
Potatoes and Root Crops



In the cultivation of root crops (with the exception of the Onion, which is not correctly placed in this class of vegetables) the great point to bear in mind is that they must have deep soil, free from fresh manure, if satisfactory results are to be obtained. The proper way is to grow them on land that was enriched for a crop the previous year, such, for example, as Celery, Peas, and Beans. The ground will then be in what is called "good heart"; if thrown up roughly in autumn and dug over in spring, it will, with the timely assistance of artificial fertilisers in spring and summer, produce the finest possible crops. If vegetables grown for the sake of their roots are planted on ground that has not been deeply cultivated, or contains fresh manure near the surface, they will be misshapen and altogether poor.

The Potato may be grown on the same ground for many years in succession, and will continue to yield profitable crops, providing the land is manured each autumn, and that a change of seed, grown in a distant district, is obtained every other year. However, when dealing with a comparatively small plot of ground, it is advisable to arrange a proper rotation of crops, and particularly if ample supplies of manure are not available.