

sults as sets from thoroughly matured, medium sized potatoes. The continued use of small potatoes is sure to reduce the crop.

#### THE PLANTING.

The soil being in good condition and the seed cut, the next consideration is the planting. Except for very large areas where planters are used, the best practice is to open the furrows with a double mold board plow. At Ottawa it has been found that rows two and a half feet apart is an economical distance. Experiments were tried in planting the sets 18, 16, 14, 12, 10 and 8 inches apart in the rows, but the best distance was found to be 12 to 14 inches apart. Experiments have also been tried in planting the sets one to eight inches deep, to find the best depth, and it has been found that for six years the potatoes planted in sandy loam soil one inch deep have given the largest yield. It is believed that the reason for this is that the soil is warmer near the surface and the sets sprout sooner, thus getting the plants growing thriftily while there is plenty of moisture in the ground. This shallow planting also comes nearest the conditions of the potato in the wild state.

Although sets planted one inch deep have given the largest yields, yet this is not the most economical way to plant them, as it is necessary to destroy the weeds in order to ensure a large crop of potatoes. For this purpose it is necessary to harrow the field just before or as the plants are coming up.

**Early Potatoes.**—"There is no reason why the market gardeners about Toronto should not make money raising early potatoes," remarked Mr. Charles Topping to a representative of The Canadian Horticulturist. "The freight on early potatoes brought from a distance makes them come high. California potatoes cost five dollars a barrel, containing three bushels, *i. e.*, \$1.67 a bushel."

If the sets were only one inch deep they would be dragged out, hence four to five inches deep has been found to be the most economical depth.

The potatoes are covered with the double mold board plow, and when the weed seeds have germinated the land is levelled with the smoothing harrow, thus killing myriads of weeds which would require hand hoeing if left until the vines grew up. If the soil gets two harrowings to kill weeds, so much the better.

As the conservation of moisture is very important in obtaining a large crop of potatoes, the soil should be kept thoroughly cultivated as soon as the potatoes are up enough to show the rows. The first one or two cultivations should be deep in order to loosen the soil, but the last two or three should be shallow to avoid injuring the roots and tubers. From four to five cultivations should be given during the season. Prof. Roberts, late director of the Experiment Station of Cornell University, found that the crop increased in proportion to the thoroughness and continuance of cultivation. At the Central Experimental Farm the potatoes are grown according to the level cultivation, the plants not being hilled, and this method has been found very satisfactory. In soils which are not quite loose hilling up may be preferable, but when the plants are hilled up there is more exposure to wind and the soil dries out sooner than with level culture.

(To be continued.)

Radishes will thrive in any good soil, but to be crisp and tender must be grown quickly. If a continuous supply is wanted make sowings every ten days or two weeks.

The advantages of sod mulching are: 1. To save washing on hilly ground. 2. To save depletion of soil. 3. To make the soil richer. 4. To conserve moisture by shading the soil.