

10. Nearness to a market or shipping point is of great importance in the profitable production of truck crops.

The intensive crops of vegetables require an enormous amount of labor, and hence on that ground alone will have to be ruled out. Moreover, the market is only limited, even if it were near enough.

Difference in Labor

An interesting table shows that, while hay, oats, rye, wheat can be grown with less than five labor days per acre, potatoes require nearly double and other vegetables up to six and eight times the labor. While one man may tend as much as 75 acres of the first mentioned crops he may not handle more than five of celery and onions. The farmer who has to depend largely on his own labor will almost invariably make better labor income from the extensive crops, so that, while the average per acre production of 100 farms showed somewhat over \$18 for extensive crops, and nearly \$102 for intensive crops, the result per day of man labor was \$8.73 for the former and only \$5.54 for the latter.

Clearing muck-land of a growth of tamarack, black ash or elm is found to cost \$15 to \$30 per acre, but in some cases going up to \$75 and \$100.

All muck-land must, of course, be drained. The rapid settling of new muck-land necessitates the laying of tile drains deeper than usual (3.5 to 4 feet). If placed nearer the surface, uneven settling of the soil will frequently throw the tile out of line, thus ruining the drain. Open ditches may, of course, answer for a temporary measure.

Next to drainage, fertilizing or manuring is the most important factor in determining crop production on muck-land, even on the mild hardwood muck to which this study refers.

"Many muck soils have produced fairly good crops for a year or two, after which production diminishes rapidly unless fertilizers or manures are applied." The deficiency is mainly in potash and phosphates. "The most experienced muck farmers

use fertilizers from the very start without waiting to see if a crop can be produced without it." From 100 to 200 pounds of muriate of potash per acre are needed for small grain crop every two or three years. This expenditure is, however, reflected in the increased yield; without potash, muck soils usually produce very light crops.

Compacting the muck by means of heavy rollers does not only produce a better seedbed, but is claimed to reduce danger from frost.

Details of soil management are given which every muck soil farmer ought to study. While the conditions in the clay belt may differ, there is much suggestive advice found in this bulletin.

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BRITISH FORESTS IN WAR-TIME

A wholesale destruction of woods was going on in the country, said Major Couthope, M.P., at the annual meeting of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. "Tens of thousands of acres of woods have been destroyed, but in many cases the destruction is hidden by means of leaving narrow belts of trees. By this time next year there will be comparatively little soft-wood timber left in the country, and hardwood timber will have very much decreased. The stumps of the recently felled trees provide breeding grounds for insects."

BRITAIN'S 4 PER CENT.

The inadequate provision of the forests of the United Kingdom for national needs is shown by the fact that only Portugal of all European countries ranks lower than Britain in percentage of total area under forest. Great Britain has just 4 per cent. in woods, Sweden 47 per cent., Russia in Europe 37, Germany, 25, Norway 21, France 18.