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**POTATO BLIGHT AND ROT.**

Reports from many districts indicate that potato blight and rot are again this season causing serious loss to the farmers of Canada. This disease has been quite prevalent in many parts of Ontario and Quebec, and although a good preventive is known in Bordeaux mixture few growers seem to have sprayed their potatoes. Mr. L. H. Newman of the Seed Division, who visited nearly every county in Ontario during the summer, confirms this statement and reports that in many cases he found growers sadly wanting in knowledge of the disease and methods of preventing it.

There are two known blights which affect the potato in America, the early blight, Alternaria Solani, and the late blight which causes the rot, Phytophthora infestans. The early blight causes the spotting of the leaves early in July. These spots increase in size, unite and form large masses of diseased tissue. This blight does not attack the tubers and is not nearly as injurious as the other. If the leaves are punctured by beetles or from some other cause the disease gets a foothold easier.

The late blight is the one which causes by far the greater loss, both by lessening the crop and by causing rot. According to Mr W T Macoun, Horticulturist of the Central Experimental Farm, this disease passes the winter in the tubers, and in the spring when the vines begin to grow it starts to develop, growing up through the tissues of the potato stem. During the latter part of July it produces on the undersides of the leaves myriads of tiny spores, which in the mass have a front-like appearance. These spores make the

rust stage, which is caused by the leaf tissues drying up where the spores have been feeding on them and causing dark brown spots. It is from this stage that future infection takes place, as the spores are carried rapidly by the wind and alight on the foliage. They are also washed below the surface of the ground and reach the young tubers, and in time cause the rot. The potato rot itself is a dry rot; the wet rot comes through decay of the tubers. It is when the tubers begin to form that the blight begins to appear. This is just after the potato has passed the most vigorous stage, the stage when in a wild state it would be blossoming and producing seed. At this stage the constitution of the plant is weakened, which probably makes it more subject to disease at this time. In the province of Ontario potato vines usually dry up during the latter part of August. Why should they die so soon when they do not produce seed? If the season is fairly favorable even the earliest varieties may be kept growing right on into September by thorough cultivation and spraying. The important point is to get them past the period when they are in a weakened condition, without injury from fungous diseases or insects.

Experiments conducted at the Vermont Experiment Station proved that over half the crop of marketable potatoes was produced after August 22nd. In Ontario the potato vines are usually dead shortly after that date. The great gain in keeping potatoes growing until late in September is here very apparent. Very marked results in spraying with Bordeaux mixture for blight have been obtained by the Vermont Station, the Irish Department of Agriculture, and the Dominion and Provincial Experimental Farms. In 1901 experiments by Mr Macoun with eight varieties showed an average difference in favor of potatoes and in 1902 with eleven varieties the average difference was 120 bushels per acre. With the Empire State variety there was a difference of 165 bushels per acre. In 1902 the vines were sprayed four times, on July 10th, July 22nd, July 30th and August 13th, the formula used being 6 lbs bluestone, 4 lbs lime, 40 gallons water. While the Colorado beetles were active eight ounces of Paris Green were added to each forty gallons of the mixture. For large areas the expense for bluestone would be in the neighborhood of 86 per acre, and the total expense probably not more than \$8 or \$9. Even at \$10 per acre the result of the above experiment for 1902 would show a profit of \$38 per acre, potatoes selling at 40 cents a bushel.

These results should convince potato growers of the importance of spraying their potatoes for the prevention of blight and rot. The work must be thoroughly done. Spraying should be begun by the middle of July and the vines kept covered with the mixture until the close of the season.

It is generally recognized that some varieties of potatoes have greater power than others to resist this disease, and it is safer to cultivate only varieties which are superior in this respect. All diseased refuse from an affected field should be burned. It is also advisable to avoid using for seed purposes potatoes from a diseased crop, even though the tubers appear healthy.

**W. A. CLEMONS,**  
Publication Clerk.

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Class 'A'—Helen Ireland, Georgina Lawson, Lillian McCrie.  
Class 'B'—Frankie Morlock, Roy Watson and Ella Carson, eq.  
Class 'C'—Nellie Lloyd, Marion Marshall.

Report of S S No. 1 Glenelg. Class 5 —Lizzie Binnie, Violet Britton. Sr 4th —Emma Beaton, Willie Whitmore, May Young. Jr 4th—Winnie Binnie, Jennie McVray, Jennie Fallaise. Sr 3rd—Susy Bell, Mary Ann Bell. Jr 3rd—Katie McFarlane, Noretta Fallaise, Laura Beaton. Sr 2nd—Ben Whitmore, Annie Matthews, Ira Pennock. Jr 2nd —Robbie Matthews, Kate McMillan, Thomas Grashy. Sr Pt 2nd—Charlie McFarlane, Bertha Sealey, Nellie Myres, Jr Pt. 2nd—Johnny McKeown, Ruth McGillivray, George Arnett. Sr 1st—Fanny Grashy, Robert Edwards, Verney Pennock. Jr 1st—Christina McGillivray, Vina McNab, Murdoch McMillan. Average attendance 35.

ALEX FIRTH, Teacher

Report of S S No. 5 Glenelg. 4th class —Elmo Edwards, Stewart McNally, Cassie Ryan, Jessie Peters. 3rd—Rob Wright, Allan Davis and Frank Ryan eq. Lorne McNally, Tommy Cook. Sr 2nd—Ena McNally, Dollie Anderson, Jenny Cook, Wilfrid Hunt, Alex Wright, Ery Jack, Wesley Hunt, Basil Davis, Charlie Smith, Spenser Edwards and Wilbert Wright eq. Jr 2nd—Jenny Jack, Edith Peters, Bessie Smith, Ivan Edwards. Pt 2nd—Mary Peat. Sr 1st —Mina Edwards, Bertie Wright. Jr 1 —Emerson Peat.

W J RITCHIE, Teacher

Report of S. S. No 1, Artemesia, for September and October. Class 5—Louisa Eingwall, Joseph Oliver, Aggie McPhail. Sr 4th—Mary Paton and Robbie Paton, eq., Mary Muir, Emily Henderson. Jr 4th—Jennie Muir. Sr 3rd—Harry Jones, Gertha McPhail, Hughie McPhail, Fred Vause. Jr 3rd—Maggie Henderson. Sr 2nd—Emma Meads, Annie Muir, Willie Oliver, Annie McMillan. Jr 2nd—May Muir, Bobbie Whyte, Clarence Muir, Jennie Oliver, Katie McMillan. 1st (a)—Lillie McPhail, Eddie Dingwall, Clara Gilchrist. 1st (b)—Archie Whyte, Walter Williamson, Murel Henderson. Average attendance—28.

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