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NOW IS TIME TO PREPARE FOR CAMPAIGN AGAINST POTATO PESTS

Diseases May Be Introduced on Seed and Care Should Be Exercised in Selection—Treatment Outlined.

By M. B. McKAY
Assistant Plant Pathologist
O. A. C.

Particularly at this time of year it is very appropriate to remind all potato growers of the diseases that may be introduced on the seed, and to outline the methods of treatment that have proven most effective in their control. With this end in view the following suggestions are offered:

The diseases which are most apt to be introduced with the seed are late blight, common scab, Rhizoctonia (Black Scurf), and wilt.

Late Blight: The fungus producing late blight on the potato vines grows within the potato tubers causing a rotting principally in storage. Infection by this fungus may be distinguished by darkened slightly sunken patches on the surface of the tubers varying in size from a quarter of an inch in diameter to include the whole potato depending on the severity of infection and the storage conditions. On cutting into the tubers, the tissue underneath the sunken areas will be found darkened. Such infected tubers when planted may produce weak diseased plants which may serve as centers for the spread of the disease to the surrounding plants. Because the fungus grows deep within the potato tissues, no method of seed treatment is effective in killing the fungus. Consequently the only way to avoid bringing in this disease is to plant only potatoes that are free from this fungus. However all seed potatoes should be treated, preferably by the method outlined under common scab, to kill any organisms that may be on the surface of the tubers.

Common Scab: It has been demonstrated that seed treatment with Mercuric chloride (corrosive sublimate) using one part to one thousand parts of water is effective in controlling common scab. In making this up for use the amount to be used should be carefully weighed out and dissolved in a small quantity of hot water in a clean wooden or porcelain container, but never in metal containers as the solution reacts with the metal and rapidly deteriorates. After dissolving it may be diluted to the required amount in similar containers and is ready for use. The potatoes should remain in this solution from 1 1/2 to 2 hours. This solution should not be used more than three times as dirt and trash carried into it cause it to lose its fungicidal power. A convenient way to make up this solution is to have the druggist or other person from whom the mercuric chloride is purchased, weigh it out in small amounts to be dissolved in a given amount of water for the required dilution. Four ounces of mercuric chloride in thirty gallons of water gives the required strength and may be a convenient amount of solution to use. It should be borne in mind that this substance is very poisonous, so should be kept away from small children or stock.

Care should be taken not to re-infect the potatoes by placing them back in the same bags or storage place unless they, too, are disinfected. All potatoes whether they show evidences of scab or not, should be treated before planting as they may have been selected from badly diseased lots and are apt to contain spores which might infect the new crop if left untreated.

Rhizoctonia (Black Scurf): The seed treatment recommended above for the control of common scab also kills any portions of Rhizoctonia that may be attached to the tubers, and should be used as a precautionary measure on all potatoes used for seed.

Wilt: At present the best known method of control for this disease is to plant disease free seed on rotated land. If the seed potatoes are once infected, no method of seed treatment is effective in killing the fungi as they grow inside of the potato tubers. Detailed inspection of seed stock by cutting across the stem end of the potatoes to determine whether or not sign of strand discoloration extending down into the potatoes occurs is highly desirable. If very many tubers show such discoloration the whole lot should be discarded as seed to avoid introducing this disease into the fields. It is highly important that the soil be kept as free as possible from destructive parasites.

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PREPAREDNESS CONVENTION OF NORTHWEST BUSINESS MEN

Delegates from Seven Northwestern States Will Assemble in Spokane March 27-28, to Discuss Adequate Preparedness for Pacific Northwest from Military and Naval Standpoints.

Astoria, March 14.—Under the joint auspices of the Spokane and Kallispell, Montana, Chambers of Commerce and the Naval Base committee of Astoria, a convention of business men of the States of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, North and South Dakota and western Wyoming will be held in Spokane on Monday and Tuesday, March 27-28, 1916. Commercial bodies, mayors, and county commissioners of the States participating have been invited to name delegates. The governors and other State officials and prominent business men will be invited to take part in the program.

The vital theme of the convention will be the adequate preparedness of the Pacific Northwest from a naval and military standpoint, but the discussions will be grouped under several allied headings as indicated by the following topics scheduled for consideration:

1. The necessity of adequate protection for the North Pacific states.
 2. The plans for Military Preparedness.
 3. Preparedness of Transportation. I. The Railways. II. The Permanent Highways.
 4. The present status of Military Preparedness before Congress.
 5. The Chamberlain bill for the Australian system.
 6. Military Training in the Schools and Colleges.
 7. The effort of the Preparedness Program on the Militia Organization of the North Pacific states.
 8. What the Preparedness Program means to the existing Posts and Army organizations in the Northwest.
 9. The Program for Naval Preparedness.
 10. The present status of the Naval Preparedness now before Congress.
 11. What the carrying through of the Naval Program means to the Northwest.
 12. Industrial Preparedness and its relation to the Army and Navy.
- Formal addresses will be delivered by well known citizens and recognized naval and military experts. Undoubtedly illuminating information will be provided by these addresses which will enable the convention if desired to formulate proper memorials to the Congress of the United States bearing upon some of the topics to be discussed.
- It is the hope of the promoters of this convention to get the entire Pacific Northwest united for real preparedness without any consideration of "pork." The convention will talk business pure and simple in the deepest spirit of patriotism and cooperation for the best interests of all concerned.
- These invitations go forward to the governors and all commercial organizations, mayors of cities and boards of county commissioners of the States of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and North and South Dakota.

CHILD WELFARE EXHIBIT IT GOES ON TOUR APR. 15

Towns Interested May Have It Free Upon Request; Dozen Panels Carry Pictures and Explanatory Matter.

University of Oregon, Eugene, March 13.—From a picture of a little girl with a doll in her arms, and with her hair unbraided so that it crinkles down her shoulders, a slide has just been prepared in the University extension division. The child is seven years old, but she is just beginning to walk. She would not be walking even now were it not for the Thursday Charity club of Eugene and the physical training department for women at the University.

This slide and a number like it will form one of 10 or 12 panels of a child welfare exhibit that is to be started over the state about April 15 by the Oregon Child Welfare commission. The exhibit is to be on tour eight months. It is to go to towns that want it, and requests should be made to Mrs. Robert H. Tate, 1819 East Morrison street, Portland.

Women's clubs or other organizations that wish to help the child welfare movement may have the exhibit free. The panels will be in three hinged sections, each 2 1/2 by 5 feet. Pictures will be 12 by 14 and will illustrate some child welfare problem.

No lecturer will travel with the exhibit but one may occasionally be had from the University extension division, in which case the pictures will be shown with a stereopticon. Otherwise the panels should merely be placed where the greatest number of townfolk may inspect them. Fifty towns are expected to ask for the pictures.

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