

FARM.

Sugar Beets Around Guelph and Berlin.

Although the wet weather in the spring and early summer, in some cases delayed the sowing of sugar-beet seed, and in many instances increased the work of thinning and hoeing, the sugar-beet crop in the neighborhood of Guelph is looking well.

On the 29th of July, the writer visited nine different farms on which sugar beets are growing. The first field visited was on the Pipe farm, which lies just outside the city limits. This is the third year sugar beets have been grown on this farm, and the present crop of sixteen acres is looking fairly well. Mr. R. McCrae, who has charge of the farm, states that he has considerable difficulty in getting the work done at the right time, but from past experience he is satisfied that he will have a paying crop. Last year he fed a large quantity of beet pulp to thirty head of cattle he fattened, and is of the opinion that it is more valuable as a cattle food than turnips.

Mr. Henry Larter's patch of two and a half acres was not sown until about the first of June. The thinning was well done, and there is a good stand of plants, but, because of not having a cultivator that could be used between rows eighteen inches apart, the after-cultivation has not been as thorough as it should be, yet it looks as though he would have an average crop. This is Mr. Larter's first attempt at growing beets, and although he cannot say how they will pay him, he feels confident that after this year's experience he can do much better.

The beets in the one-acre patch on Mr. John Kerby's farm were remarkably fine, thrifty specimens, and showed the effect of good cultivation. The rows were placed somewhat far apart, so as to allow the ordinary root cultivator to pass freely between them; consequently, the yield may not be as large as might otherwise have been secured.

The next farm visited was that of Mr. Jacob Goetz. In 1902, Mr. Goetz sowed one-half an acre of beets, for which he received forty dollars. In 1903, he raised two acres of beets, the gross receipts for which were \$163.83. This year he has two and a half acres of well-cultivated, strong-growing beets, of which he said: "I expect this two and a half acres will give me larger returns than any ten acres of grain on my farm." Mr. Goetz takes great pride in his beet field, and, needless to say, his crop is looking well. Both last year and this, the beets have followed oats, the ground being manured in the fall. Barley was sown where the beets were grown last year, and it is very heavy.

Mr. Geo. North's beets followed barley, seeded with clover, manured in the fall, and plowed in the spring. The stand of beets is fairly good, but, owing to the lack of help, have not received the amount of cultivation they should have had.

The beets on the farm of Mr. J. W. Jackson were sown early, and the tops almost completely cover the ground. About one-half of Mr. Jackson's beets were on gravelly soil, the balance are on good clay loam, on which there are prospects of a very heavy yield of beets.

The wet weather prevented Mr. Jas. Laidlaw from sowing more than two acres, although he had intended sowing twice that. What he has sown were late, but have been well attended to, and are growing rapidly. There is a good even stand of plants, and the prospects are bright for a heavy crop.

Although Mr. Herbert Wright's seven and a half acres of beets were not sown until June 11th, they have come on so fast that the tops about half cover the ground. Mr. Wright has a wider experience in growing beets than any other farmer in the Guelph district, and looks upon it as a good paying crop. He is also a believer in the value of the pulp as a stock food. Last winter he fed forty tons of it, and states that it is a good food for cattle, but that it is even better for sheep.

The last farm visited was that of Mr. Wm. McCrea, who has two acres of beets, which give promise of being a very heavy crop. Although not sown until nearly the end of May, the tops now almost completely cover the ground. Last year Mr. McCrea's two acres of beets brought him \$125, and they did not look as well at this time last year as his present crop. A good illustration was seen here of the manurial value of beet tops. Last fall the tops were not scattered before plowing, and the places where these had lain can easily be seen in the rank growth of the oats which were sown on the land this year.

In general, the experience of those farmers who have grown beets for two or more years is that they are a paying crop. The lack of help to get the work done at the right time is a great drawback, but all agreed that when a comparatively small acreage of sugar beets, such as they can hope to look after properly, is sown, it is one of the most if not the most profitable crop that can be grown on the farm.

About a week later the writer spent a day

visiting beet fields in the vicinity of Berlin. It is quite evident, from the improved appearance of the crop over that of last year and the year previous, that the farmers are realizing that it is profitable to look after this crop properly; and that in this case it may be said that the man, more than the land, makes the crop. It has been frequently pointed out that the sugar-beet crop is a highly-bred one, and that it will more readily respond to good cultivation than any other crop grown on the farm. That it will not do well without cultivation has been proved over and over again during the last two seasons, and many evidences of it may be seen this year. On the other hand, there is abundance of evidence that it will respond to cultivation. The field of beets on the farm of the Sugar Company is a good example of this. In this case the beets were sown early in May, were thinned at the proper time, and have received good cultivation throughout the whole season. This field cannot be said to be rich in plant food, but cultivation has made up for the want of this. At the present time the tops so completely cover the ground that it is impossible to tell which way the rows run unless you get in among the plants. The beets are three inches or more in diameter, and the tops have a deep green, healthy appearance, and every evidence of there being strong growth. In this field the ground between the rows has been stirred to a depth of at least six inches, and is now quite loose and soft, giving the beets every chance to do well. The one-acre patch on Mr. Wm. Schafer's place is also looking remarkably well, and in this case good cultivation has had a great deal to do with the present condition of the crop.

That it is important that the work be done at the right time, was clearly shown in the present condition of two different fields visited. In one the tops were rather small and yellow; in the other there was at least twice the growth of top, and the leaves were of a deep green color. The land seemed as nearly alike as could be, and the cause of the difference appeared to be that one had been thinned when the beets were ready, and the other had been made to wait the farmer's convenience. Just as marked a difference in the appearance of crops was later seen, which was found to be due to after-cultivation. In both cases the crops were thinned at the proper time; one had been carefully cultivated since that time, the other had received probably no attention. Everywhere it was evident that thorough cultivation is important, and that the farmers are beginning to fully realize this point.

Conversation with many farmers also brought out the fact that they believe that the sugar-beet crop is a moneymaker for them, and that it leaves the land in a fine condition for the succeeding crop. Indeed, the statement was made to me several times during the day that the sugar-beet crop was not so hard on the ground as turnips, and that they thought it equal to a summer-fallow for cleaning the land. Everywhere throughout the district where the beets had been

properly looked after last year, scarcely a weed could be seen growing on that land. No doubt the reason that the weeds are so thoroughly killed out is that if the cultivation is thorough up to the time that the leaves cover the ground, the weeds cannot get a start, and afterwards cannot come, as the ground is completely covered, and stays covered up to the time the crop is lifted. In this respect it differs from other root crops, and no doubt this is the reason it acts so well as a cleaning crop.

From the appearance of the sugar-beet fields, the crops growing on last year's beet-land, and the expressions of approval of the crop made by growers seen throughout the day, the indications are that the growing of sugar beets will soon be considered an essential part of field husbandry in Waterloo Co.

R. HARCOURT.

Ontario Agricultural College.

Eradicating Poison Ivy.

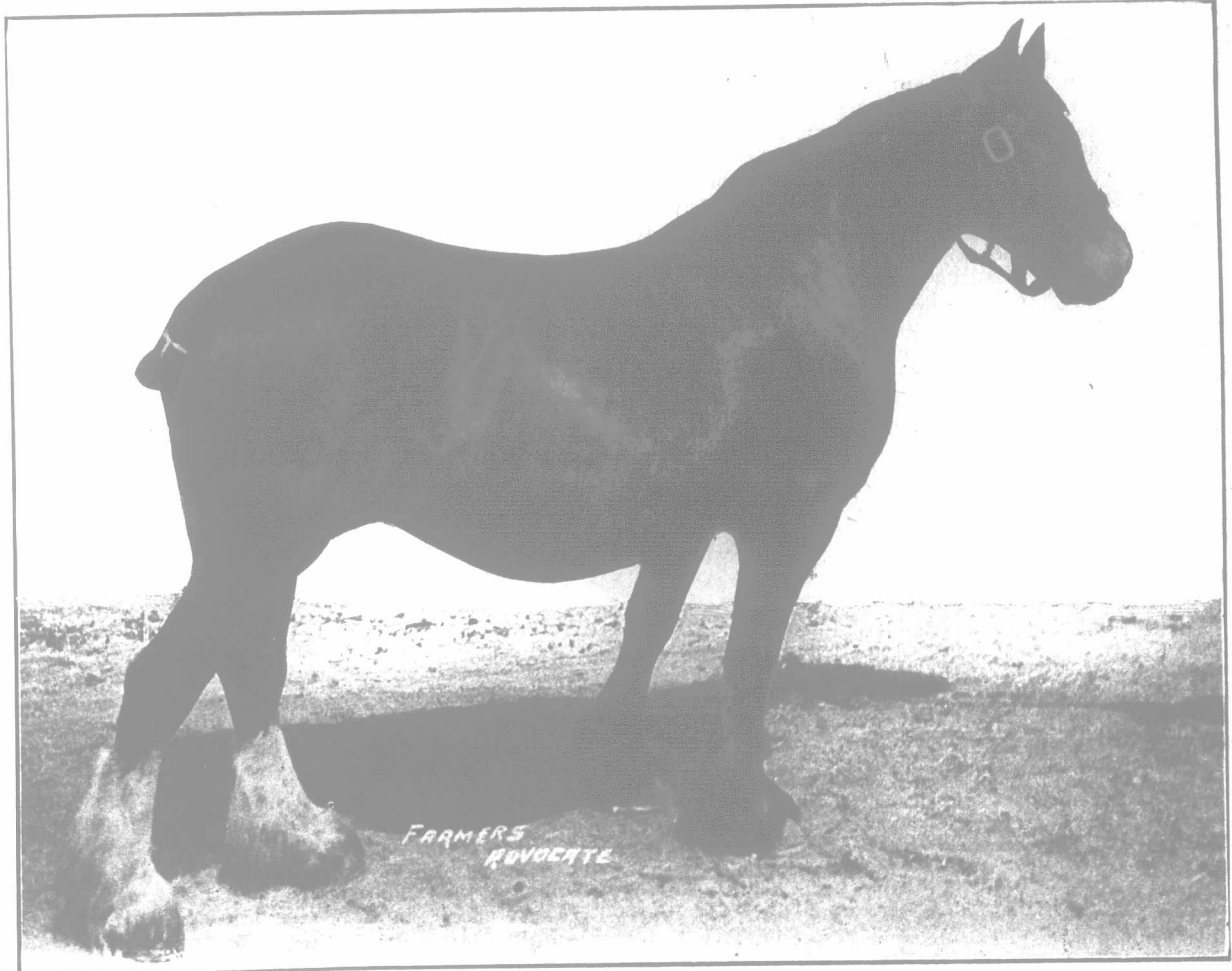
W. D., Toronto, writes: "My place is overrun with millions of poison ivy plants, and it is all around me in immense quantities. Of course, I can keep it down in the garden, but in something like a wooded park I am greatly bothered. I have recently come into possession of this place, and want to eradicate the poison ivy entirely."

The proposition you have to deal with is a somewhat serious one, as it is dangerous to allow poison ivy to grow where persons are likely to come in contact with it. The poisonous action of the poison ivy is due to a non-volatile oil, which is present in all parts of the plant, and in even the dry weed. Some people are immune to the effects of this poison, while others are very sensitive to it. If possible, persons who are immune to its action should be employed in eradicating the plants. The only effective method of getting rid of the plants is to dig them out and burn them. Some have recommended the use of sulphuric acid to destroy the plants by placing it around the roots, but this is a more or less impracticable method where so many have to be dealt with. There are two kinds of the poison ivy; the one is known to botanists as *Rhus toxicodendron*, the other is merely a variety of this, known as *Rhus radicans*. The latter has entire leaves, while in the former the leaflets are more or less notched. Sometimes the Virginia Creeper is mistaken for poison ivy, although they can readily be distinguished one from the other. The true poison ivy has three leaflets, while the Virginia Creeper has five.

In connection with the poisonous effect of poison ivy, it may be mentioned that one of the best remedies is to wash the affected parts with an alcoholic solution of sugar of lead. It should also be remembered that the poison oil of the ivy is not soluble in water, consequently it cannot be washed from the hands with water alone, and it may be carried from one person to another by the use of towels or tools which have the oil upon them.

H. L. HUTT.

O. A. C., Guelph.



Sonsie Lass.

First in progeny; 1st. best mare any age; 1st. best Clydesdale mare; gold medal presented by Clydesdale Association of Great Britain, at Winnipeg Dominion Exhibition, 1901. Owned by Jno. A. Turner, Calgary.