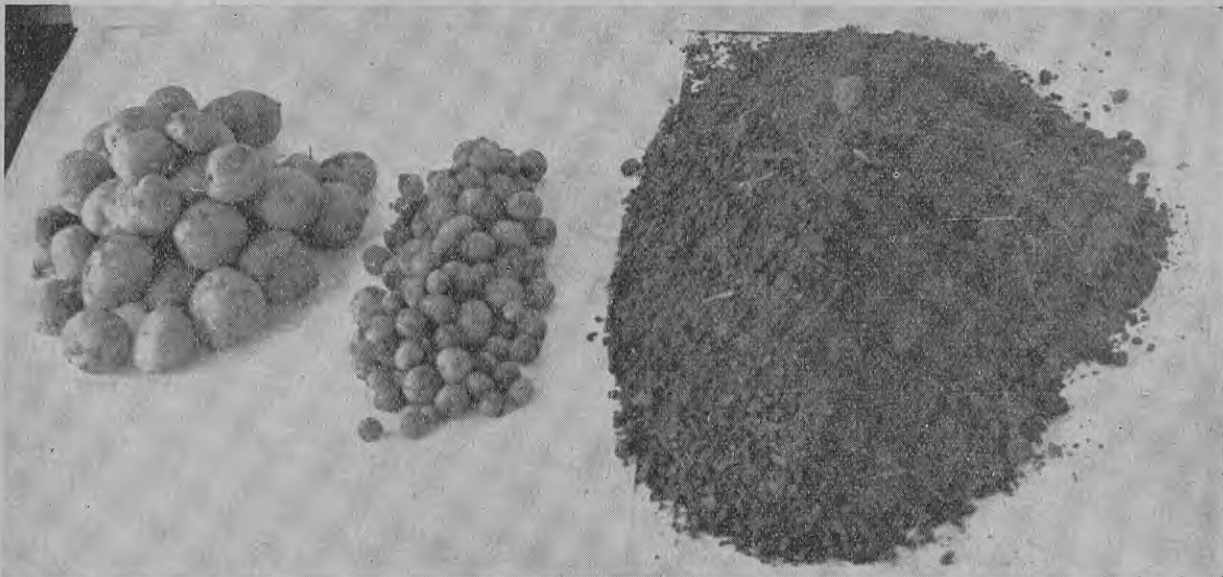


Unfair Packing of Potatoes



STRIKING evidence of a case of unfair packing of vegetables is shown in the above photograph. The potatoes on the left were at the top of the bag examined, and the small ones in the middle were encountered underneath. The heap of dirt shown on the right weighed $11\frac{3}{4}$ lb., and was taken from two bags.

As a result, a Pukekohe market gardener was charged in the Magistrate's Court, Wellington, with unfair packing, and the Magistrate imposed the maximum fine of £20 and costs.

In evidence, a Fruit Inspector of the Department of Agriculture stated that on October 13, in auction rooms in Wellington, he examined two of a consignment of 47 bags of potatoes from the defendant. The potatoes in the tops of the bags did not fairly represent what remained.

The bags which were examined produced good even-sized potatoes for about six inches down, but the remaining 18 inches contained small and inferior potatoes.

There was also a large quantity of dirt in the lower part of the bags, and no less than $11\frac{3}{4}$ lb. of dirt was weighed from the two bags examined.

The defendant did not appear, but sent a letter to the Court in which he stated that the bags had been packed by Maoris, who were responsible for the uneven packing.

Market Gardener Fined £20; $11\frac{3}{4}$ lb. Of Dirt in Two Bags

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Bulbs

DURING the latter part of December and January spring-flowering bulbs may be lifted, dried, and cleaned before storing. Take care that they are not damaged during lifting or bruised while handling. The most suitable storage place is a cool, dry, airy shed. If a quantity of bulbs are to be stored they must not be so great a bulk that air cannot penetrate through them readily.

Precautions in drying bulbs must be observed. Some sunburn readily and rot subsequently. This applies to tulips especially and to narcissi to a lesser extent. Hyacinth bulbs can stand exposure to sun, and are benefited by it.

Hyacinth bulbs should be stored for three months to mature properly. With narcissi, the sooner they are replanted after lifting and dividing the better. It is well to replant tulips as soon as possible, as they are attractive to aphids while in store, and by this means the virus causing striping is spread. If

they cannot be planted immediately, watch for the aphids and, if necessary, spray with nicotine sulphate.

Picking of Flowers

PLANTS which produce blooms over a long season can be made much more productive if thought is given to the way in which the blooms are cut. It should be a form of pruning. Only a certain length of stem may be required, but to take only this length will leave much unproductive growth on the plant. This growth may be sufficient to keep the plant nourished.

It is a wiser policy to cut back to well-developed buds. These will then be forced into growth, and in a few weeks should be showing flower buds again. This pruning requires to be done regularly as the blooms or dead flowers are removed. The soil moisture must be sufficient to make this new growth possible.