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MANGOLD WURTZEL.

This invaluable root, which I prefer spelling *Mangel*, has been cultivated in England for the last sixty years. It is, I believe, a native of Germany, and is supposed to be a hybrid between the white sugar-beet and the ordinary beet-root used for salads; but its genealogy is doubtful. There are several kinds of mangels, the most important ones being: the long-red, the orange or yellow-globe, and the ovoid or egg-shaped, which is either red or yellow. Of these, the long-red is an immense cropper, but inferior in quality to the yellow. On good heavy land I prefer the former; but on light loams, the orange globe will be found the better: it yields well, is less leafy, and, an important point, it is much easier to get up when ready to pull.

Preparation of the land.—The deeper the cultivation, the greater the crop, is an axiom in mangel growing, as well as in

growing all kinds of roots. By this, I do not mean that in heavy land a large mass of raw clay should be turned up in spring, involving all sorts of botheration in cross-ploughing, grubbing, harrowing, and rolling, until half the summer is over. This would defer the sowing of the crop till all chance of an abundant yield was over. Still, the great aim of the root-grower should be the attainment by degrees of a good depth of well worked soil, and he never should be satisfied until he has secured a furrow of at least nine inches deep.

The treatment of heavy land, as it is usually met with here, should be carried on in some such way as this:

The last crop has, of course, been grain of some sort—the concluding one of the rotation—and, therefore, if there is any couch-grass, or other root-weed, in the land, it must be got rid of. This is, in my part of England, the very strongest feature in our system of farming. The moment the grain-crop is carried—sometimes, even, as soon as the shocks are set up—the cultivator is worked up and down the ridges and across them; the harrow and roller pulverize the broken surface, and the horse-rake drags the grass, etc., into rows. The rubbish is then either burned or, preferably, carted away to the corner of the field, to form the foundation of a mixture for the coming root-crop. With our best farmers, the cultivation is so perfect that this part of the preparation is rarely required, for the very commendable practice of forking out couch-grass in the stubbles directly after harvest is fast increasing. The cost is trifling, and the cure is perfect. A little knot of couch grass, if pounced upon as soon as the crop is off, is easily removed from the soil by a fork; but if it be raised by a grubber, and torn to pieces by the harrow, it may be carried over half an acre, and will become difficult to collect. Still, in this province, where skilled farm-labour is so scarce and so dear, the grubber will be found the cheaper if not the more accurately effective implement, the sun is often very scorching in its effects during August and September, and I have often observed that grass and other root-weeds have been so completely desiccated by a couple of days exposure to the air during those months, that all fear of their growing again was at an end.