

Plowmen display skills at Island Plowing matches



CORNWALL'S STANLEY WILLIS SETS SIGHTS ON ISLAND PLOWING CH'SHIP LAST YEAR



LARGE CROWDS GATHER AT DUNDAS FOR MATCHES, JUDGING AND SPORTS



SHEEP CLASS IS OBJECT OF JUDGES CRITICAL EYE AT DUNDAS

No potato resists all field diseases

G. W. AYERS
Research Branch,
Experimental Farm

Potato varieties differ widely in their resistance to diseases encountered in the field and in warehouses and private storages. No high quality potato has ever been developed with high resistance to all diseases found in potato growing areas of Canada. Growers have found that special methods of treatment and culture are required for each named variety if success is to be achieved in the production of a profitable crop.

Reactions to certain plant diseases are herein cited for some commonly grown varieties. The Irish Cobbler is susceptible to mosaic leaf roll, spindle tuber, blackleg, common scab and Verticillium wilt. Fusarium storage rot is not a problem with this variety.

The Green Mountain is susceptible to mosaic, leaf roll and common scab but shows resistance to verticillium wilt, blackleg and seed-piece decay caused by bacteria and fungi. The Sebago variety is susceptible to blackleg and fusarium storage rot but shows resistance to late blight, tuber rot, common scab, leaf roll and mosaic. The Kennebec variety is susceptible to fusarium storage rot, spindle tuber and verticillium wilt but has resistance to leaf roll and mosaic. Kennebec is also resistant to fusarium seed-piece decay.

The new variety Hunter is moderately susceptible to leaf roll and plant stands may be reduced by seed pieces which fail to produce a plant. This variety is resistant to fusarium storage rot, blackleg, mosaic and verticillium wilt. It is not particularly subject to bruising and table quality is excellent.



MR. AYERS

Weaknesses in varieties such as susceptibility to disease or to bruising can be partially overcome through such measures as: (1) tuber unit planting to eliminate disease; (2) pre-planting care to ensure good sprouting of seed; (3) seed treatment to eliminate disease organisms from seed-piece surfaces; (4) care in harvesting and grading to minimize tuber injury. The Charlottetown Farm screens all new potato varieties and unnamed seedlings for resistance to several diseases. Knowledge gained through these tests aids in the formulation of methods whereby each variety may be most suitably handled.

Chips 'look' is important

Chip potatoes not only have to be good, they have to look good. Experience has shown that the customer prefers a golden brown to a dark color when it comes to eating the tuber in this form.

H. T. Davies of the Canada department of agriculture's research station at Fredericton says the potato chipping industry could take a steady supply of suitable potatoes throughout the year. New varieties are being tested to meet these needs. Many varieties make an acceptable chip when dug and processed in July and August. But if stored at temperatures of 40 F. or lower they yield a dark brown, undesirable chips with a bitter taste. The low temperatures cause sugars to accumulate in the tubers and the sugars react with certain amino acids to produce a dark-brown color. If transferred to storage at 70 to 75 F. for a few weeks before processing some potato varieties still make chips of the desirable golden brown color.

In assessing the value of new varieties, samples of potatoes from seedlings at Fredericton are dug in midsummer, chipped immediately and then compared with a standard set of chips covering the color range from poor to excellent. At harvest time in the fall more samples are stored at 40 F. for three months and then at 75 F. These are chipped at weekly intervals for four weeks and scored on color. Other samples are stored at 55 F. in the fall and chipped periodically during the winter with no reconditioning.

Thrips controlled with insecticides

Thrips in blueberry fields can be controlled by applying an insecticide in the year the fields are burned, states C.W. Maxwell of the Canada Department of Agriculture, Research Station at Fredericton, N.B.

A 2 1/2 per cent dieldrin dust at 20 pounds per acre is the most effective pesticide and should be applied when the sprouts are emerging from the soil. Thrips come out of the soil in early spring and lay eggs on the terminal leaves causing them to twist and roll. These leaves develop into galls from which the adult thrips emerge in July or August. In late August the adults enter the soil to pass the winter.

Farm helps to solve agricultural problems

The function of the Experimental Farm with its research branch, formerly known as the science service, is to conduct research leading to the solution of agricultural problems peculiar to Prince Edward Island and the Atlantic region, and, in co-operation with other research stations to obtain research information that has a national application.

The broad objective of the work at the farm here is to improve the fertility of Prince Edward Island soils, and to increase the production of protective cover crops. Emphasis is placed on soil and plant nutrition, breeding and management of forage crops, for improved livestock production and soil stability, breeding and management of dairy cattle, breeding of cereal varieties for the Atlantic region, and control of insects and diseases of Prince Edward Island crops. Variety and cultural trials are conducted with potato, cereal, tobacco,

forage, vegetables and small fruit crops.

PREPARES PAPERS
In addition to conducting research, the staff here has been active in preparing research papers, special reports, and press articles. In assisting at conferences and committee meetings, and in meeting many farmers who visit the farm for information and advice. In addition to the many individual visitors, 29 different farm organizations used the facilities at the Farm for meetings during the year.

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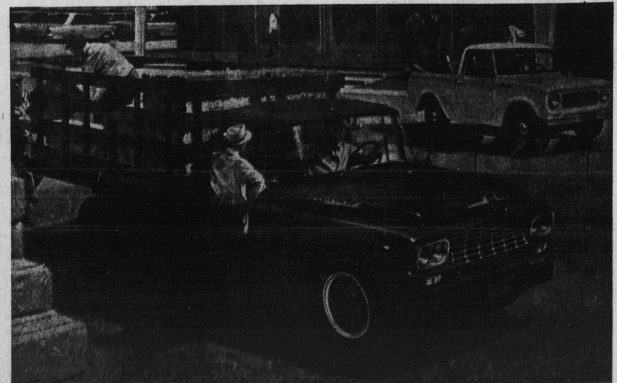
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