

39.

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been exterminated is in Columbus and covers approximately forty large city blocks. The results secured in these places indicate that **any town may reasonably expect to eradicate the Argentine ant with several thorough, consecutive campaigns.** Complete eradication would have been achieved at most of the places just mentioned if all the infested areas had been known when poisoning first began, or if the cities had continued the fight with consecutive campaigns.

Irish Potato Seed Treatments

Experiments conducted during 1927 and 1928 by H. H. Wedgworth, Associate Plant Pathologist, with several Irish potato seed disinfectants, show that the loss from unmarketable scabby potatoes can be reduced to practically nothing. Considering cost and time, the most satisfactory treatment was soaking the uncut tubers in a bichloride of mercury solution—1 to 1000 parts water—for thirty minutes. Seed given this treatment produced 99.4% marketable potatoes in comparison with 79.4% marketable from untreated seed. Treatment for 30 minutes was found practically as effective as 60 or 90 minutes. The bichloride of mercury treatment was also found just as effective as widely advertised organic mercury compounds, besides being considerably cheaper. Details of the 1928 tests are given in Bulletin 261 of the Mississippi Experiment Station at A. & M. College.