine sieve. Pour the copper sulphate solution into a barrel, or it may be dissolved in this in the first place; half fill the barrel with water, add the slaked lime, fill the barrel with water and stir thoroughly. It is then ready for use. It is important not to mix the lime water and the sulphate of copper solution before diluting.

A stock solution of copper sulphate and lime wash may be prepared and kept in separate covered barrels throughout the spraying season. The quantities of copper sulphate, lime and water should be carefully noted.