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WHAT ARE GOOD "SEED" POTATOES?

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The use of home grown seed was abandoned years ago by our best growers. Just why potatoes degenerate in this climate we are not yet sure; but the fact has been clearly proven. The best practice has been to buy new seed from the north each year.

However, a new difficulty has arisen, namely, the appearance in the northern districts of the so-called "degeneracy" diseases: mosaic, leaf roll and others similar in effect. These diseases are chiefly spread by sucking insects which carry the infected plant juices from one plant to another. The tubers do not show the disease, except in extreme cases, when they tend to run long. Spraying and seed treatment are not controls, for the disease is within the tuber and plant. The Connecticut grower who plants diseased seed—which may look sound and healthy—will be rewarded by an irregular stand, many weak plants and a very poor yield.

CAN GOOD SEED BE GROWN? A few northern growers, on isolated farms, do not as yet have these diseases to any extent. Their stock should be good. In other regions, the trouble is widespread. These growers are being advised to secure new, disease-free stock and keep it isolated from other fields—a condition not always easy to provide. In some cases, this is being successfully accomplished.

The important point for Connecticut growers is this—all northern grown stock is not *good seed*, even though it looks good in the bag or car.

INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION. In all of the seed growing states, there is some kind of inspection and certification. As yet this is far from perfect, but the average of many trials shows better results with the certified seed.

At present, in addition to certification, it is best to have a knowledge of the grower and his crop. Most of our county agents have visited the seed growing states and better still, they understand the problem. BEFORE BUYING SEED, GET IN TOUCH WITH