

HOW TO GROW SWEET POTATOES IN CANADA.

THESE are a large number of people who have the impression that the sweet potato cannot be grown in this climate; that they are an article peculiar to the South.

As I have for a number of years experimented in growing them in order to find the variety best suited to this climate, I have at last succeeded (to my own satisfaction at least). I have planted all known standard as well as all fancy varieties that I could obtain. Last year I heard of a new kind called the Golden Coin, for which I sent a fabulous price, but the person to whom I sent the money obtained the Coin while I obtained a fine lot of tops with tubers like lead pencils.

I have been frequently asked how do I raise such fine potatoes? My answer is, Can you raise cucumbers? They look at me in amazement, and seem to think I am losing my reason, but it is even so. If you can raise cucumbers you can raise sweet potatoes. You would not think of raising the cucumber without first preparing the ground and using plenty of manure if you want them early and good.

If you want good potatoes the greater part of the work is done before the plants are set out.

Obtain your plants as early as possible, (from May 1st to June 1st,) set them out in fruit boxes, four plants in each box, then put them in a cold frame, or hot-bed with gentle heat, ventilate well through the day, protect well at night especially if the weather is cold. Do not give too much water or they

will rot, better too dry than too wet. About the first week in June have your ground good and mellow, mark it off into rows about 2 ft. 6 in. or 3 ft. each way. Now at every corner place a forkful of well rotted manure, do not use fresh manure as the results are much better from that which is well rotted.

After placing the manure in position, take your hoe and chop it up mixing the soil with it, then form it into a nice hill with the prepared soil in the centre. When you have thus prepared your ground you are now ready to set out the plants as soon as you feel safe from frost. Do not be in too great a hurry to get them out, the plants do not like cold weather, they will stand hot and dry, much better than cold and wet. After the ground has settled and you feel safe to set out, take the plants from boxes the same as you would re-pot any flower, by striking the box on its side, and place the ball in the centre of the hill prepared for it by making a hole for it, press the dirt well up to it, and so on, until you have set them all out. Stir the ground often to keep down the weeds and keep the plants well hilled up. As soon as the vines begin to run nicely, stop working for the ground should be clean by this time. Now wait for results. You will have no trouble with potato bugs or insects, for I have yet to find an enemy to destroy either vine or tuber. If you follow the above directions I am sure you will be well rewarded for your trouble.

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