

Farming and Agriculture :-: Special Features :-: Interesting Observations

The Danger Of Using Lime On Potatoes

C. F. Bailey, Superintendent, Dominion Experimental Station, Fredericton, N. B.

The majority of soils in the Maritime Provinces are sour in varying degrees. This condition of the soil is particularly suited to the potato and also helps to control the development of scab. Most other farm crops—particularly clovers, do best when this acid condition is modified by the application of lime to the soil. However, liberal applications of lime in almost any form, will invariably result in heavy scab infestation. This fact has been born out very conclusively by data collected and test made at the Fredericton Experimental Station.

In 1916, burnt lime waste was applied to a field at the rate of 5,000 pounds per acre and in 1921 and 1922 it showed signs of scab development. This field was planted to potatoes in 1923. The crop when harvested was approximately 80 per cent scab and was sold for 50 cents per barrel, whereas untreated land adjoining produced clean potatoes that sold for \$2.50 per barrel.

In order to get some idea of results secured by farmers using lime, a questionnaire was mailed to upwards of 600 farmers fairly well distributed over all sections of the province. The replies received showed that practically every form of lime was used and with few exceptions, the farmers' experience concurred with the results secured at the Fredericton Experimental Station. Light applications, in some instances, had apparently given satisfactory results, but as only a few years had elapsed since the lime was applied, results cannot be taken as conclusive evidence. Farmers should exercise caution in applying lime to potato land. On very sour soils light applications may be justified but this should first be determined by treating small areas.

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Some Aspects of the Potato, as a Staple Food

Many Food Values Should Not Be Ignored, and Calories May Count Rightly if Understood by the Public

This space to-day is going to be devoted to the praise of potatoes, that ordinary, every day vegetable to which we owe a great debt both for food value and flavor. Perhaps you do not think of flavor and potatoes together because they are admittedly bland and for that reason blend so well with other foods.

But doesn't the thought of a mealy baked potato broken open and melting a lump of butter make your mouth water on account of its flavor? Aren't potato chips one of the most appetizing of foods? And what has a more delicious flavor than potatoes hashed in cream? Even a plain boiled potato has a delicate, delicious flavor which, of course, brought out by the melted butter sauce which we serve with it.

We can all distinguish between the flavor of old and new potatoes and some persons go so far as to tell you that they can tell by taste whether the potato comes from Bermuda or Prince Edward Island. I do not go so far as that, although I think if I had the opportunity I might be able to distinguish a European potato, which does seem to be distinctive in flavor. Perhaps this is because a waxy potato is preferred in Europe. A few are imported here for special use in salad and for the famous "potatoes soufflee," which depend for their success upon this type of potato.

There are the fresh fried potatoes which puff up like small balloons. They are prepared by frying for a few minutes in a fat at a moderate temperature. They are then taken out and allowed to cool for a few minutes, after which they are plunged into very hot fat. I can still remember my amazement the first time I ever tasted these potatoes at a club in Philadelphia famous for its food. They are difficult to make at home principally because we do not get the proper kind of potatoes here. Even in Paris, where I went through the kitchen at Prunier's, I saw bags of potatoes labelled "pour soufflee."

Before we leave the subject of potatoes I want to say something about the food value, which should be appreciated more than it is. In these days of reducing there has grown up a prejudice against the potato because it is said to be fattening and to be "all starch." A medium-sized potato gives about 100 calories of food value. Over two-thirds of the weight of the potato is water. Starch provides most of the calories, but there is enough protein to make it count in our day's supply. At the same time it provides with a worthwhile amount of phosphorus and iron, a moderate amount of vitamin A and a more liberal supply of vitamins B and C. It has a distinctly alkaline quality which makes it of special value when there is a high meat diet. We sometimes hear the meat and potato diet held up to scorn. Of course there should be other vegetables as well as potatoes, but it is just so much the better for the potatoes than it would be without them.

When all sweet and starchy foods are removed from the diet for the purpose of reducing the potato will fall with the rest and it should be the last to go, and there is no reason why they should not replace a hundred calories of some other food on the menu if you have a sudden desire for them. The great trouble with potatoes in such a diet is that we like plenty of butter with them, which makes a truly fattening combination.

The food value of potatoes depends largely upon how they are cooked. Baking preserves the greatest amount of minerals and vitamins and next to that boiling in the jackets. These are the methods usually used when potatoes are prepared in the diets of children.

Let me remind you, as I have often before, that baked potatoes must be broken open as soon as they are out of the oven to let out the steam and thus to keep them dry and mealy. Cover them with a towel to absorb the steam and to keep them hot if you are not ready to serve them at once. Nothing can be less appetizing than a soggy potato, and nothing can be better than the perfectly baked potato, broken open, with a piece of butter melting in its center and perhaps a sprinkling of paprika or a teaspoon of chopped chives on top. I think I must go and light the oven at once and scrub some potatoes to bake for dinner!

Desirable Annual Flowering Plants

W. S. Blair, Superintendent, Dominion Experimental Station, Kentville, N. S.

Annual flower plants should be employed more largely than they now are to improve home surroundings and supply cut flowers for indoor decoration. They are easy of culture and will do well in almost any garden soil. With a few exceptions they may be sowed in the open ground in the early spring as soon as the ground can be prepared. If a good stand results thinning to about six inches apart should be done.

If started under glass or in a hotbed in order to get earlier bloom the seed is sown in rows in shallow boxes, generally termed flats. When the plants are sufficiently advanced they are transplanted to other flats. In these they are spaced out two inches apart, so that a section of soil may be cut out with each plant when transplanting to the field, and little check in growth result. Or the seed may be sown thinly in flats and the plant set to the open ground when fairly well developed, without the necessity of transplanting into other flats.

There are many varieties listed under the various kinds, and unless for special work mixed sorts are advised. From time to time many of the varieties offered have been tested at the Experimental Station, Kentville, and it largely a matter of choice on the part of the individual as to what may be considered as the best.

Group planting in borders or at the base of shrubbery rather than formal bedding, is advised, as requiring less work and usually giving a more pleasant effect. Those sorts suitable for cut flowers should also be planted in rows in the back garden, so that an ample supply for this purpose may be available.

For edging, Sweet Alyssum Little Dorrit, and candytuft (white); Tagetes signata pumila (yellow); and Lobelia Crystal Palace Gem, and Dwarf Ageratum Blue Star (blue) are very satisfactory. Of the everlasting Helianthus (Strawflower), Aconitum, Gladiolus Amaranth (Camphrena), and Cistula are the best.

Cut flowers as well as for bedding the Snapdragon (Candytuft) is one of the best. It is usually started inside. There are many kinds, and the sorts intermediate in height are probably the most satisfactory. The annual single Chrysanthemum and the double variety Bridal Robe are both good. They are usually started inside. Coreopsis Drummondii and C. Tinctoria are two of the best; these may be seeded outside. Cosmos should be more extensively grown, and the plants should be started inside. The annual Larkspur may be seeded outside, as well as Gypsophila, Galliardia, Lavatera Scaberrima, Sweet Sultan, Bachelor's Button, Shirley or other poppies, Schizanthus, Nemesis, Nigella Sunflowers in variety, Mignonette, Nasturtium, Swan River Daisy, African Daisy (Dimorphotheca), Calendula China and Indian Pinks (Dianthus) Lupine, Eschscholtzia, and Salpiglossis. The tender annuals such as Balsam and Zinnia had better be started inside and planted out after danger from frost is passed. Phlox Drummondii, Petunia, Verbena Nicotiana affinis, and Ten-weeks stock should also be started inside. The Sweet pea, sown outside as early as possible, should be included in all plantings of annuals. Because of the disease which attacks the aster we have not mentioned this exceptionally fine flower.

Horse Production Policy

It is estimated that over one million dollars worth of horses are being imported into the Maritime Provinces annually. Prince Edward Island takes care of approximately \$125,000.00 to \$150,000.00 of this amount. This is an unfortunate showing especially for a province that has had such a splendid reputation for excellent horses. Not so long ago large numbers of horses were exported from our shores and found a ready market in the neighboring provinces. Draft and light harness stallions of excellent quality and conformation were, in these days, within the reach of every farmer, foals were being raised in abundance, and it was an easy matter to select from the farms young and well-broken horses to suit the various uses for which the different classes and breeds of horses are intended.

Unfortunately, a world-wide depression gradually followed the desirable condition outlined above and the small farm breeder desisted from ordinary breeding practices. Horses grew old and dropped off, exports stopped and farmers were compelled to import, principally from Western points, both Canadian and American, where supplies were secured mostly from the large branches. While these Western horses filled, and are still doing so, a much felt want in our horse power, yet it is quite obvious and generally conceded that these horses cannot for a moment compare with our home-grown product.

During the past year a strong sentiment has developed in favour of home breeding, and farmers are again looking about in search of sires of the right quality to which their best mares may be bred. Here is where most breeders are up against serious difficulties. There are, it is true, quite a number of good standard bred stallions standing for service in the province, but when it comes to the draft classes there is a dearth of real good top notch heavy draft stallions.

The necessity in horse breeding on Prince Edward Island is one of draft horse production. Farm machinery is becoming more heavy each year. Farmers are beginning to recognize the economy of one man operation of large type machinery and greater horse power in farm operation. The time is undoubtedly ripe for the establishment of a number of draft stallions of high quality for public use.

Many of our foremost breeders have been favourable to the purchase of such sires but claim that with the high price of stallions and the interference of farmers to breeding any kind of a horse, not to mention one of outstanding merit, the proposition was a very doubtful financial venture.

In order to encourage these prospective purchasers and to place at the disposal of the horse breeders of the province, stallions of the very best qualifications, arrangements have been made by the Department of Agriculture with the Federal Department by which stallions conforming to certain regulations and passing a required inspection will receive a bonus on the basis of the number of foal mares to such horses. This bonus will be paid equally by the Governments.

The following is the scale of amounts paid:

In-foal mares	Amounts paid
15-20	\$50.00
21-30	120.00
31-40	180.00
41-40	240.00
51 and over	300.00

These amounts are quite liberal and should prove a great encouragement to the industry at large.

Stallion owners and prospective owners should at once get in touch with the Livestock Superintendent, Department of Agriculture and investigate the details of this policy. It might be pointed out that it is necessary this year and hereafter that in order to qualify for these premiums, horses must be enrolled and receive an enrolment certificate. As a matter of fact enrolment must be made whether owners wish to enter their horses for premiums or not. The fee this season has been lowered to \$2.00 for purebreds and grades and it is necessary that such enrolment take place before May 1st, 1929.

Breeders desiring further information or making application for enrolment should apply to the Department of Agriculture, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

NEWSY FARM NOTES

BIRD SANCTUARY NOT LEGAL.
A curious legal point was settled recently by the London, Eng., Court of Appeal.

A Mrs Sarah Grove left the residue of her estate—about £200,000—to establish a sanctuary for animals, birds, and "other creatures not human." It was proposed to make a refuge where the animals, etc., were to be free from the molestation of man, though they were expected to prey on one another; and a company of anti-vivisectionists was to purchase the necessary land for the sanctuary under the name of the Beaumont Animals' Benevolent Society.

The Master of the Rolls declared the bequest invalid, since it offended against the rule of perpetuities, and unless it could be held a charitable trust, it must fail. Mrs. Grove's heirs will therefore find themselves the richer by about one million dollars.

DUST FOR OAT SMUT

Smuts in oats can be easily controlled by treating the seed with formaldehyde dust which will kill the fungus on the outside of the grain without injuring the seed. In tests made by the Ohio Experimental Station 5 per cent. formaldehyde, or smuttox, as it is commercially called, reduced smut to one tenth of 1 per cent., while check plots of untreated seed showed more than 13 per cent of the heads smutted.

Live in Plants
The fungi that cause smuts of oats live as internal parasites in the oat plants. J. D. Sayre, assistant plant pathologist at the Ohio Station points out. At heading time they produce black masses of spores instead of grains. These spores cling to the outside and within the oat seeds, and start their growth along with the oat seedling, which they soon enter through the delicate tissues.

No Difference in Seed
Good seed cannot be told from smut infested seed. If there was any smut present in the crop before the seed should be treated. Even if there were no smut in the

ALBION SCHOOL
The following is Honor Roll for Albion School for the month of January.

Grade VIII.—1, Winnie McKinnon; 2, Catherine Dunn.

Grade VI.—1, Bertha Llewellyn; 2, Mary Nicholson; 3, Lloyd Lewellyn; 4, Isabelle Kemp; 5, Myrtle Kemp.

Grade IV.—1, Ivan McKinnon; 2, Raymond Dunn; 3, Calvin Kemp.

Grade III.—1, Dan Nicholson.

Grade II.—1, Brice Kemp.

Grade I.—1, Isabelle Moore; 2, Florence Kemp.

Perfect attendance: Bertha and Lloyd Lewellyn.

Month of February

Grade VIII.—1, Catherine Dunn; 2, Winnie McKinnon.

Grade VI.—1, Bertha Llewellyn; 2, Mary Nicholson; 3, Isabelle Moore; 4, Lloyd Lewellyn; 5, Myrtle Kemp.

Grade IV.—1, Ivan McKinnon; 2, Dan Nicholson; 3, Raymond Dunn; 4, Calvin Kemp.

Grade II.—1, Isabelle Moore; 2, Scott Fraser; 3, Brice Kemp.

Grade I.—1, Florence Kemp.

Perfect attendance: Bertha and Lloyd Lewellyn and Isabelle Moore.

Lily Craed, Teacher.

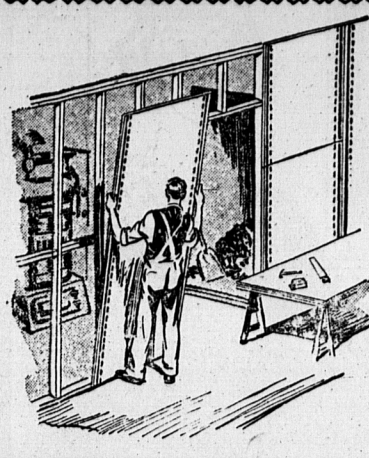
LIVE HOGS

We are taking live hogs daily, excepting Saturday, paying highest market prices.

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SKIM MILK is good for poultry. In Wisconsin a batch of chicks fed on liquid skim milk had no deaths at 16 weeks old; those fed on skim milk powder had 3 1-2 per cent mortality; and the meat fed group had 30 per cent loss.

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