

OUR COMIC SECTION

Our Pet Peeve



FINNEY OF THE FORCE

Those Poor Freshmen!



THE FEATHERHEADS

Proving Figures Aren't Fool-proof



Disinfection Is Best for Scab

Kills Organisms on Tuber and Prevents Introduction Into Soil.

The importance of seed disinfection in the growing of a clean crop of potatoes is much greater than the average grower realizes. Potato specialists at the college of agriculture in New Brunswick point out that in tests conducted in 1920 disinfected seed showed an increase of 33.9 bushels per acre over untreated seed. In addition to the increase in yield there was a considerable reduction in the number of scabby potatoes.

Kills Organisms.
Not only will disinfection kill organisms on the tuber, but it prevents their introduction into the soil as well. This is especially true of scab organisms. Unquestionably, if seed treatment had been more generally adopted in the past, more growers would not now be growing scabby potatoes.

There are two chemicals commonly recommended for seed treatment, formaldehyde and corrosive sublimate. Formaldehyde does not give as efficient control of scab, so the use of corrosive sublimate is advised. This material is a poison and must be kept away from animals; furthermore, it corrodes metal and must be made up and used in wooden containers.

Mix Corrosive Sublimate.
Mix corrosive sublimate at the rate of 4 ounces to 30 gallons of water. The potatoes should be soaked in this solution for at least one-half hour, but if heavily infected with scab or rhizoctonia, continue the treatment one hour. As soon as potatoes are treated they should be removed from the solution and dried. Corrosive sublimate is removed from the solution by the potatoes, so measures must be adopted to keep it up to original strength. This may be done by adding one-half ounce of dissolved corrosive sublimate after treating every four bushels. Seed can be treated for from four to five cents a bushel.

Swine Flu Exceedingly

Expensive to Breeders

Since the introduction of preventive measures for hog cholera, greater loss is sustained by hog producers from flu than from cholera. Flu undoubtedly causes greater financial loss to the producer of hogs than any other single disease. While many hogs actually die from flu the main damage occasioned by this disease is the result of loss in condition of the herd. When a herd is infected with the flu, even though recovery is secured without loss from death, there is a tremendous waste of feed, for the porkers not only fail to gain in weight while affected with the disease, but generally they also lose weight. When brood sows become affected with the flu, the problem is still more serious because it very often causes abortion and if not, many of the pigs will be born dead, so that the average number of pigs raised per sow, even though no sows are lost, may be reduced by 100 per cent, which makes the pigs very expensive. The thing to do is to institute preventive measures against this disease by supplying good, well ventilated sleeping quarters, kept well bedded.

Take Vigorous Measures Against Pest of Rodents

With rats and mice in evidence in large numbers, farmers will do well to begin vigorous control measures against these filthy, destructive pests. Powdered barium carbonate, mixed with various types of food on a basis of one part of the poison to four parts of the selected food, has proved very effective.

In the control of large rats, which are especially destructive to young poultry, a rabbit carcass with the poison worked into knife cuts, has given unusually good results. The poison should be worked into the cuts in the proportion of one part to four of the flesh, and the carcass placed where rats will have ready access, but poultry and other domestic animals will not be endangered. Securing the carcass firmly with wire will prevent large rats from dragging it away.

Short Farm Notes

Scrub seed should not be allowed to reproduce themselves.

Look up last year's garden plan and study it for improvements.

Plan your plantings so all your work won't come at the same time.

Sweet clover seed should not be sown too late in the spring or it may not give a good stand.

Look over the lists of new garden tools. They turn out new and more efficient tools every year.

Time spent selecting and testing seed corn will pay the farmer many dollars per hour for his labor.

Early potatoes may be secured by early planting of early varieties in deep, rich, warm soil, followed by thorough cultivation or mulching with straw.

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Quite Naturally He

Saw the Bright Side

There came into my office the other day," said a real-estate man, "a fellow whom I used to know as a boy. We used to play shinny, one o' cat, and all the games that boys play, and we always got along with about the usual number of scraps. But of late years I hadn't seen him often and had just about lost track of him. Well, we got to talking over old times, mentioning this fellow and that, and commenting on his success or failure.

"What's become of the Jones boys?" I asked.

"You mean the Bill Jones boys?" he asked in reply.

"Yes, Jim and Charlie."

"They're both dead."

"Is that so? I said, for I hadn't heard of it. 'Too bad, isn't it?'"

"Why?" he asked.

"Oh, well, you know how little money they used to have, and see now what that property they owned is worth. Sure, it's too bad."

"Oh, I don't know," he said, looking rather queer and half smiling. "I married the widow of Jim."

—George F. Heidt, in the Youth's Companion.

Where Life Is Longest

Which is the healthiest country in the world? Judged by "Expectations of Life," New Zealand would seem to occupy pride of place. There the male expectation of life is 62½ years, and the female 65 years. According to Prof. Irving Fisher, of Yale university, increases in length of life are being attained at an amazing rate. He believes the average length of life will be: In 1830, 61 years; in 1940, 65 years; in 1950, 69 years; in 1960, 72 years. In America the expectation of life is at present 58 years. In England and Wales the figures are: Males, 56.58 years; females, 60.47 years, being an average of 58.5 years.

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One hardly knows what trouble is unless it is the kind that makes him lose his appetite.