

Mangels vs. Turnips

W. S. Fraser, Simcoe County, Ont.

I have rarely attended an Institute meeting at which the question of how to feed turnips and not flavor the milk was not discussed. Why grow turnips at all? Mangels answer all purposes much better. They are a more certain crop, produce more feed per acre, are more easily harvested. Stock relish them more than turnips, and there is not the necessity for pulping. They are more easily stored and will keep in a good root house well on in the summer.

As a rule farmers sow mangels as soon as the land is fit to work. This has been the writer's experience for over 20 years with uncertain success. For the last seven years I have delayed sowing until after the 24th of May or 1st of June. During these years I have not failed to have much better crops, with less trouble.

Cultivate as soon as the land is dry in the spring, working in the manure near the surface. Give frequent cultivations until time of sowing, using disk harrow or spring tooth cultivator and ordinary seeding harrow. By this cultivation the soil moisture is retained, and the weed seeds germinated. Between the 24th of May and June 1st sow either in drills or on the flat. If sown on the flat an ordinary seed drill will do the work, leaving the rows 28 inches apart.

When sown at this season the seed germinates evenly. In a few days, you can trace the rows across the field. Start the horse cultivator, cutting close to the rows as soon as possible, leaving little else than thinning to be done by hand. Give frequent cultivation during the growing season.

The harvesting should be done by hand before the frost comes, cutting the tops off with hoes. If the yellow intermediate or Sugar beet mangel be grown, they will yield one-third more per acre than turnips, with less trouble to harvest. Grow mangels and feed them for a season, and you will never go back to turnips.

Thorough Cultivation of the Land

W. R. Gilbert

No excuse is necessary for persisting in drawing attention to the importance of thorough cultivation of the land. Land may be judiciously prepared, the seed sown in good time, and a liberal supply of manure be applied, and yet success depends in a great measure on the labor expended on cultivation. All the root crops are sown at the season of most rapid growth. No sooner do they appear above ground, than millions of weeds spring up in and between the rows, and if not eradicated they speedily smother the plants. In order to prevent this evil it is necessary to keep both horse hoe and hand hoe at work. A strong plant of turnips or weeds is all the better for being harrowed across before horse-hoeing in order to destroy the small weeds before they become established. This should be followed after a short interval by the horse hoe, after which comes singling. With respect to horse-hoeing, the implements which take two or three rows at once, are much less thorough than the single row scuffer. With the drills 18 inches apart, the difficulties in the way of the scuffer are considerable. The Scotch farmer raises his drills with the plow 27 inches apart, and drills the seed on the top of the ridges. He is proverbial for his good crops. But the general way of farmers drill on the flat, at a narrower distance. Hence the difficulty in the matter of thorough after cultivation. The result is, that we seldom see under this system the perfect cleanliness and vigorous growth in turnip crops which delight the eye under the Scotch system. It is, of course, impossible to escape from climatic conditions. The great point is to endeavor

to do our best under existing conditions, and keep the hoes moving.

Root crops enjoy hoeing, and always grow faster when the surface soil is well stirred. Horse-hoeing is as good as a shower of rain. The more thorough the cultivation, the sooner will the leaves meet, and obliterate all traces of the drill rows. This is what we wish to see—a solid block of green shading the ground and smothering the weeds.

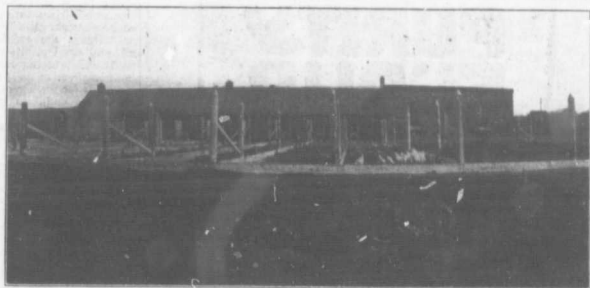
In some districts the farmers rely on harrowing their rape in order to keep a fine pulverised surface, but a caked condition of the soil is bad for all descriptions of root crops. No applications of manure can compensate for want of good cultivation manures will tell enormously.

It is the same with grain crops. Land may be in high condition from manuring, but if the seed

Seed Corn

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It is past time for the corn grower to give some thought to the seed for his 1908 crop. All up-to-date farmers, will have made provision for this several months ago, by selecting desirable ears from vigorous productive plants from last year's crop and storing the same in some dry, open place beyond the reach of mice and other vermin. The more progressive of this class will have gone a step further by providing a special seed corn plot of about $\frac{1}{4}$ acre last Spring isolating this as far as possible (at least 40 rods unless otherwise protected) from fields of other varieties, to keep the strain pure, planting each row with corn "from a single ear" removing the tassels from undesirable plants as they appear during the growing season, and selecting with



A POULTRY HOUSE AND SOME OF THE YARDS OF CANADA'S LARGEST POULTRY ESTABLISHMENT

The Poultry Yards of Canada, Limited, is the name of a Company at Pembroke, Ont., which grows and handles poultry on a large scale. Most of the utility breeds are kept, such as the Plymouth Rocks, Leghorns and Wyandottes. The plant covers twelve acres. Besides the birds raised others are bought and fattened for the British market. Some years upwards of 100,000 birds are handled in this way.

bed is shallow or "chiselly," the sowing mistimed, or the season unkind, no manual applications can compensate for such drawbacks. Late sowing is often answerable for many a thin piece of wheat, while side by side may be seen magnificent crops simply due to earlier sowing. These considerations show the practical character of farming. No book can teach it, it is a matter of good judgment and arrangement, and does not so much depend upon the particular manual dressing applied.

At first sight it may seem inconsistent with profitable farming that land should be under bare fallow for an entire season, but this system is adhered to by many. Root crop cultivation has always been viewed as ameliorating rather than directly profitable. When attempted on land of the stiffest quality the cultivation is risky and not always beneficial to the succeeding grain crop. In such cases the bare fallow still holds its place, and as long as such soils are kept under tillage it is likely to do so. The bare fallow gives an opportunity of cleaning, and is superior to any other system from this standpoint.

With thorough cultivation and the aid of fertilizers, consecutive grain growing has its good points on strong land, but it naturally gives way to root cultivation on all higher soils, which require liberal importations of fertilizing matter. The great variety of green crops now cultivated enable fodder to be produced on comparatively stiff soils, and many of these, such as vetches and rape are excellent preparations for grain.

"I am much interested in the articles on Rural Mail Delivery and am saving my copies of The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World to bind them. I am going to hand them to some of my neighbors who do not take the paper."—Robt. Braden, Bruce Co.

care a number of ears, first from the best rows in the plot and then from the best plants in these rows. A sufficient quantity will have been selected in this way to plant another plot of this sort during the coming season, the best of the remaining ears being used to plant the general field crop.

Those who have not followed this system will do well to begin this year. The selection of good appearing ears from a large number, irrespective of the character of the plant, which produced them, is a haphazard practice. The ability to produce good yields cannot be determined simply by the appearance of the ear. The points considered when judging corn at shows it is true are undoubtedly correlated to some extent, at least, with productiveness and quality although we have little data to prove this definitely.

The corn grower's chief concern is to secure seed capable of producing the largest yield per plant and therefore per acre. To get such seed the system adopted by the Canadian Seed Growers' Association and which is partly explained above, seems to be the simplest and most effective for the average farmer. This system makes provision for a small plot of at least 20 rows with 50 hills in each row to be located beyond the reach of danger from crossing with corn of other varieties which may be growing near. Each of the rows in this plot is planted with corn "from a single ear." This is the crucial point of the whole system since such an arrangement enables each ear to show exactly what it is capable of producing.

The advantages of securing seed from a special plot in this way contrast most favorably with the ordinary "chance" methods, and should appeal to every grower. Many growers, especially in Ontario, should try this plan this year.