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Dust Treatment for Barley Diseases
Michigan State University Extension Service
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Reprinted March 1939
1 pages

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DUST TREATMENT FOR BARLEY DISEASES

J. H. MUNCIE

Michigan farmers each year lose part of their barley crop because of preventable diseases. Experiments by the Section of Botany and Plant Pathology of the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station and tests in several counties show that covered smut, black loose smut, stripe and seedling blight caused by scab, and certain blotch disease fungi can be largely prevented by the use of the proper seed treatment.

In our tests, New Improved Ceresan, a dust disinfectant containing 5% ethyl mercury phosphate has given satisfactory control of these diseases.

HOW TO TREAT

Use New Improved Ceresan at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce of the chemical dust to each bushel of barley. The treatment is best applied with a rotary or gravity type treater or with the home-made "Minnesota" grain seed treater*. The dust may be mixed with the grain by shovelling, but this does not always give satisfactory results. About 50 turns of the rotary seed treater will give thorough mixing.

After treatment the grain should stand in the bags or in an uncovered pile for 24 hours before planting. Treated grain may be held for several weeks before planting with little or no injury.

CAUTION—Do not use more than $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce of New Improved Ceresan to the bushel of barley. Excess dosage may result in injury to germination. This material is a deadly poison and treated grain is not fit for feeding. Keep dust away from children and animals. Do not breathe the dust while treating. Tie a handkerchief over the nose and mouth or use a respirator.

*Detailed plans for making the "Minnesota" grain seed treater may be obtained from your county agricultural agent or the Extension Division, Michigan State College.