

EXHIBITION CIRCULAR NO. 9.

DOMINION OF CANADA.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

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CROP ROTATIONS

FOR

CENTRAL AND EASTERN CANADA.

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CROP ROTATIONS FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN CANADA.

What is meant by rotation of crops?

It is a certain regular succession of crops so arranged that, after each, the land is left in the best possible condition to receive the crop which follows.

Why does the order in which crops follow each other make a great difference in the yields from year to year?

1. Because different plants have different manurial requirements.
2. Because plants vary in their power to abstract certain foods from the soil.
3. Because all plants do not feed to the same depth in the soil.
4. Because all plants are not alike in the residues they leave behind.
5. Because some plants tend to produce better tilth than others.
6. Because plants vary in their resistance power to bacterial and fungous diseases and to insect enemies.

What are the requirements of any rotation before it may be considered suitable?

1. It must supply the crops needed in the proper proportions.
2. It must be so constituted that weeds can be kept under control.
3. It must yield a reasonable net profit.
4. It must, under properly regulated treatment, maintain soil fertility.

Why should every farmer place his farm under some definite system of cropping, or, in other words, adopt a rotation of crops?

1. Because it will increase crop yields and net profits.
2. Because the cost of fencing, on farms where live stock is kept, would be materially reduced, since it would be necessary to fence off only three, four or five fields instead of ten or twelve as is often done.