

POINTERS ON TREATING THE SEED POTATOES

(Experimental Farm Note)

Now that the great success of the Certified Seed potato industry in 1927 is history, the country is settling down to consider seriously the problem of producing a crop in 1928 which will maintain the high standard for which Certified Seed is famous. Those whose hopes centre on the stability of this industry, especially the growers upon whom the burden of responsibility rests, are eager to correct any practices known to be unprofitable in the past. FAILURE OF OUR SEED TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF AN EXCEEDINGLY CRITICAL MARKET WILL RUIN THE INDUSTRY. Seed treatment is one of the requirements which must be met. Guarantee that seeds have been treated is one of the best assurances of a ready market for the crop. Certain potato diseases, while relatively insignificant to us, thrive in other districts, and do much to remove the popularity enjoyed by our seed.

There exists a mistaken idea that the bi-chloride method of treating seed potatoes fails to achieve its purpose. Investigations carried on for a period of three years at the Field Laboratory of Plant Pathology, Charlottetown, do not support this statement. However the findings show how entirely useless the treatment is when PRESCRIBED INSTRUCTIONS ARE NOT FOLLOWED CAREFULLY. Other chemicals have been tested, and have been found to compare favorably with bi-chloride, but on account of tariff they are costly.

The bi-chloride treatment consists in soaking seed potatoes for 1½ hours in a solution composed of 4 ounces of bi-chloride of mercury in 25 gallons of water. After each lot of four bushels has been soaked, ½ ounce of bi-chloride is dissolved in 1 quart of hot

water, and added to the original solution and water added to replace any loss. This is necessary to maintain the strength of the solution. In the past it has been customary to treat as many as eight lots, adding an extra ½ ounce of bi-chloride after each soak. It has been demonstrated that the solution has no killing effect on the resting form of Rhizoctonia (the Sclerotia) on the seed tuber if used eight times, and, even where the necessary precautions have been observed, it is advisable to discard the solution when three lots of potatoes have been treated. Certain precautions will prevent deterioration and render seed treatment more valuable. These are as follows:—

(1) Dissolve the bi-chloride in not less than one gallon of boiling hot water.

(2) Wash the potatoes before treatment to remove dirt. (This is very important.)

(3) Have two clean casks with drain plugs at the bottom. When one soak is complete drain the solution into the second cask and clean the sediment out of the first. Use these casks alternately throughout treatment.

(4) Dissolve all bi-chloride in boiling hot water.

(5) When 12 to 16 bushels of potatoes have been treated, make up a new solution.

(6) Do not treat in bags.

(7) If possible use rain water, or water known to be soft.

(8) After treating put seed in a clean place to dry quickly.

(9) If weather does not permit rapid drying, wash the tubers off with water immediately after treatment.

Caution

Bi-chloride of mercury will corrode metals. Use wooden, glass, or earthenware vessels.

Treated potatoes are poisonous and must not be used for the table or to be fed to stock.

Treat your seed potatoes and further protect the industry which has been built on quality produce.

Communications addressed to the Division of Botany, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, will be given prompt and careful consideration.

Matrimonial Outlook Bright

"In the spring a young man's fancies lightly turn to thoughts of love", says the poet. Dame rumor has it that the matrimonial harvest during the month of June is to be quite an extensive one. Two young ladies living in the West End are among those to enter the lists. One will be lead to the altar by a known school teacher, while the other will wed a government official. A well known young man connected with a large dry goods house plans to embark on the matrimonial sea later in the summer.



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LEAD THE MODE.

Who could wonder any longer whether prints are to be smart for summer? Patou, Chanel, Drecoll, Berthe and Louisboulanger are among the prominent French couturiers who sponsored prints strongly in their spring openings. Printed chiffons and printed silk crepes fashioned many of the smartest formal and afternoon dresses presented at this time.

MY NEIGHBOR SAYS

Patches such as are used on automobile inner tubes will mend holes in a rubber hot water bag.

When putting eggs down in lime-water be careful not to crack the shells. Keep eggs in water glass in a dry, clean cellar.

All croquets should be chilled before shaping. Roll into balls containing one tablespoonful each of the mixture the croquets are to be made of, then shape into cones or cylinders.

Salt should not be added to the water in which delicate green vegetables are cooked until they are almost done. To preserve the color, greens should be cooked in an uncovered pan.

MAPLE MILK SHAKE

1-4 cup maple syrup
1-4 cup cracked ice
1-1-2 cups milk
2 tablespoons heavy cream
Shake well all ingredients in a shaker, or canning jar fitted with rubber and cover. Strain; serve ice cold.



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Of Interest to the Women

MAPLE BUTTER SCOTCH

1-2 cup maple syrup
1-3 cup corn syrup
1-4 cup heavy cream
1 tablespoon butter
Pinch of salt

Mix maple syrup, cream and corn syrup and cook to 260 degrees F. Pour into well buttered shallow pan about 6 by 6 inches. Crease into squares as soon as possible.

Doris—Rose tries to be as frisky as a colt, doesn't she?

May—Well, she is a colt, forty-five.

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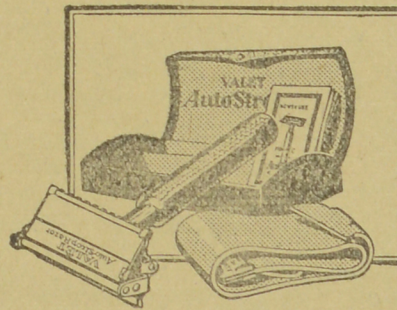
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