

Experimental Farm Notes and Bulletins

KNOW WHAT YOU SOW

The seed problem is one of the most important matters which confronts the farmer although many fail to realize this fact. Too much thought cannot be devoted to this question, for failure to select properly may easily result in an unprofitable crop rather than a profitable one. The farmer should know what he sows.

In the selection of varieties it is most important that they be adapted to the section in which they are to be grown. For the main crop, it is not safe to take chances with little known varieties even though they be highly advertised or reported. If it is desired to change the variety or to try out a different crop, any information which is needed regarding them may usually be obtained from some reliable source at no great distance away.

Among the factors which must be taken into consideration is yielding ability. Other things being equal, a variety of strain which will give a five to ten per cent greater yield is preferable to a lower yielding sort. The matter of purity is important, for not only does this usually cause more uniform performance in the field, but results in a product which better fills the market needs. The germinating capacity must be known, for seeds which have a low or weak germination are practically worthless. Further, the seed should be large, plump, well developed and uniform, so that it will germinate quickly and evenly, and produce strong vigorous plants. It should also be free from disease as some of the most serious plant diseases are carried through the seed.

In addition to these, the matter of weeds must be emphasized. Weeds are becoming a serious menace and at all times involve much expense in their control, adding much to the cost of producing crops. Too much attention cannot be given to securing seed as free from weeds as possible and time and effort spent toward this end are always a good investment.

SEED GRAINS FOR 1929

Procrastination is a great thief of time and time is money. Therefore, one is well advised to utilize the spare time during the stormy days of the winter months in making a careful study of the seed requirements for the following spring's seeding operations. Too often seeding time finds many farmers without their seed or a knowledge of where it may be obtained, which, unfortunately, results in their sowing whatever seed is available, regardless of whether the variety is suitable, either for present needs or of the district in which it is grown. Moreover, the seed used is very often uncleaned and full of noxious weed seeds and poor kernels which can only result in poor yields and additional cost to future years' operations in cleaning up these noxious weeds, and say nothing of the neighbor who has made an honest effort to keep a clean farm.

There is no use debating the question. Profitable returns from grain crops can only be realized after the best efforts and thought have been given to the selection of the seed used and the preparation of the soil on which it is sown. Therefore, why use poor seed?

Many varieties and strains of grain have been tested out at our agricultural colleges and experimental farms and stations, sufficient at least to give one a fair idea of those varieties best suited to the average conditions in any one province. Consequently, the first move should be to obtain, either from bulletins or by writing the nearest college or experimental farm, information as to varieties and as to where they may be procured. If the varieties named are those already grown, make sure that the quantity will be sufficient when properly cleaned, to sow the area required for 1929.

In oats, there are two varieties of about equal value for average conditions, namely, Victory and Banner. The average yield for six years at the Dominion Experimental Farm at Napawan for these two varieties is 72.93 and 70.95 bushels per acre respectively. Alaska oats are also recommended in districts where a very short season is experienced, as it will ripen in about ninety days and has given a fair average yield of 62.13 bushels over a period of four years.

In barley, (two-rowed), Charlotte-town No. 80 and Duckbill have proven to be our best yielders, yielding an average of 48.76 and 38.39 respectively over a six-year period. In six-rowed varieties, O. A. C. No. 21 has an average yield of 43.31 and is a variety worth growing.

In wheat, White Russian and Early Red Rife have given the best yields for the beardless varieties, giving an average yield for six years of 31 and 31.5 bushels respectively. Huron, a bearded variety, has an average yield of 30.6 bushels over the same period and is a variety well suited to average conditions in the Maritime Provinces. It stands up well and so far has been fairly free from disease.

For buckwheat, Tartarian and Silver Hull are the two varieties which so far appear equally suitable for Eastern conditions. The average yield for the past four years was 46.5 and 42.3 bushels respectively.

For field peas, Mackay and Golden Vine are two varieties that should give satisfactory yields.

For beans, the Early Yellow Eye will be found, under average conditions, most suitable; while not quite as heavy a producer as some of the other varieties, it has a greater demand on the market.

For turnip seed, the following varieties are those recommended for Eastern conditions: Bangham Club Root, Resistant, Ditzmar's, Corning, Hall's Westbury and Best of All.

Increased returns to the producer must come very largely through their efforts in lowering the unit cost of production, and one of the most important factors in doing this is the use of good clean seed of those varieties best suited to the district or province in which one is operating. The Seed Board is doing all it can to aid farmers in this work, by interesting various communities in putting in up-to-date cleaning machines and it is the interest of all farmers living within a reasonable distance of these machines to make the proper use of them. Just try the experiment one year; that is, have your grain properly cleaned before sowing. We are sure that your results will be not only convincing, but profitable.

COST OF REARING HEIFERS TO TIME OF FRESHING

A consideration of the actual cost of rearing heifers to time of freshening emphasizes the importance of using only the best, pure-bred and also the highest testing and highest producing dams.

At the Dominion Experimental Station, Kapuskasing, Ontario, a record is kept of the feed consumed by all of the young stock from date of birth until the males are sold for breeding and the females freshened. From these data, it is found that the average feed cost of rearing Ayrshire heifers to time of freshening (2 years 7.4 months) is \$127.50. In the calculation of this cost the whole-milk was charged at \$2 per 100 pounds and the skimmed milk at 50 cents per 100 pounds and the other feeds used at average market values. No charge has been made for labor or housing and consequently, when these items are added it may be noted that there is an outlay of at least \$150.00 before the heifer commences to give any returns. Providing she is well bred and develops into a good producer, she will easily repay this outlay, while on the other hand if she is a low producer and a short term milker she can never become a paying proposition.

POTATO SEED TREATMENT QUESTIONS ANSWERED

In preparing for the spring activities in connection with treatment of seed potatoes, it is well to review some of the questions which were unanswered in the rush of affairs last year, leaving doubt and confusion as to the method used and its effectiveness. Authorities agree that seed treatment is beneficial and while this operation is occasionally overlooked, the satisfactory experience of a few in so doing must not be accepted as a guide to the majority. IT IS ADVISABLE, THEREFORE, TO TREAT YOUR SEED POTATOES.

In treating seed potatoes we have any one of three chemicals from which to select for this purpose, namely, formalin, organic mercury compounds, and corrosive sublimate. The first named gives excellent satisfaction, commercial formalin to 1 1/2% gallons of water. The tubers are dipped in this solution for two minutes when the temperature is held at 118-124 degrees F. This is a convenient method where large quantities of potatoes are to be treated. An accurate dairy thermometer is essential. It is often convenient to haul the potatoes to a nearby creamery where steam is available to keep the temperature even.

Organic mercury compounds have much to recommend them as seed potato disinfectants. They are being improved each year and it is expected that their use will render seed treatment less troublesome. The corrosive sublimate method consists in soaking the seed potatoes 1 1/2 hours in a solution composed of 4 ounces of corrosive sublimate in 25 gallons of water. One-half an ounce of the chemical is added after each treatment of 1 1/2 hours. Investigations extending over a period of four years at the Dominion Laboratory of Plant Pathology, Charlottetown, have demonstrated that the solution is ineffective after the third soak. The extra half ounce added after this period is wasted and would be profitably used in preparing a new solution. Furthermore, it has been learned that the strength of the solution weakens rapidly in the presence of broken tubers and potato juice. Therefore, this source of trouble is to be avoided if success is expected. General precautions include the following: (1) Disinfect the tubers in a clean place, not less than one gallon of very hot water. (2) Treat only tubers free from dirt. (3) Throw away water on the pile will help you to avoid this difficulty. (4) Use two clean casks alternately. (5) Plug two of long sticks make it easy to drain the casks after each treatment. (6) Prepare new solutions after three treatments. (7) Do not treat in bags. (8) Use soft water if possible. (9) Put water weakens the solution. (10) Treated seed in a clean place to dry quickly. Do not leave them in the basement. (11) If the weather does not permit rapid drying throw several pails of water on the treated tubers.

The jurymen had retired to consider their verdict. When they reentered the court the judge asked the foreman if they had arrived at a unanimous decision. "No, your honor," he replied, "we have not. I never met eleven such obstinate men in my life."

He: "Dearest, will you marry me?" She: "John, I can't marry you, but I shall always respect your good taste."

**Swinton Park**  
(Our Own Correspondent)  
The roads here are mostly bare and drying fast. They will soon be fit for motoring.  
Syrup making and wood cutting are the orders of the day here at present. Mr. D. Haw is busy every day sawing wood with his tractor.  
Again on Monday evening last the people of this community gathered at the home of Mr. J. Plesier and presented him with a large sum of money. The evening was spent in games and dancing.  
Mr. J. H. Richardson and W. Lane spent the week-end at their homes here. They are finishing cutting the timber at Berkeley.  
Miss Vickie left on Monday for Mount Forest, where she has secured a position.  
Mr. Robert Knox visited last week with his brother Will in Owen Sound.

**Calderwood**  
(Our Own Correspondent)  
The pussy willows can be seen budding out. The snow is fast disappearing, but the roads are very muddy.  
Miss Mary Dillon spent the week-end with her friend, Miss Welsh, at Glen Eden.  
This vicinity was deeply shocked on Saturday afternoon when it became known that Mr. Duncan McKinnon had passed suddenly from heart failure. The late Mr. McKinnon was well known and highly esteemed by all who knew him.  
Mrs. Christina Leibold is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Greig, at the play at Glen Eden last Tuesday evening seemed to be well pleased with the play and praised it very highly.  
Mrs. Joseph Leibold and baby spent the week-end in Ayrton.  
Mr. Arthur Smith, Holstein, spent last Thursday at his home here attending the fair in Mount Forest on Wednesday. Several had horses out, but were unable to sell them.  
On Thursday the school closes for the Easter holidays.  
Mrs. Louis Leibold and son Ross, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oehm on Wednesday.

**Crawford**  
(Our Own Correspondent)  
One of the most successful plays ever put on by amateurs in this part of the locality was staged by the Crawford Y. P. S. last Friday evening. Seldom have the citizens of a rural community an opportunity to listen to a good play put on in the country by country folk. Owing to bad roads and a heavy rainfall the crowd was not so large, but apart from all this, the seats were all taken and judging by the comments made by the audience it was well worth enduring a little discomfort to hear such a splendid evening's entertainment. With surprising ease of manner this three act play was given in full without a hitch and the tense interest of the audience was sustained from the start to finish.  
A simple, decorative stage was used in harmony with the period of the play and the costumes, too, represented the style worn twenty-five years ago.  
"An Old Fashioned Mother" is in every way a satisfying production, teaching as it does good morals and illustrating how a good old Christian mother is the means of rescuing her wayward son from the depths of sin and despair. Mrs. R. Hastie as Aunt Deborah played the role of the mother. Although a difficult and heavy part she rose to every occasion with a gracious dignity that fitted her role. Her naturalness throughout was gratifying. Nor was the element of humor lacking, the whole combining to make up a good clean program. Jerry Goslings' (All Bailey) "Jest what man says" and Lowly Lovin' Custard's (Mrs. Wm. Campbell) comical love making occasioned peals of laughter. The remaining members of the cast did equally as well and were well adapted to their particular roles and a fuller account of them will be given later with the story of the play. The other characters were: Gloriana, an old friend of Aunt Deb's family, Alma Fortune; Isabel Simpscott, Charlie's fiancée, Irene Sub-ject; John, Aunt Deb's youngest boy, the prodigal son, Ernie Brigham; Charlie, her eldest son, Kilne McCaslin; Enoch Rome, the tramp and his later the wealthy miner of Oklahoma, Wilbert Anderson; Jonas Quakenbush, William Campbell; Sukey, Evelyn Hastie; the sheriff, Herman Bierworth; Wilder Bill Pindle, Esther Petty, who led the choir during the three selections and is a village gossip.  
Between the first and second act Miss Elsie Boyce sang, "That Old Fashioned Mother of Mine" and between the second and third Miss Lily Reid recited the poem "Somebody's Mother". Suitable music on the victrola was also given.  
So favorable was the impression of the entire program that the cast has been requested to produce it again and will do so as soon as the roads are in fit condition for cars. The date will be announced later. Watch for the announcement of the date and place.  
At the close of the program Mr. H. Bierworth, director of the play was called forward and an address was read by Mrs. R. Hastie and the presentation of cuff links was made by Mr. Wm. Campbell, President of the Society. The address is as follows:  
Dear Mr. Bierworth:  
We as the cast of the play "An Old Fashioned Mother" and the other members of the Crawford Y. P. S. wish to express to you our sincere thanks for the help you have given and the effort and time you have put on this play to make it a success. We know that often we tried your patience and were not as faithful in fulfilling our duties as you, but we trust you will pardon us.  
We ask you to accept these cuff links as a token of our appreciation of your good work not only as director of this play but as a willing and faithful worker in our society.  
May God grant that some one here tonight has learned a lesson from the good morals taught in this play and if this is so, you as well as those who helped to make it a success will feel that our efforts have not been in vain.  
May God bless you and keep you always, Mr. Bierworth, is the sincere wish of all the members of the Crawford Y. P. S.  
Signed on behalf of the members,  
Wm. Campbell, President.

**A Scot's Complaint**  
A Scottish landowner was complaining of the weather to a tenant. "Ye're richt," said the tenant, "ye're richt. Only three fine days this month; an' twa o' them snappit up by the Saw-bell."

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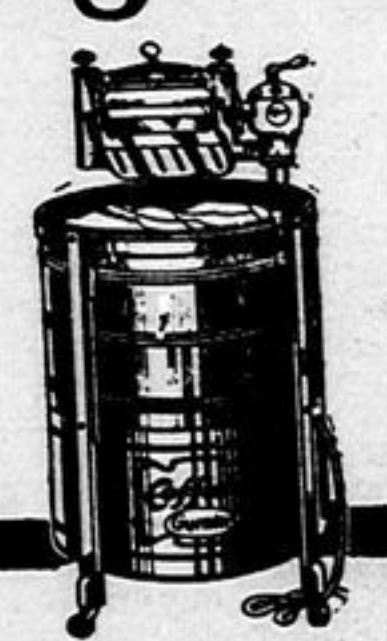
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