

Conservation

Published monthly for eight months in the year
by the Commission of Conservation, Ottawa, Canada.

VOL 11

SEPTEMBER, 1913

NO. 8

Timely Hints for Harvesting Roots

Mangels

As mangels and sugar mangels grow much above ground, they are more exposed to frost than other roots. Pulling should therefore begin about October 15th. The best practice is to pull by hand, then breaking the tops off with a sudden jerk. For convenience in loading, throw four rows together, making one long leap.

Another plan of harvesting mangels, which is coming in to general use now that labour is scarce, is topping with a very sharp hoe, then harrowing out the mangels with common iron harrows, two strokes in opposite directions being usually sufficient. It may be thought that harrowing will break and injure the roots. No doubt there may be a few broken off, and some scratches from the harrow teeth, but such wounds heal very quickly and no decay has been noticed from this source. When no frost threatens, mangels should be kept on the ground 24 hours before loading.

Sugar Beets and Carrots

These are more difficult to harvest, owing to their long underground roots. It is best to run a sub-soil plough along one side of the row, loosening and cutting off some of the strong fibrous roots, and thus enabling the puller to take up several at once. In most districts, the time to harvest sugar beets and carrots is between October 20th and 30th.

Turnips

One of the easiest ways to harvest turnips is to top with an ordinary hoe and turn the roots out with a sharp-shared plough, with the mould-board removed. By striking the tops of two rows together, the turnips can be plainly seen, and, if turned inward on the row of tops, they are clearly visible for loading. Harrowing out does not answer well, except in sandy soil. Hand-pulling is best where help can be secured. As they are not very sensitive to frost, turnips should be left on the ground for a day or two after being pulled.—J.F.

A Practical Way To Teach Good Farming



(Cut No. 20)

Look at the groups of farmers depicted in these photographs. Do they appear interested? They are listening to Travelling Demonstrators of the Commission of Conservation on Illustration Farms in Prince Edward Island. They are discussing questions vital to every farming community, such as seed selection, improved methods of tillage, and the need of organized effort in solving rural problems. The Instructors are not talking from a merely theoretical standpoint; they have concrete results to show on the Illustration Farms

to give point to their discourse. For instance, one topic is the advantages following the introduction of summer-pasture mixtures on these farms. That the farmers were impressed with the work done may be gathered from the fact that at each meeting all the farmers gave in their names as being desirous of coöperating with the Commission in forming a Local Improvement Association for mutual assistance in promoting the prosperity of the neighbourhood.—F. C. N.



(Cut No. 17)

Goats Will Help Clear Scrub Land

Destroy brush and yield a profit—
Make worthless areas useful

The propensity of goats for eating the leaves and twigs of small bushes suggests that they would be very useful for cleaning out scrub and reducing otherwise waste land to good pasture for other animals. This expedient has been practised in Iowa and some other States with marked success. Saplings too big for the goats to reach the tops may be felled, although they will stand on their hindlegs and reach up five feet or more in their efforts to get at the leaves. Fields infested with hard-hack and stout herbs may be cleaned out by pasturing goats on them. No trouble will be experienced from having sheep or cattle in the same enclosure.

Steep, rocky hillsides, or stony places where there is considerable browse, may be turned into permanent goat pastures. Goats are often more suitable than sheep in such situations, not only because they will thrive on food that sheep would reject, but also because they are far more pugnacious and better able to defend themselves against dogs, coyotes, and other predatory animals.

Goats are valuable for their mohair, skins, meat, and milk. The best breed for mohair is the Angora; for milk purposes, the Swiss breeds can be recommended. They can withstand considerable variations in temperature, and will thrive in a variety of situations, but are sensitive to damp. The kids are delicate for a few days after being born, and need the same care as lambs. A flock of goats needs intelligent management, but they will well repay the attention they require at certain seasons. When the indirect profit derived from the destruction of scrub, or from the turning of otherwise worthless land to account, is considered, they may be looked upon as by no means the least profitable of our domestic animals.

The highest price ever paid at the London sales for a silver fox skin was \$2,900. The next highest was \$2,700, and a half dozen have sold for \$2,500 or more. At the present time, the average price is around \$200, though the best ranch foxes will bring about \$1,200.

TO NEWSPAPERMEN

"Conservation" is a press bulletin for newspapers to clip from. Our cuts will gladly be loaned to Canadian journals. Please order by number. First come, first served!