

have escaped the first hoeing. They are then left to grow, and will soon cover the ground so as to effectually smother any weed that may show its head. If the ground is likely to be very weedy it is better to cover the seed with a plough, throwing only one furrow on each drill, and then harrowing down lengthwise with a bush just as the potatoes begin to appear above the earth.

Last spring I planted about two acres with Anderson's Potato Planter, but the machine was so badly made that I was obliged to stop and plant the remainder by hand. However I believe that a good potato planter would be a great benefit; the piece planted with the planter got the start of that planted by hand, and continued about a week ahead, although only planted one day before, and at the digging turned out the best crop. The cause I assign for the Planter's superiority is its making the drill, dropping in the seed, and covering it immediately, before the sun has time to dry the earth, which was not the case with those dropped by hand, which had necessarily to remain open some hours exposed to a very hot sun, which dried the earth so much that it must have been some time before a sufficiency of moisture would be generated to act on the seed sufficiently to cause it to grow.

*Sorting and Preparing the Seed.*—Two sorts of seed is used, small potatoes and cut seed from large ones. The small potatoes are sorted from those grown from the cut seed from one inch to one and a half inches in diameter—not smaller—these are planted whole and no seed is saved from them. The cut seed is sorted from the best large potatoes, the best shaped and the healthiest in appearance, cut into good large sized sets, two or three weeks before planting, thrown into a heap on the floor of an outhouse, turned over two or three times, and a little plaster thrown over them each time they are turned. This turning dries them equally, and they form a skin on the cut portion of the set, which is a protection to them when planted. By these means the seed is kept pure from mixture with other kinds. By selecting the best, and largest each year to procure seed from, the potatoes do not degenerate; neither do they require changing so often, that is, fetching from a distance, for a change of soil and climate. I have a kind of potatoes (Shaw's seedlings) in my possession, which I have grown ten years on the same farm, and instead of degenerating, they have rather improved. They are a summer and fall potato, and crop exceedingly well; they are an excellent potato in their season, but not good for eating in winter and spring.

*Digging, Storing and Keeping.*—Potatoes should, if possible, be dug in dry weather, and allowed to lie on the earth, some time to dry, then gathered carefully, and carried in barrels in a waggon. If they are not perfectly dry they should be taken to a building where they can be spread on the floor until they are thoroughly dried. Then a pit may be prepared in the following manner. Choose a dry, sandy knoll, if possible, and dig a trench eighteen inches deep by three feet wide, and as long as required, throwing the soil out in equal parts on each side, then line the bottom with boards, and lay the potatoes in the trench, heaping them up in the centre until about the form of the roof of a house. When you have them thus prepared, take straw and lay it on the top in the same manner as if you were going to thatch, to about the thickness of six inches when pressed close. They should be covered very lightly with earth on each side, and left open along the ridge, and a board laid on to keep out the rain: when hard frost sets in earth up all over, eighteen inches thick, and cover over the earth one foot thick with straw, weeds or short litter of any kind, which will keep the snow from blowing off, and effectually keep out the hardest frost. I have never yet lost any potatoes when pitted in this manner more than what will ordinarily rot by keeping; they always turn out in the spring in beautiful condition, and as fresh and good as when put in. Potatoes for eating keep better stored in this manner than stored in a cellar. The light and air cause them to have a bitter taste, and if they are warm to grow.

If a sandy knoll cannot be got to make a trench on, mix some lime and sawdust, or ashes and sawdust together, and spread amongst the potatoes as they are being put into the pit. This will absorb the moisture and assist in keeping them dry, which is indispensable to their keeping in good condition.

Some members of the Club having expressed a wish that I should give my opinion with regard to the potato disease: I proceed to do so, not that I expect to throw much light on the subject. I will, however, state a few facts that have come under my observation. My own potato crops, the last few years, have been generally free from the rot, with some exceptions; my land that was planted is flat, with a clay subsoil, consequently the water lies on it late in the spring; some seasons the crop could not be got in until