

NEW SMUT REMEDY SIMPLE AND SURE

Concentrated Formaldehyde, M.
A. C. Specialist Says, Effectively
Protects Wheat
From Disease.

ITEM OF COST IS SLIGHT

Spores Can Be Killed at Expense of
Less Than Two Cents Per Bushel
of Grain Sprayed.

By DR. C. H. COONS,
Plant Pathologist, Michigan Agricultural
College.

East Lansing, Mich.—Practically all Michigan farmers who have ever grown wheat know the meaning and the smell of smutting smut, though their intimacy with it varies with different communities. Kalamazoo county affords an object lesson. In and around Richland, in this county, where there is a community of agricultural live wires, the losses this season from smut were slight, but not a dozen miles away is another group of growers whose grain, when threshed, gave off smut clouds worse than the most from a factory chimney. The smut losses in the latter instance ran as high as 25 per cent and more of the crop. Why the difference in the amount of smut damage in two communities?

There was a time when treating seed for smut was somewhat of a tiresome and laborious process, but it is no longer so. Heretofore most farmers who have been smutting their seed wheat used the dilute formaldehyde method, but now there is a way of making the job even simpler. This new smut remedy is known as the "concentrated formaldehyde method" first devised by Cornell university.

With this treatment the formaldehyde is used just as it comes from the drug store, that is, without being diluted. The seed wheat is simply spread in a long heap on the barn floor. Then one man sprays the grain with the concentrated formaldehyde while another shovels it over, turning it from one pile into another just as you would cement. The spraying can be done with a small hand atomizer of pint or quart size. One pint of formaldehyde is used for 50 bushels of grain. Where smaller quantities than 50 bushels are planted, correspondingly smaller amounts of formaldehyde are used—a half pint for 25 bushels, or a quarter of a pint for ten bushels.

After the grain is thoroughly sprayed, it should be covered with blankets or canvas for four hours—no longer, and then spread out thinly for an airing. After this the grain is ready for planting.

Last fall, under the direction of County Agent Smith, a number of farmers in Kent county tried out the new method. They secured perfect stands and perfect smut control at a cost of not more than two cents a bushel.

Of course the man who doesn't care to use the concentrated formaldehyde remedy can still do the job in the old way by using dilute formaldehyde. The difference between the new way

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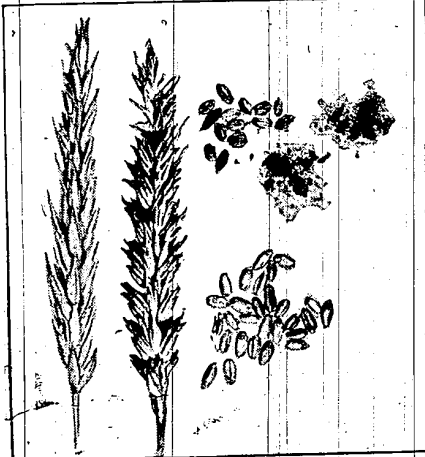
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Clean Wheat at the Left, Smutted Wheat on the Right. This Sort of Thing
Cost Michigan \$1,500,000 This Year. Formaldehyde Prevents It.

Did Richland farmers possess immune
seed? Not at all. The smut had sim-
ply been killed through treatment of
the seed before planting. In the other
district no such precautions were ob-
served.

In Michigan as a whole the losses
from smut this season ran all the way
from 5 to 60 per cent of the crop in
the different districts. If we place the
average loss in the state at five per
cent of the crop, and it was all of
that, it means that smut destroyed at
least 100,000 bushels of grain. In the
cough wheat, if placed in bushel
sacks, and arranged in a row, to extend
all the way from Kalamazoo to
Detroit, or from Saginaw to Aluske-
go. The financial loss to the state
was at least \$1,500,000. This
year, particularly when the
kernel of wheat produced, should be
guarded against.

Smut isn't an unavoidable trouble.

NO LETUP IN EDUCATION

Colleges Will Open as Usual, Despite
War and Its Handicaps.

East Lansing, Mich.—Despite the
announcement of radical changes
made by a number of Eastern educa-
tional institutions under the spell of
the new conditions brought on by the
war, Michigan will, during the coming
year, continue its educational work as
usual. At least this is the announce-
ment coming from the Michigan Agri-
cultural college, and there are signs
that other of the state's schools of
higher learning will follow M. A. C.'s
lead.

Some of the seaboard schools will
open on October 1, or even later in the
fall, and close earlier in the spring,
but at M. A. C. the term will begin on
September 24 in all four divisions of
the college—engineering, agricultural,
home economics and veterinary medi-
cine.

"There is at present no reason why
our schools should begin making
changes," said President Kedzie in a
recent public statement. "If it be-
comes necessary, decisions to shorten
courses and terms can be arrived at
as quickly. We propose to proceed as
we would normally until it becomes ap-
parent that changes must be made."

Recent inquiries made by M. A. C.
indicate that practically all M. A. C.
students who weren't called out for
military duty will be continued at the
college, so that boys desiring to ac-
quire military training along with their

regular work in agricultural studies
will be given an opportunity to do so.

IMPROVED POULTRY HOUSE

Right Interior Arrangements Help
Welfare of Chickens.

By C. H. BURGESS

Dept. of Poultry Husbandry, Michigan
Agricultural College.

East Lansing, Mich.—Attention to
the interior arrangement of poultry
houses is not out of place, and mention
of a few points which we have found
to be of practical value in our work,
therefore, may be worth while:

Drinking fountains or vessels should
be at least 20 inches above the floor.
This will prevent the water from be-
coming contaminated with straw and
litter. If a mash hopper is used—
plans for a good one may be had from
the Michigan Agricultural college on
application—it should be hung of the
wall and should be so constructed that
the fowls cannot scratch or scatter the
feed.

Allow one nest to every six or seven
birds. For Leksprins give them nests
10 by 10 inches in size, and larger birds
12 by 12 inches. Place nests from 24
inches to 30 inches above the floor and
allow an 8-inch space per hen. No
dropping board need be used. Box the
front of the nesting quarters in such
a way that the litter cannot be
scratched into the droppings. White-
wash the interior of the house once a
year and use kerosene oil upon the
roosts once or twice a month during
the summer to prevent mites.