

Colorado Beetle Is Marked As World's Worst Destroyer

The Potato Bug Is Spreading All Over the World.

The Colorado Beetle, the worst pest in the world, after ravaging the potato industry of America, Canada and France, apparently aims at extending its depredations to Great Britain, says an English paper.

The story of how the Colorado Beetle was "let loose" over one-quarter of the globe reads like a fairy tale. Who would have guessed a century ago that the tiny wasp-like creature which lived in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, and nowhere else, could turn into one of the greatest plagues in history?

It had probably been feeding on wild egg-plants and tomatoes since the beginning of time, but when civilization pushed westward it took a fancy to cultivated potatoes, and that was the beginning of the whole tragedy.

The beetle followed the trail of the potato fields, moving eastwards, slowly at first, but each year with increasing speed. By 1864 it had crossed the Mississippi in Illinois, and ten years later it reached the Atlantic seaboard.

Next year there was intense alarm throughout Europe, and nearly all European countries stopped the importation of American potatoes. Nearly 60 years have passed since then, but in nearly all these countries, Great Britain included, the ban still holds. The loss to America has been literally billions of dollars.

In spite of every precaution the beetle soon reached Canada, and to this day not a single Canadian potato may come into this country.

Germany was the next victim. A little over 40 years ago the beetle was suddenly discovered in a potato field near Hamburg. But the Germans with their usual thoroughness took the bull by the horns. They devastated huge areas and at a cost of millions of marks the pest was exterminated.

Then one day in 1901 an English farmer discovered the little creature at Tilbury, and immediately there was something like a panic at the Ministry of Agriculture. It was stamped out and no more appearances were reported in Europe for many years.

One day, during the war, a French farmer found some on his potatoes near Bordeaux. Had he reported it at once the danger could have been averted far more easily than at Hamburg, but he feared ruin and said nothing.

In the next 12 months the beetles spread a few hundreds of yards, and still he kept silent. The year after that they spread miles, and the truth leaked out.

Today not a single potato comes to Jersey or Great Britain from France, and from end to end of that unfortunate country farms are closed and laborers are out of work, all because of a small, striped beetle. The French Ministry of Agriculture is fighting it with flame-throwers and a special preparation known as Paris green, but in spite of all they can do it has already reached the English Channel.

To say that the British Ministry of Agriculture is apprehensive is putting it too mildly. They are living in as constant a state of dread as our ancestors did when Napoleon threatened an invasion.

EXPORTERS WARNED

Canadian manufacturers and exporters have been warned by the Department of Trade and Commerce to be careful about shipping goods to Italy until the Italian importer gives assurance that he has an import permit.

EGG EXPORTS

Canada supplied 1,770,010 dozen of the 187,854,470 dozen eggs imported into Great Britain during 1934.

Stake Good Potato Plants For Seed, Growers Advised

This Will Insure Supply of Good Seed For Next Year.

By W. D. ALBRIGHT, Dominion Experimental Sub-Station, Beaverlodge, Alberta.

Potato tubers do not cross. They reproduce true to type. The only way to obtain a potato cross is through the seed balls, which sometimes form on the vines, and that method of propagation is practically never resorted to unless by someone interested in originating a new variety. Tubers are not really seed, although commonly so-called, but are a vegetative part of the plant. If, therefore, the tubers are not mixed during the operations of digging, handling, storage and planting, the variety will not become impure (unless by rare chance of a sport) no matter how closely to another kind it may be grown. Thus one may confidently select seed tubers in the expectancy that like will produce like.

There is a difference in the vigor of strains, stocks and hills. Whether this difference is wholly due to the influence of disease, or is to some extent inherent, may be left to the plant pathologists and the geneticists to decide. The practical fact is that some potato plants are more vigorous and productive than others and that in reproducing from these lie possibilities of profit. If one will, during the summer, stake a number of the best hills (being careful to avoid, not only dwarfed or unhealthy plants, but also those exhibiting the abnormally large top growth known as giant hill) and will see that any neighboring plants suspected of harboring virus diseases are promptly pulled and destroyed and if he will then follow up this effort by a further rigorous inspection of the tubers when dug he may improve his seed stock or at all events may arrest the running-out process which occurs when disease is allowed to creep in unchecked. At the Dominion Experimental Sub-Station, Beaverlodge, Alberta, selection has been carried further by the approved system of propagating individual tuber units under observation in isolated positions, but hill selection of plants and of the tubers from staked plants is very good.

Premier Dysart Lauds Relief Work For Victims of Fire

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cerns on behalf of families victimized by the forest fires of a month ago.

Especially did the Premier refer to the caravan of five truck loads of supplies furnished by the Red Cross emergency relief depot in Saint John.

"This latest relief measure indicates the alertness of these societies to the continuing need for assistance in the stricken areas," the Premier stated. "Relief from Ottawa has already been solicited but meanwhile we in New Brunswick must regard the misfortune of a part of our population as being, in a measure, the misfortune of all of us. In a word, these unfortunate families in Gloucester County will need additional relief for several months to come. It is up to us, their fellow citizens of New Brunswick, to assist in furnishing it. Only by presenting a united front can we hope for a solution of this or any other emergency which may arise to confront this province of ours."

The Government is taking steps to provide shelter for the stricken families.

CRATE FEEDING OF POULTRY

Modern methods of production have so simplified poultry raising that it has been made possible for poultry meat to become an every day article of diet. That it has not become so lies chiefly at the door of the producer. Too much of Canada's poultry is marketed in an unfinished condition—scrawny, consequently dry and tough and all too frequently very poorly dressed. Poultry to be appetizing must be well fleshed and fattened, and then properly dressed.

There are two principal methods of finishing, pen feeding and crate feeding. The former method is generally used for turkeys and waterfowl, the latter for chickens of all ages, although some feeders follow the practice of pen feeding for a couple of weeks and then "finishing off" in the crates. Batteries are commonly used in the intensive plants, but for the ordinary farm use crates are equally satisfactory and are inexpensive, as they may be readily constructed with a hammer and saw.

Suggestions On Growing Perennial Phlox From Seed

Could Be Grown Much More Than At Present.

By GORDON C. WARREN, Dominion Experimental Station, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Phlox is one of the best of the hardy perennial flowers and could be grown much more extensively than it is today. Raising plants from seed is an easy and comparatively inexpensive method of propagation. Magenta shades will likely predominate in plants produced in this way, but sufficient other shades and colors will appear to give a pleasing assortment. While most of the seedlings will be inferior in size and color to standard varieties, occasionally a plant worthy of special note will appear.

Most varieties, when not cut heavily, produce a considerable amount of seed. This seed should be allowed to ripen thoroughly before being cut. Best results will be obtained by saving the seed of only the choicest strains. The seed may be sown at any time after it is ripe. At the Dominion Experimental Station at Charlottetown, P.E.I., good success has been obtained by sowing in the fall just before the ground freezes. For this purpose, select a high, well-drained position, as only a very small percentage of seed will germinate where the ground remains wet for any length of time in the spring. Sow quite thickly in drills two inches deep and at least 18 inches apart.

After the ground is well frozen, cover the seed-bed with several inches of leaves or straw. This covering should be removed in the spring as soon as danger of severe frost is past. Shortly after the ground warms up in the spring the little seedlings will appear. At this time slugs are usually troublesome, and it is well to keep both sides of the rows dusted with freshly slaked lime. Later, it may be necessary to apply poison bran to hold cutworms in check.

After the plants are well up and danger from cutworms is past, thin the plants to at least eight inches apart in the rows.

Most of the seedlings, if given sufficient care, will flower the first year. The plants should then be gone over and only the best selected; the following spring these may be shifted to permanent positions.

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The Dangers Of Fumigation Are Commented Upon

Hydrocyanic Gas Used, But Great Care Must Be Taken.

While it is admitted that fumigation by hydrocyanic gas is a very effective method of dealing with objectionable household insects, the Entomological Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture has issued a warning in the booklet on how to combat household pests. Hydrocyanic acid gas is one of the most effective fumigants known, says the booklet, and may be employed without fear of injury to furni-

Some Comments On The Control of the Silverfish Moth

Found in Secluded Books and Clothes, Where Warmth Prevails.

By Press and Publicity Division, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ontario.

Silverfish, or fish moths, as they are sometimes called, are slender, wingless, scale-covered insects possessing a pair of long antennae or "feelers," and three long tail-like appendages at the end of the abdomen. They frequently attract attention in dwellings, libraries, bakeshops and various other buildings where they usually may be found in warm, moist, secluded situations on floors and walls and in and among papers, books and clothing. When disturbed or suddenly exposed to strong light they run rapidly into a place of concealment. Silverfish feed chiefly on starchy materials and glue, and for this reason sometimes cause serious damage to glazed papers and the bindings of books. In addition, they attack starched clothing and fabrics, and feed on dry foodstuffs containing starch. They, also have been known to remove the paste from behind wallpaper, causing the latter to peel from the walls.

Silverfish, like many other household pests, says the Dominion Entomologist, thrive best in situations left undisturbed for relatively long periods, such as among infrequently used books and papers, and in basements and attics. When their presence is discovered, therefore, the infested rooms should be subjected to a thorough housecleaning. This should be followed by lightly dusting or blowing fresh pyrethrum insect powder, or sodium fluoride, in the places where the insects are most numerous. Pyrethrum powder quickly loses its insecticidal properties, and should be renewed at intervals until the insects have all disappeared. Sodium fluoride retains its killing power indefinitely, but should be used with caution owing to its poisonous properties.

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ture, fabrics, and other household goods and equipment, but the gas is extremely poisonous to animals and human beings. It should be used only by intelligent and careful persons fully aware of its dangerous properties, and preferably equipped with gas masks. As a matter of fact, in Ontario, the fumigation of dwellings may be undertaken only by licensed operators in possession of a permit issued by the Provincial Department of Health. Similar restrictions are now in force in Montreal, and other municipalities are following suit. Owing to the exceedingly dangerous character of this gas, only buildings which have been completely vacated should be fumigated. It would be highly dangerous to fumigate partially occupied semi-detached houses or single rooms or apartments in occupied buildings. Full directions are given in booklet, but the other and less cumbersome methods of destroying the household pests which are explained in the booklet will be of more practical interest to most occupiers of homes.

SUGAR CROP LOOMS

Port of Spain, Trinidad.—In spite of a short crop, Trinidad's sugar factories produced 117,700 tons this year, as compared with last year's 105,342 tons.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tender for Public Building, Perth, N. B.," will be received until 12 o'clock noon, Tuesday, October 1, 1935, for the erection and completion of a Public Building at Perth, N. B.

Plans and specification can be seen and forms of tender obtained at the offices of the Chief Architect, Department of Public Works, Ottawa, the Resident Architect, Old Post Office Building, Saint John, N. B., the Caretaker, Post Office Building, Fredericton, N. B., and at the Post Office, Perth, N. B.

Tenders will not be considered unless made on the forms supplied by the Department and in accordance with the conditions set forth therein.

Each tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque on a chartered bank in Canada, payable to the order of the Honourable the Minister of Public Works, equal to 10 per cent. of the amount of the tender, or Bearer Bonds of the Dominion of Canada or of the Canadian National Railway Company and its constituent companies, unconditionally guaranteed as to principal and interest by the Dominion of Canada, or the aforementioned bonds and a certified cheque if required to make up an odd amount.

NOTE—The Department, through the Chief Architect's office, will supply blue prints and specification of the work on deposit of a sum of \$10.00, in the form of a certified bank cheque payable to the order of the Minister of Public Works. The deposit will be released on return of the blue prints and specification within a month from the date of reception of tenders. If not returned within that period the deposit will be forfeited.

By order,
N. DESJARDINS,
Secretary,
Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, September 16, 1935. 9-27