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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

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SUBJECT: "An Ounce of Prevention"...Information from Victory Garden Headquarters of the United States Department of Agriculture.

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You know the old saying about an ounce of prevention? If you're like me, you take that saying to heart. You'd rather keep your feet dry than doctor a cold and you'd rather keep knick-knacks out of childrens' reach than sweep up broken pieces.

But had you thought of applying the ounce of prevention idea to your gardening? A lot of experienced gardeners do. They ~~treat~~ their seed before planting 'em to keep down plant disease.

The gardening specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture tell me seed treatment is simple. And while it isn't guaranteed to keep plants disease free...it does help a lot. We might say it's one step in fighting plant disease.

You see...many of the diseases that hurt our vegetable crops are caused by bacteria or fungi carried on, in or with the seed. For example, many plants are nipped in the sprout, so to speak, by seed decay and "damping off". What's "damping off"? Well...it's a term used to describe the effects of a fungus growth. "Damping off" attacks seedlings when they've barely poked through the earth and makes them wilt away.

You treat the seed by dusting them with a disinfectant. All you have to do is put them in a container with the disinfectant and shake well...screen off the excess dust...and plant the seed.

The specialists say we can take that ounce of prevention in this case to mean a very little bit of disinfectant dust indeed. A dime's worth'll do. There are several effective kinds. Your county agent or local victory garden leader will tell you which kind will suit you best.

HOME MAKERS CLUB

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