

Writer's Personal Experience

The experience of the writer of this pamphlet dates from the time he was big enough to pull up a turnip. The early part of my life was spent on a farm where Turnips were considered an important crop. This particular farm contained a great variety of soil, in fact, everything from gravel to the hardest clay, and I have seen a good crop of turnips growing on every acre of it.

During the first two years of the existence of the Experimental Farm at Nappan, I was employed there. Colonel W. M. Blair, who was then manager, was a firm believer in root culture, and although the fields presented an unfavorable appearance we succeeded in getting a fair crop of turnips. The turnip crop at that farm has occupied an important place in the rotation ever since its inception, and I have never seen less than 800 bushels per acre, and have seen as high as 1200 bushels. When I took charge of the Agricultural College Farm fifteen years ago, I determined to grow roots extensively, but was advised by farmers in the vicinity to go cautiously, as the soil was not adapted to the growth of roots. We began with one acre, and have increased until last spring when Mr. Logan took charge, there was a 10-acre field prepared for roots. The yield for the fifteen years has averaged about one thousand bushels per annum.

Methods of Growing.

Our root crop either follows a clover sod or a hay field which has grown a crop of oats the previous year. If the former we plough at three or four inches deep as soon as possible after the clover is taken off. We then roll and harrow immediately. The rolling and harrowing early in the season greatly assists in rotting the sod, thus putting the field in shape for the following season. Later in the season we manure at the rate of about 25 loads per acre and plough again somewhat deeper than before. This time we do not harrow as we wish to leave as much surface as possible exposed to the beneficial action of the frost. If a stubble field is to be used the only difference in the above treatment would be that we would disc harrow the field as soon as the oats were removed and plough once instead of twice.