

Soil

Strictly speaking, beans accommodate themselves of almost any soil, with the exception however of very limy soils as well as those that are too light, damp or cold, which are fatal to them.

Light soils, clay loams, gravelly, rather sandy than clayey, well drained and sufficiently rich in organic matters are those most generally suited to bean crops.

It is in fact acknowledged that beans fear cold and dampness much more than heat and dryness. For this reason we recommend that they should be cultivated preferably in soils that grow warm and drain easily.

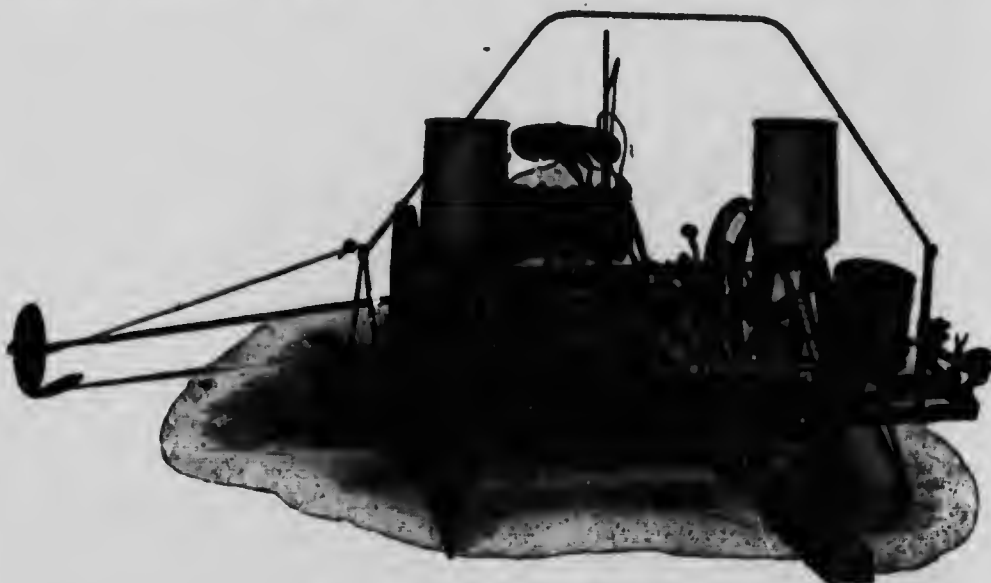


FIG. 3.—“Cockshutt” lantern.

Also will they be grown in clay soils only when the latter have been thoroughly drained and mellowed, otherwise the flowering will be poor, seeds will difficultly mature and their quality will be so much altered as the season will have been rainy (1).

Rotation of crops

Belonging to the family of the Leguminosae the bean possesses the property of fixing the azote of the air through nodosities developing on its roots, so that

(1) Of course, it is obvious that we should not fall in the opposite abuse, or cultivate them in a soil that is too dry; because beans, as any other plant, not only require heat and air, but again a certain amount of moisture, in order to spring up and develop.

Besides, we will see further on that hoeings must be often resorted to so as to keep to the soil its proper degree of moisture. It would consequently be disastrous, particularly in dry weather, to grow beans in a land with a very small retaining capacity.

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