

Besides the spores mentioned above, another kind of spores, termed "resting" spores, "winter" spores or "oospores," is sometimes produced. In northern regions these are formed in autumn in the tissues of the plant and serve to carry the disease through the winter. Upon the return of warm weather, the tissues of the potato stems become thoroughly decayed and these thick-coated winter spores are liberated. They are scattered in various ways and under favorable conditions soon give rise to the disease again.

Whether these spores are produced in Florida has not been definitely determined, but it is not improbable that they are. It is a noteworthy fact that the approach of warm weather in this State brings about the formation of resting spores in some diseases much as cold weather does in northern regions, and this may be so in the case of Late Blight.

The damage done by this disease in Florida is somewhat different from that caused in many other districts. The potato crop is usually dug between the 21st of April and the 15th of May and because of the danger of being driven out of the market by more northerly sections, it is usually necessary to dig as early as possible. A yield of fifty barrels per acre is considered very good for the first diggings, but two weeks later the yield in the same field would be seventy or eighty barrels per acre, because of the increase in the size of the tubers. Frequently it is possible to dig slowly and take advantage of this increased yield, but this cannot be done if Late Blight attacks the crop. The potatoes do not increase in size after they are once severely attacked, because the food supply furnished by the tops is cut off entirely. Furthermore there is always the danger of rotting in transit as a consequence of which the grower suffers a direct loss and the reputation of the product for the whole State is injured.