

How the disease was introduced. We are safe in saying that the disease is not indigenous in Florida. It has not made its way gradually south, passing from field to field. But there is every evidence that it was introduced in the seed potatoes. These are brought in from New York, Maine, Massachusetts and other States. The last year or two, Late Blight has been extremely prevalent in northern potato regions and much of the seed brought to Florida has been infected as described above and shown in Plate IV, Fig. A. An examination of the seed purchased and used by Mr. C. G. White, of Hastings, Fla., showed that there was at least 5 per cent. of all the potatoes diseased by Late Blight. Many others secured seed similarly diseased, and it is not too much to say that the most of the seed potatoes used in Florida in the last two years at least, contained a certain percentage of diseased tubers.

Methods of Control.

1. If possible, secure seed free from the disease. Get them from a good, reliable grower who uses his spray pump industriously.

2. In preparing the seed for planting, discard all potatoes showing the slightest signs of decay. Some diseased specimens may not be noted, but the majority can be taken out.

3. The disease can be kept in check by spraying thoroughly with Bordeaux mixture. Five or six applications should be given. In Florida, the potatoes are usually planted about January 15th. The plants are well up, and spraying should be commenced about March 12th. As noted above, the crop is dug about the last of April. Between March 12th and April 30th, five or six sprayings should be given. This would be at intervals of ten days.

This was the plan pursued in the experiments carried on with