

They also supplement the manure with a commercial fertilizer composed of potash and phosphoric acid, about eight to ten per cent. of each. Other growers like to get the crop of onions off the ground by the first of September, sowing oats, which are plowed under late in the fall, for the purpose of adding humus to the soil.

The onion growers situated on upland apply manure when it can be secured profitably, at the rate of forty or fifty-two horse loads per acre. The general tendency is not to use so much stable manure, fifteen to twenty tons per acre being deemed sufficient, to which is added five hundred pounds of fertilizer.

Where stable manure is used, it is generally applied in the fall and plowed in, although some prefer to plow the land in the fall and apply well rotted manure in the spring, working it in with a disc harrow.



Hand Cultivating.

Where fall plowing is practised, the following is generally the rule: As early in the spring as the ground will carry a team, it is harrowed with a drag, which helps to dry the surface. A few days later it is disced and thoroughly pulverized. It is then harrowed. The fertilizer is then applied, usually with a drill, so as to get even distribution, after which the ground is again harrowed and planked, leaving a smooth, even surface, free from lumps and ready to receive the seed.

SEED. A goodly number of the growers test their seed for germination and sow their seed accordingly, generally using from four to four and one-half pounds per acre on muck soils, and on upland from four and one-half to five pounds of seed per acre. The exception to the above is in the case of white seed, which is generally sown at the rate of about six pounds per acre. The desired type of white onion is a little larger than a hen's egg, hence the heavier seeding of white.