

C.S.

LIVESTOCK
AGRICULTURAL

MISC:

1937.

No.

70/37

AGRICULTURAL ADVISER

SUBJECT.

193 7

19th APRIL

AGRICULTURAL NOTES FOR CIRCULATION TO
THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

Previous Paper.

401/1922

I- 4

MINUTE FROM THE AGRICULTURAL ADVISER.

4/4
Submitted. The disease to which the Agric. Adviser refers has unfortunately been known in this Colony for a number of years and is referred to in C.S. 401/22 attached - vols 1, 2 and 12.

2. Mr. Reid, then in charge of Govt. Gardens recommended burning of all diseased roots and advised that potatoes should not be planted in the same ground for 7 years. Fortunately the disease has much diminished due to the importation

Subsequent Paper.

of disease resisting varieties
as recommended by the Board of
Agriculture in England.

3. The notes to be published?

They will advise those who do not
know what to do although as
previously stated the disease is
well known by those who have
grown potatoes for some years.

WCH
C.S.
21. 4. 37.

The A.A. may wish to review
his notes on perusing the file showing
the action taken 15 years ago. He
may be able to ascertain the extent
to which the disease is becoming prevalent:
most potato growers shd. recognize it

~~WCH~~ 20/4/37

Agricultural Adviser.

To see:

WCH
C.S.
21. 4. 37

The Hon. Col. Sec.

I have the honour to advise that I have
noted with interest the correspondence regarding Wart disease
of potatoes in the Colony 15 years ago. I have altered the last
para of my notes which are submitted for your perusal, before
publication. DAW H.A. 11/5/37

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Inside Minute Paper.

Sheet No. 2.

Agri. Adviser.

may be published as altered
by you.

mch.
es.

3.5.37.

Hon. Col. Sec.

Noted thank you

Sam

A.A. 3/5/37

P.T.
31/5/37

Notes No. 3. Prepared by Agricultural Department - Stanley,

Falkland Islands.

19th April, 1937.

Subject - Wart Disease of Potatoes.

During the early part of this month a case of Wart disease in potatoes in a garden in Stanley was investigated by the Agricultural Adviser.

This well known disease (sometimes called 'Black Scab') was first described in Czecho-Slovakia in 1896, but there is reason to believe that it was known to growers in Lancashire and Cheshire for some decades previously. Its origin has not been satisfactorily established. In Great Britain it is most wide - spread in the northern and midland counties, in Wales, and in the midland and southern counties of Scotland. There are isolated outbreaks in Ireland particularly in the north. No country in north western and central Europe is free from the disease, and outbreaks have occurred in Newfoundland, the United States, and South Africa.

Wart disease is 'scheduled' in all parts of the British Isles, and every outbreak must be notified to the proper Agricultural Authorities.

This disease causes characteristic cauliflower-like excrescences on the tubers, which may be small and nodular, (in which case it will be seen that they arise from an eye) or may cover a large part of the surface

These are first whitish in colour, but later they turn black and decay. The disease continues to develop in the pits. Although a large part of the crop may be rendered useless, the vigour of the plant does not suffer, but warts sometimes develop on the stems and lowest leaves. The disease is most severe in

wet /

wet years and in moist situations.

The spores which find their way into the ground when the warts decay are extremely resistant and are known to remain alive and dormant in the soil for at least twelve years; indeed there is still no record of the disease having died out of heavily contaminated soil. Tomatoes have been proved susceptible to the disease.

Control-:

The disease does not spread through the air, but is carried from place to place in infected tubers or contaminated soil. Any agency by which soil is transported may convey the disease among which may be mentioned water, implements, the feet of animals and man. Warty tubers are the most dangerous agents of dispersal, but tubers even of immune varieties, and other plants such as cabbages, may carry infection in the soil adhering to them - Sweepings from potato stores and domestic refuse are further likely sources of disease.

Manure made by animals fed on raw diseased tubers is also infective. Every care should be taken to prevent clean land from becoming contaminated.

The best way of dealing with an outbreak, is to lay the land down to permanent pasture for a long term of years. No practical method of sterilising infected soil has yet been discovered.

The discovery of immune varieties has provided a perfect means of control, and the disease will lose most of its significance when it becomes universally distributed, although that time is not yet. Efforts to produce new immune sorts have given a great impetus to potato breeding, and the number of such varieties now available in England exceeds two hundred.

The situation elsewhere is not so satisfactory, but it is fortunate that some of the most important American varieties

such /



such as Green Mountain and Irish Cobbler do not succumb to the disease. At the same time no immune varieties have yet been produced which are quite the equal of Epicure, Up-to-Date, and King Edward.

The best known of those available are Di-Vernon (early), Great Scot (mid-season), and Kerrs Pink, Majestic and Arran Banner (late).

It would be appreciated if persons who suspect the disease on their properties would report the matter to the Agricultural Department, Stanley, to allow an investigation to be made.

D. S. A. Weir. per/het.
Agricultural Adviser.

(H)

No.

MINUTE.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute, the above Number and the date may be quoted.)

19th April, 19 37

From

To The Honourable,

Agricultural Adviser,

The Colonial Secretary,

STANLEY.

STANLEY.

I have the honour to forward herewith for the perusal of His Excellency before circulation to the General Public, notes in regard to Wart disease of potatoes, which was discovered and identified by me, in a garden in Stanley recently.

D. S. A. Weir per. h. f.
Agricultural Adviser.