

THE INVESTIGATIONS IN FLORIDA**THE SCOPE OF THE WORK**

Since only a trace of rhizoctonosis is usually observed on potatoes in Florida, seed treatment investigations appear unwarranted. However, with the knowledge that (1) recommendations in one section frequently do not apply in another section; (2) many conflicting results are obtained in different or the same localities where the old standard formulas are used; (3) new materials have been introduced which should be quicker and more efficient; (4) on all shipments of seed stock into Florida a small to medium number of sclerotia are usually found since all seed stock is imported from northern states, chiefly Maine, where the fungus is uniformly distributed; (5) the crop is planted in the winter months when the temperatures during the early part of the growing season are somewhat similar to those during the corresponding period in the northern potato sections (Fig. 2)¹; (6) no experimental evidence is on record for this territory; (7) and a low percentage increase in yield is usually very profitable to the Florida growers as they harvest for the early market, it was considered desirable to conduct such seed treatment experiments. These were continued from 1924 to 1929, inclusive.

Maine certified Spaulding Rose No. 4 potatoes were used throughout and, unless otherwise stated, tubers were selected and treated on which were found numerous sclerotia of rhizoctonia. In some instances clean, or sclerotia-free, tubers from the same source were also treated and planted for comparison with the other treated lots. The tubers were cut into 1½ ounce seed pieces which were planted at 12-inch distances in ridged rows 42 inches apart, a small furrow having been opened immediately before, and covered to a depth of 3 inches immediately after planting. Commercial potato fertilizer was applied with a distributor, at the rate of a ton per acre, and mixed into the soil about three to four weeks before planting, which is the standard Florida practice. The plots were located on typical Florida potato soil, Bladen fine sand, in different sections of the potato belt. The tubers were treated according to the formula recorded in the tables, and were planted within 24 hours, except where treated with corrosive sublimate. With this treatment whole tubers were steeped about 2 weeks before planting, and stored, under a shelter which afforded suffi-

¹See also "Literature Cited," No. 34.