

ing maximum yields from the soil. There exists in most of our soils enormous amounts of the elements of plant food, and the availability of these to the plant is greatly increased by proper tillage, which allows for better action of both mechanical bacterial and chemical agencies.

Although each part of our tillage operations are important, each in its own way, there is none which can equal that of the plow, and for this reason it is important that this step in cultivation be done thoroughly if proper results are to be regularly returned. While a piece of land may do without plowing for a year or so, as in the fresh land of our Canadian West, yet if surface cultivation is followed up, the crop yields will rapidly diminish because of the retarded action of the different soil processes.

Before commencing to plow any piece of land, it is necessary to consider the kind of soil and the object that is to be attained, as these two factors influence the kind of furrow that should be turned. Thus a sod field in summer would require a different type of furrow to a stubble field plowed in the fall to be left over winter; the first requires a flat furrow and the latter a lap furrow.

There are three types of furrow used on our farms, and each accomplishes a purpose of its own. The flat furrow is used to describe that kind of plowing where each furrow is turned over completely and lies flat in the bottom of the preceding one. Such a one is used as for sod, where the grass is to be killed and rotted, as for summer fallow or early in the fall for next year's root crop. A shallow furrow of moderate width should be turned, and it should be laid close up to the previous one, so that there will be no air space between the two. The idea in this style of furrow is to shut out the air from the sod being turned under, so that the grass smothers for want of air, and by heating soon decomposes. In a furrow of this kind the soil is very little broken up, but is turned over solid. It should then be firmed with the roller, after which top cultivation may be given, due care being taken not to tear up any of the sod. This method will kill all green growth and the soil will become mellow and friable. It can then be ribbed up last thing in the fall, so that it will further be exposed to the pulverizing action of the frost.

The lap furrow is undoubtedly the most used of any. In it the furrow slice is only practically turned over, and it laps over somewhat on the preceding one. In former years, when the old

iron plow was more widely used than now, the custom was to turn up a very stiff, comby furrow, but the present-day plows turn one which does not set up so rigidly. When the lap furrow is used in fall plowing, the aim should not be to pulverize the soil very much, especially on heavy soil, but rather to expose as large a

surface as possible to the frost's action during winter. Such a furrow has large air spaces beneath it, which aid the action of thawing and freezing during the winter months, as well as hastening the drying and warming up in spring. In addition to this the uneven surface of the plowed land presented by

the lap furrow allows for the holding of the snow during winter, and this aids in adding moisture to the soil, which is needed for the crop during the following year. In many cases the surface of the stubble fields being plowed in the fall will have a thick growth of trash. This, however, can be turned under

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