

SECRETARIAT

2097
AGR

(Formerly)

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POTATO DISEASES.

CONNECTED FILES.

NUMBER

17/44

The Plant Disease Regulation Ordinance 1944.

Y.E.,

Mr. Rowe rang up the A.C.S. some time ago and enquired what Regulations were in force about importation of plants.

There has actually been no follow-up but I went into the position. The Regulations are at page 225 of Volume II and were brought in by the then Agricultural Officer. They are now not enforced and have not been according to A.O. from the time that that particular A.O. left.

The menace which these Regulations might have averted are the two potato diseases:-

Eel worm and potato blight.

Merely to enforce the Regulations again now would recall the old proverb about the stable door. But I think we should consider whether we are going to fight the pests on the home front in which case it might be worth bringing in control over imports. The difficulty would arise about potatoes imported by such people as Dee Peck for eating but I think it could be overcome. We could in the first instance either write to Secretary of State for advice on the subject of tackling wire worm and potato blight or consult our own experts in Ex. Co.

✓ I think we might try to get the advice from the Secretary of State now and then discuss at the next meeting.

RHDM/IM
20.3.61

m.
R PA 21.3.61

~~air slip to S/C of 30.3.61.~~

F. I. ref:2097

C. O. ref:

3

SAVING TELEGRAM.

From: The Officer Administering the Government of the Falkland Islands.

To: The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Date 5th April, 1961.

No.81. SAVING. COLONY.

I have to inform you that the presence of potato blight and eel worm in local gardens has recently given rise to some concern. Both diseases have been present for many years and recent seasons have shown a marked increase in the spread of the infected areas.

Legislation exists to control the importation of plants but it is felt that advice should now be obtained on measures to be taken to combat the disease and if possible avoid further infection. Accordingly I am to enquire (a) if there is any recognised cure for either or both these diseases; (b) what steps can be taken to prevent further infection and (c) what varieties, if any, are regarded as immune or the least susceptible to infection?

Reply at 4.

GOVERNOR

BW 30.7.61 [initials]

5

4 - 3

Potato Root Eelworm (known as the Golden Nematode in U.S.A.)

In Great Britain where this pest is rife and serious in all gardens and allotments, and in the main potato growing areas (in fact wherever potatoes have been grown on a close rotation for a considerable period), control is obtained (a) by crop rotation 4 - 5 years being necessary under our climatic conditions and (b) by a programme of soil sampling under which farmers can have the soil population estimated to tell if the population is sufficiently high to cause injury.

My guess is that in the Philippines crop rotation will be the only feasible means of gaining control. Nematicides such as D.D. will probably be far too expensive.

There is some hope that resistant varieties will be marketed shortly. Whether the varieties are in fact resistant to a given population depends on its type. If necessary samples of soil can be sent here from say, half a dozen widely separated holdings for typing (500 g of soil = 1 lb per sample, in the half dry state). Typing will take about nine months.

Potato Tuber Eelworm

This is usually less common and rather less persistent than the root eelworm. Control can usually be obtained by ruthless eradication of weeds, rotation and careful selection of seed. Infested seed should be destroyed and on no account used for planting. "Healthy" tubers from an infested field or batch of seed often contain lesions too small to be noticed.

Again, if necessary, tubers could be sent by air in plastic bags for examination.

F. G. W. Jones
11th May, 1961.

Dr. Greene.

Potato Blight in the Falkland Islands

As the blight fungus is already in the Falkland Islands it will probably be impossible to eliminate it completely, and it will be necessary to aim at control rather than cure. It would be useful to know whether the disease is considered most troublesome in affecting the haulm of the potato plant and so reducing yield or whether the worry is because it affects tubers and causes loss during storage. From the point of view of giving advice, it would be useful to know what varieties are grown in the Falkland Islands and whether there are local preferences for varieties with white or coloured flesh (factors of importance in Northern markets). Any other information available on whether potatoes are grown in ridges, whether there is a definite growing season and whether rapidly maturing (early) varieties are required for immediate use or late maturing varieties for storage during the winter, would also be useful.

No variety is really immune to the disease, but some show a great deal of resistance. If the variety grown at present is the highly susceptible but good quality "Up-to-Date" then some improvement might be obtained by switching to Majestic, which shows some resistance to blight in the tubers. Other varieties *more resistant and* worth trying are Alpha, Pimpernel, Robijn, Loman 43-35 (all from Holland), Walanga (Australian).

If there are regular imports of seed potatoes to the Falkland Islands one need not worry about the virus disease situation, as good stocks of these varieties can probably be obtained. However, if the Falkland Islands have an indigenous potato which has been with them for many generations without fresh imports, it is worth weighing very seriously the risk of introducing new virus diseases with fresh varieties of seed potatoes.

P.H. Gregory

4th May, 1961.

7

RES 288/50/01.
Your ref: 2097.

Saving

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To the Officer Administering the Government of FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Date 21 June, 1961.

No. 56 Saving



4

My savingram No.45 of the 29th May.

Potato Blight and Eelworm Diseases.

Specimens of pressed (dried) leaves of potato plants bearing sporulating lesions should be sent, when completely dry, to Miss G.M. Waterhouse, Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Ferry Lane, Kew, Surrey.

They may be sent by ordinary mail.

see 17

SECEP.

mail from 4.

Reply at 12

8

8

*AC
K Council ...
was
21/7/61*

H. L. S.

9

The disease we have in Stanley is definitely the class that affects the tops of the potato and so reduces the crop. I think it should be possible to collect the soil & tubers to be sent to U.K. by about Dec or Jan.

H. L. S.

10/8/61

100 lb ^{sample} 2 2/8/61

W. S. R.

Given A.O. perhaps that is why we have
is a potato tuber disease. No other attacks
to handle or reduce crop.

Ask with regard to things as at 4 in 9
ask A.O. to see his list BU to remind him in
number

11 Annals index for review of for new weeks
news reader

5 22/7/61

11

NOTICE FOR THE MONTHLY REVIEW AND THE WEEKLY NEWS READER

NOTICE TO POTATO GROWERS

The following notes may be a help to potato growers.

Belworm

Control is gained in England by crop rotation, a rest of four to five years being necessary there. Ruthless eradication of weeds is also advantageous. Infested seed should be destroyed, and on no account used for planting.

Tuber Belworm

In the case of Tuber Belworm, apparently healthy tubers from an infested field or batch of seed, often contain lesions too small to be noticed.

From both the point of view of Belworm and Potato Blight, it is exceedingly important never to use imported eating potatoes for seed, but only seed potatoes bearing a certificate that they are free from pest and disease. To import for seed any potatoes not bearing such a certificate, is an offence.

after
5
90/8/61

29th August 1961

F. I. ref: 2097

C. O. ref: RES 288/50/01

12

SAVING TELEGRAM.

From: The Officer Administering the Government of the Falkland Islands.

To: The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Date: 31st August, 1961.

No. 163. SAVING. COLONY.

4
7
Your Circular Savingsrams No. 45 of the 29th May, 1961, and No. 56 of the 21st June, 1961.

Potato Blight and Eelworm Diseases.

4
I have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the three advisory leaflets concerning the above potato diseases forwarded under cover of your Savingsram No. 45.

It should be possible to collect specimens of soil and plants and forward them to the United Kingdom about December or January.

OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT

13.

O. i. - b. Agric Dept.

would you attend to the collection of
the specimens of soil and plants etc at X of 9 pl

ds

for C.S.

1. 9. 61.

14.

H. C. S.

Noted will do.

A. C. S.

2/9/61.

Bu

Bu 27.11.

Dec 6. 11. 61

Rec. 15. 1. 62.

(to remind 40.)

1/11

O'Keefe Agric.

15

Will you please arrange to collect samples of 'tops' with tubers still attached and about a cup full of soil from the same root for 3 widely separated gardens in Stanley. These should be dried & ready for posting by next outward train, on Feb. 6th.

H. C. S.

16

15/1/62

Potatoes & soil now collected & Packed.

G. A. S.

1/2/62

~~Send by next train~~

F. I. ref: 2097
C. O. ref: RES 238/50/01

17

SAVING TELEGRAM.

From: The Officer Administering the Government of the Falkland Islands.

To: The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Date: 17th March, 1962.

No. 38 SAVING. COLONY

7
Your Savingram No. 56 of 21st June, 1961.

Potato Blight and Belworm Diseases.

18
I have now collected specimens of leaves and soil from different infected areas and forwarded them direct to Miss Waterhouse for examination.

GOVERNOR

2097

18

17th March, 62.

Madam,

Some time ago we addressed the Secretary of State on the subject of potato diseases which are causing a great deal of concern in this Colony. On his advice I am now enclosing specimens of leaves and soil taken from infected areas and would be most grateful if you would have the specimens examined with a view to identifying the disease and suggesting measures that should be taken to combat it.

I am,
Madam,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) H. L. Bound.

for COLONIAL SECRETARY

Miss G. M. Waterhouse,
Commonwealth Mycological Institute,
Ferry Lane, Kew, Surrey,
ENGLAND.

Reply at 19.

BW 25.6.62

HLB/FH

Telegraphic Address:
COMMYCOL. KEW

Director:
J. C. F. HOPKINS, D.Sc., A.I.C.T.A.

Commonwealth Mycological Institute,

FERRY LANE,
KEW,
SURREY.



3rd May, 1962.

Dear Sir,

Potato Diseases.

18 Reference your 2097 of the 17th March, 1962, to Miss G.M. Waterhouse, and accompanying specimens of soil and potato foliage.

The specimens have been thoroughly examined but no evidence can be found of any known potato pathogen, either fungal or bacterial. The brown discoloration of the leaves could be caused by a number of different factors, including nutrient deficiencies or drought.

To make a diagnosis without actually seeing the potatoes in the field, much more detailed information and more representative plant material is required. Would it be possible to send us a detailed description of the symptoms, age of crop, incidence of rainfall since planting, and, also, a whole plant including roots and tubers?

It would be advantageous to send the material by airmail in a polythene bag but, if this is not practicable, the plant should be carefully pressed between sheets of newspaper and dried, and the tubers surface-dried and packed in a cardboard carton or wooden box between screwed-up pieces of paper. They should be collected as nearly as possible to the date of despatch.

Yours faithfully,

J.C.F. Hopkins

J.C.F. Hopkins,
Director.

The Colonial Secretary,
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

A.O. can we 2

~~B4 2.7.63~~ B4 10.12.65

Recalled 12.3.63
30/5/62 PFH. Pa



The Colonial Secretary,

Colonial Secretary's Office,

STANLEY,

Falkland Islands.

First fold here

Second fold here

Sender's name and address: The Director, C.M.I.,

Ferry Lane,

KEW, Surrey, England.

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY
ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

THE 'APSLEY' AIR LETTER

Form approved by Postmaster General No.—71995/1Y

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