DISEASE OF POTATOES

Dry-Rot Fungus Causes Blight and Wilt of Crop.

History of Fusarium as Field Trouble Is of Comparatively Recent Record—Preliminary Symptoms Are Green Color.

(By T. F. MANNS.)

The dry rot of potatoes has long been known as a storage trouble. At intervals since 1824 there has been found associated with this rot by different investigators a fungus of the genus Fusarium, which has been variously designated, but the history of the disease as a field trouble is of comparatively recent record.

On badly infected soils the disease is characterized as follows: The stand is uneven, though few of the hills are missing. The early growth

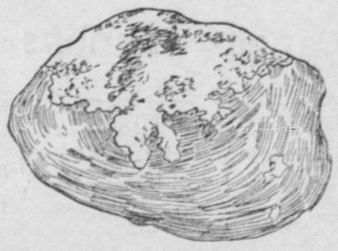
Showing Premature Dying in the Field on an Area Which Has Become Infested With Fusarium Disease.

is somewhat slow. When the plants reach a height of 10 to 14 inches, there is an apparent cessation of growth. The first indication of the disease is usually conspicuous at this time. The preliminary symptoms are a light green color of the foliage, particularly the lower leaves; this is accompanied during the heat of the day by a partial wilting and an inward and upward rolling of the upper leaves. The color gradually changes to a sickly yellow, which slowly and evenly covers the affected vines. The wilting and rolling of the leaves extends to all parts of the affected plants. As the disease progresses the field takes on a mottled yellow to light green color. The growth of the foliage is greatly restricted, the wilting becomes more pronounced and there is associated much tip-burn owing to the failure of the leaflets to fully recover at night from the wilt of the mid-day. Occasionally hills will show only one or two vines afflicted. Plants which early succumb to the disease pull up easily, manifesting a badly rotted condition of the root. As a rule the blighted stems do not fall, but remain quite erect, except for the drooping top.

There is much evidence to indicate that many growers are practicing potato rotations of too short a duration. Most of such growers have attempted to maintain a three-year rotation of wheat, clover and potatoes, but longer than a three-year rotation should be practiced.

Sick fields should not be planted in potatoes again for at least five or six years, and even longer time may be required to work the parasitic fungus from the soil. Grass and grain crops will undoubtedly eliminate the fungus from the soil quicker than will manuring and cultivated crops.

The work of the dry-rot in improper storage causes an excess of



Showing a Potato Rotting in the Soil From the Fusarium Disease.

moisture, due to the drying up of the rotting tubers. This excess moisture condition, together with the added facility with which bacteria and decay fungi may enter the already infected tubers, brings about much complication in the form of soft or wet rots, for which the Fusarium disease is primarily responsible. Under the average cellar storage conditions it is quite safe to estimate the loss from dry-rot and its complications at from one to five per cent.

When Soils Cease to Produce.

The trouble with soils when they cease to produce as they did when new is not that elements of plant food are actually exhausted from the soil, but the necessary forces for the liberation are exhausted. One of these forces is bacteria. It is estimated that in the common soil there are 150,000,000 bacteria to the ounce. These bacteria must have for their food, humus, then they will liberate food for the growth of plants. To be a good farmer one needs to grow legumes and other cover crop plants to turn under for humus, and to encourage these beneficial bacteria to perform their functions in the soil.

Success Further Down.

In many instances the yield of gardens can be increased by simply getting down a few inches deeper with fork or spade. The French gardeners can give Americans many lessons in this respect. The soil should be pulvertized, but work should not be commenced too early. Plowing the ground while it is too wet will cause the soil to pack in solid lumps. Good land is almost ruined in this manner.

VALUABLE CROP FOR SWINE

Hogs of All Ages Relish Cut Alfalfa When Fed in Slop and Make Excellent Growth.

I have found that alfalfa makes one of the most valuable crops for the hog grower, whether it is pastured or cut up finely and fed with ground feed, writes John H. Dunlay in the Farm, Stock and Home. Last winter when middlings were selling around $30 per ton I cut alfalfa in a cutting box and fed with the warm slop to all my hogs that did not have access to blue grass or the rye fields. Hogs of all ages relished the cut alfalfa when fed in the slop and they made a fine growth.

The alfalfa was cut to about one-half an inch in length and then scalded before being mixed with the ground feed. I usually put the cut alfalfa in a large galvanized tank and pour boiling water over it. It is then left to stand over night and if covered will be warm the next morning.

I want to purchase a feed grinder that will grind alfalfa into a coarse meal, and if I do this I think the hogs will find it even more palatable. Alfalfa contains about the same amount of protein as found in the best middlings and at the same time it seems to act as a tonic for all the hogs that have access to it.

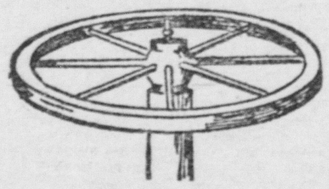
It is not too late to sow alfalfa and it will pay you to sow at least a small patch even if you only feed the hogs the cured hay during the winter months, when they do not get green feed. When there is a good supply of alfalfa, it makes the best of forage crops for hogs of all ages. Alfalfa, when pastured, should be allowed to get a good start and should not be pastured the first season. In this way it gets a good start and is able to stand pasturing better the next year. It is well to ring the hogs or take them from the alfalfa field if the ground gets wet or muddy.

CHEAP ROOST FOR CHICKENS

Discarded Cart Wheel May Be Made to Serve Purpose—No Trouble in Cleaning House.

(By G. DOVER.)

Take a cart wheel and stab the axle into the ground, or cut the axle in two, bolt it to a post and set the post in the ground. When the chicken house needs cleaning, all you need to do is



Roost for Chickens.

to lift the wheel off and it is out of the way. Then, too, if there is a chicken on the other side from you that you wish to catch, just turn the wheel around.

SUMMER RATION FOR HORSES

Good Combination Is Corn, Bran and Little Oilmeal—More Carbohydrates and Less Protein.

If corn must be fed to the horses, grinding it will not pay, unless the horses have poor teeth, in which case it might be advisable. Feeding the ear or shelled corn would be the more desirable method of feeding.

Crushed corn and cobmeal is not as good because of the cost of crushing, and the amount of food value secured from the cob is so small that it does not make up for the energy required to digest so much crude fiber.

A combination of corn, bran and a little oilmeal make a good summer ration for horses. Feeding a 1,000-pound horse about ten pounds of corn and three pounds of bran per day would be equivalent to fourteen pounds of oats, although it contain a little more carbohydrates and less protein, thus making a little wider ration. A small amount of oilmeal would offset this, however.

GENERAL FARM NOTES

Rotate your garden crop.

Give the radishes just a little shade.

Plant early smooth peas. Alaska is a good early variety.

The farmer is known by the amount of clover seed he sows.

A set of steel drills will soon pay many times their small cost.

One way to increase the profits of your farm is to build a silo.

Fine cabbages follow beans but do not grow well after potatoes.

Alfalfa pasture and hogs make a combination that is hard to beat.

Sweet peas should be planted as soon as the ground can be worked.

Do not plant your potatoes in the same old place and invite the scab.

Save muscle and time when cutting bands by having a keen-edged knife.

Plant radishes remote from the track infested by the wire-worm last year.

When short of room, train squash vines on trellises or wire fence; they are good slimbers.

Plant cucumbers in level rows; in dry seasons they do better than when grown in elevated beds.

Onions, beets, spniach, radishes and lettuce may be sown as soon as the ground can be worked easily.

Lettuce should not be where the soil is too dry or light. Parsley will stand such soil a little better.

HER WONDERFUL BABY

PERHAPS NEEDLESS TO SAY IT WAS THE FIRST.

Mrs. Youngmother Confides to Friend That Her Little Dear Is the Most Original and Remarkable Child Ever.

"Isn't he a darling, May?" said Mrs. Youngmother to "May," who had been her maid of honor at the wedding and who was seeing the baby for the first time.

"He is just a dear!" said May, with her eye on the clock, while she was mentally calculating how she could "in decency," bring the call to an end.

"It isn't that he is such an extraordinarily pretty baby, May. It's more than that, for he is certainly the most original child you ever saw! Such cunning little original ways as he has for one of his age! I wish that it was time for him to have his dinner and you could see the way he holds out his little hands the moment he sees the bottle and opens his mouth when the bottle is three feet from him! You never saw anything so cute!

"Then, when I give him a little milk to drink in a cup, he bubbles in it in the funniest way! Mamma says that she never knew of any other baby doing it quite like he does. Then, when you go, you will see what a cunning way he had of waving goodby. Sometimes I have to take him by the elbow and help him a little, but even then it is the most original little way he has! And if you could only see him smile in his sleep! Sometimes, when he is sound asleep, his little lips entirely part over his gums in the dearest little smile! I think that is a sign that he is going to have a happy disposition.

"Then he has the most original little way of holding one foot in the air and staring at it when he is lying down, and the other day he actually got his big toe into his mouth—he did! I called the cook up from the kitchen so she could see it—the funniest little trick you ever saw! I asked the doctor when he was here the other day if he thought it was a sign that he was going to be a real athlete, and he thought it might be, and it worries me a little, for I don't want him to be one of those professional athletes.

"I look higher than that for him. And, honestly, May, sometimes I think he knows time by the clock! Every time it strikes he looks toward it! I have watched him again and again, and the moment the clock strikes he turns his eyes right toward it. Do you suppose that he really knows what it is? I sometimes think that he does, because he is so original in so many other ways.

"And, May, as sure as I live and breathe, I heard him laugh in his sleep the other night! I woke my husband and wanted him to get up and light the gas and see if the baby was awake, but he didn't want to. No one can ever convince me that he didn't laugh in his sleep. Truly, May, I think that he is one of the most original babies I ever heard of, and I am very glad of it, for I want him to grow up with some individuality—and I am sure he has it, all right! Don't you want to hold him for just a minute, and see how heavy he is for one of his age? O, May, it is a great responsibility to be the mother of such an unusual child as he is!"—Judge.

Fine for Stamp Flirtation.

In Austria, as in Germany, one is likely to commit the offense of lese majeste without knowing it. An instance of the sort is afforded by a decision not long ago rendered by a court at Trieste, a decision that aroused indignation in the hearts of young Austrians, since, by the ruling of the court, it appeared that lovers lay themselves open to a summons for lese majeste if they vary the "official" position of a postage stamp, whether on a postcard or on the envelope containing a letter, to indicate their sentiments.

An examination of the printed decision of the court makes it clear that to stick a postage stamp at a certain angle, even though it be to express "undying love," "disappointment," "tender memories," and so forth, is decidedly a mark of disrespect to the sovereign, whose image appears upon the stamp. The sender of a postcard who used the emperor's likeness to tell his sweetheart that he would love her always was fined for the offense.

Dr. John Chinaman.

The introduction into China of western knowledge is destined to work a complete revolution in medical and surgical practice in the Flowery Kingdom. One of the things that is going and now nearly gone is what is called "acupuncture" or pricking of needles. This mode of treating diseases consists in sticking long needles of silver or gold into the body or members of the sufferer and then pulling them out, as housewives sometimes test their cakes with a broom-straw to see if they are done.

Reliable authorities tell of many cases in which this heroic system has brought about cures. Perhaps the patient was scared into being cured, and decided to get well, rather than be stuck any more. It is declared that the Chinese doctors are able actually to penetrate the heart and other vital organs with their needles without causing death, and that the process does not cause any considerable amount of pain.—From the Pathfinder.

WEED HARMFUL TO WOMEN

Scientific Investigation Has Proved That Tobacco Should Not Be Used by the Fair Sex.

It seems that at last a purely physiological reason has been found why women should not smoke, apart from the very general prejudice which exists in this country.

"Smoking," says Dr. Hargrave, a London physician, "does not have the same effect on women that it does on men. As imperious necessity felt by most smokers to satisfy their passion after eating is physiologically explained by the excitation of the salivary glands which secretions, so useful in digestion, the smoke augments. Moreover, it has been shown that it sterilizes the saliva and that this is really beneficial from the viewpoint of the possible infection from the foods themselves.

"But with women it is a serious conclusion reached from many experiments that few of them need tobacco, while the proportion of men whose salivary secretions were stimulated and sterilized by smoking was very large, the proportion of women on the other hand, was very small. Even in women who had been habitual smokers for years, the action of this weed was found to be less marked, in fact almost negligible.

So apparently Dr. Hargraves is of the opinion that women should not smoke, because they do not need it.

AWFUL ECZEMA ON FACE

Freeland, Md.—"Baby's eczema started in little spots and would burst and run all over his face and wherever the water would touch his face, it would make another sore. Pimples would break out and make his face sore and inflamed, and he was very cross and fretful. It was awful. He suffered tortures from it, and we had to tie mittens on his hands to keep him from scratching. A friend of mine told me of the Cuticura Soap and Ointment and I went to a drug store and bought them.

"When we would bathe his face with the Cuticura Soap and apply the Cuticura Ointment, he would be much better. He would wake up in the nights and cry with his face and we would put on some of the Cuticura Ointment and then he would rest all night. They have cured him completely of the eczema." (Signed) Mrs. Harry Wright, Mar. 21, 1912.

Cuticura Soap and Ointment sold throughout the world. Sample of each free, with 32-p. Skin Book. Address post-card "Cuticura, Dept. L, Boston." Adv.

Nothing Hasty About That.

"Congratulations, Chilson! I am told you've just been married."

"Thanks, old chap; it's true. I've got the best little wife in the world."

"The story is that you had just been introduced, fell in love with each other at first sight, you proposed on the impulse of the moment, and she said yes."

"It's funny what lies people will tell. 'Impulse of the moment!' Why, Ringgold, I give you my word, we had known each other nearly two hours before we became engaged!"

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Try Hicks' CAPUDINE. It's liquid—pleasant to take—effects immediate—good to prevent Sick Headaches and Nervous Headaches also. Your money back if not satisfied. 10c., 25c. and 50c. at medicine stores. Adv.

When you know how a man prays you know what kind of a God he believes in.

A good brain is a good thing to mix with any business.

The devil and a man-made saint get on well together.

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FOR BACKACHE, RHEUMATISM, KIDNEYS AND BLADDER

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A toilet preparation of merit. Helps to eradicate dandruff.
For Restoring Color and Beauty to Gray or Faded Hair.
50c. and $1.00 at Druggists.

W. N. U., BALTIMORE, NO. 19–1913.

Matter of Curiosity.

Miss Gibson was very rich and Mr. Hanna was very poor. She liked him, but that was all, and he was well aware of the fact. One evening he grew somewhat tender and at last he said: "You are very rich, aren't you, Helen?" "Yes, Tom," replied the girl, frankly. "I am worth about two million dollars." "Will you marry me, Helen?" "Oh, no, Tom, I couldn't." "I knew you wouldn't." "Then why did you ask me?" "Oh, I just wanted to see how a man feels when he loses two millions."

Pneumonia and Erysipelas Serum.

Not long before his death last February Dr. Philip Hanson Bliss of Baltimore discovered serum for the treatment of pneumonia and erysipelas, which are now being tested with much interest. Dr. Ford of the Johns Hopkins medical school, who followed Dr. Bliss in his work, says that the serum for pneumonia is not a cure in any such sense as the antitoxin for diphtheria, but that it is helpful in the treatment of the disease.

Widow's Ways.

"Mamma, why did you tell Mrs. Lamode that I was only eighteen when I am really twenty-four?"

Widow—Because eighteen is six years under twenty-four, my dear.

Daughter—Yes, I know; but surely I don't need the benefit of those six years at my age, do I?

Widow—Not at all, my child; but I do.—London Tit-Bits.

FOR MALARIA, CHILLS, FEVER Colds and La Grippe take Elixir Babek, a preventative and remedy.
"I have used 'Elixir Babek' for four years for Malaria, and found it all that is claimed for it. Without it I would be obliged to change my residence, as I can not take quinine in any of its forms."—J. Middleton, Four-Mile Run, Va. Elixir Babek 50 cents, all druggists or by Parcels Post prepaid from Kloczewski & Co., Washington, D. C.

To Clean Walls.

To clean painted walls dissolve two ounces of borax in two quarts of water and add one tablespoonful of ammonia. Use half this quantity to each bucket of water; do not use soap. Wash a small amount of the paint at a time and rub dry with a clean cloth.

To Mothers in This Town.
Children who are delicate, feverish and cross will get immediate relief from Mother Gray's Sweet Powders for Children. They cleanse the stomach, act on the liver and are recommended for complaining children. A pleasant remedy or worms. Used by Mothers for 22 years. At all Druggists, 25c. Sample FREE Address, A. S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y. Adv.

Probably the hardest thing for a girl to do when she is being kissed by a young man is to make him believe that it is her first experience.

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Dr. Pierce's
Favorite Prescription
is recommended as such, having been compounded to act in harmony with woman's peculiarly delicate and sensitive organization.
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Dr. Fahrney's Teething Syrup

Relieves the pains and cures the ailments that make babies cry and fret and grow sick and weak; checks Diarrhoea; prevents Convulsions; cures Sour Stomach, Colic, Cramps and all Stomach and Bowel Ailments of babies. Safest, purest and best medicine for babies. 25 cents at drug stores. Trial bottle FREE by mail of Drs. D. Fahrney & Son, Hagerstown, Md., if you mention this paper.
KEEPS BABY FROM CRYING.

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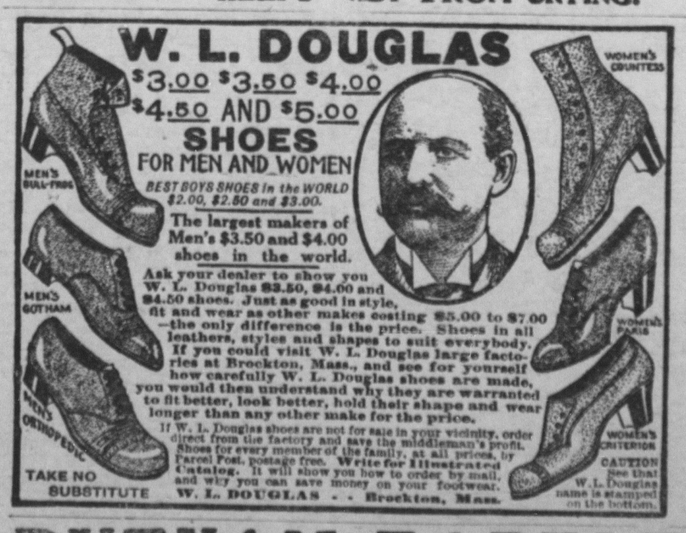

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Wife so Weak and Nervous Could Not Stand Least Noise — How Cured.

Munford, Ala.—"I was so weak and nervous while passing through the Change of Life that I could hardly live. My husband had to nail rubber on all the gates for I could not stand it to have a gate slam.

"I also had backache and a fullness in my stomach. I noticed that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound was advertised for such cases and I sent and got a bottle. It did me so much good that I kept on taking it and found it to be all you claim. I recommend your Compound to all women afflicted as I was."—Mrs. F. P. MULLENDORE, Munford, Alabama.

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Its wonderful success in this line has made it the safest and most dependable medicine of the age for women and no woman suffering from female ills does herself justice who does not give it a trial.

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