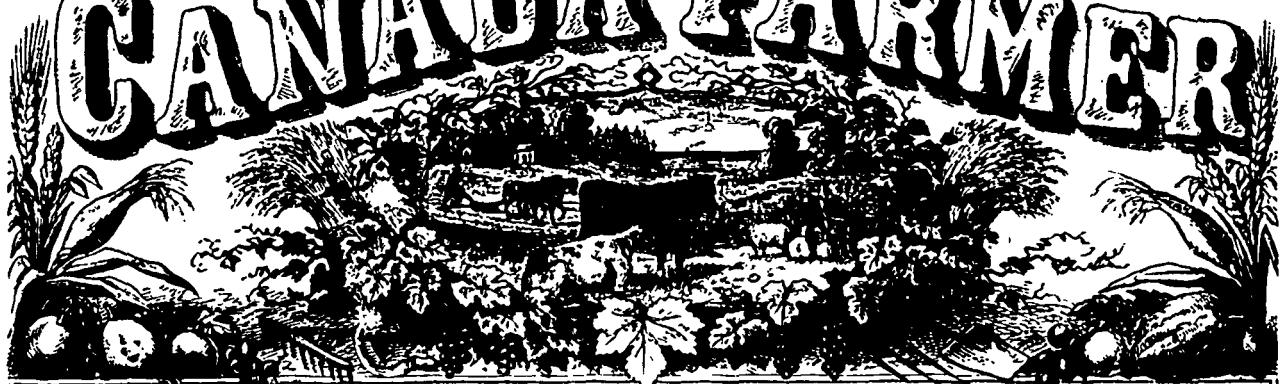


THE

# CANADA FARMER



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NEW SERIES.

## The Field.

### Further Notes on Spring Work.

**POTATOES**—This crop deserves better culture than it usually gets, and also, perhaps, somewhat earlier planting. In an article on the "Relative Cost of Root Crops," we give the practical experiences of a Quebec farmer in growing this crop, showing that, with careful culture, large returns can be depended upon. We are not among those who imagine that success in growing this crop is only to be had by those who invest largely in some new and costly variety. In fact, we think none of these high-priced new varieties will ever become as great favourites for the table as some of the old sorts. We would not desire a better potato for late summer and early winter use than the Scotch Kidney or Pink-eye, nor for late winter and spring use than the Peachblow; and with the same care and culture we think they will yield just as profitable returns as any of the newer sorts. For a large, coarse potato, to feed to stock, the California, Garnet Chili, Harrison and Cuzco, will prove valuable, being heavy yielders, though not very good as table potatoes.

**INDIAN CORN**.—This crop succeeds well in most parts of Canada within thirty miles of the lakes. It is, however, scarcely so profitable now as roots or potatoes, for the more cheaply grown corn of the great prairies of the West comes into competition with it even at our own doors, while roots can be more profitably made into meat and manure, we think, in Canada at least; and less corn is grown here now than was ten years ago. Corn likes a light, warm, rich soil, with plenty of long manure. The season here being rather shorter than in the western prairies, the large, strong-growing sorts do not mature well. We must depend on the earlier kinds, as the Dutton, Eight-rows Yellow, &c., which do not yield so largely as the coarser varieties. About the 25th of May is as early as we can plant here, and we often get delayed till June, when the pro-

spect of the ears ripening before frost comes in the fall is rather uncertain. The land must be got ready and well prepared in good time, for a delay of a week in planting corn will often make a serious difference in the yield of the crop.

**CORNERS** should be sown by the end of May. An article on the culture of this crop will be found on another page, so we will not discuss the matter here.

**PARSNIPS**.—This is a crop that might be more extensively grown than it is, especially on strong soils, which the parsnip delights in. It is a less troublesome and more certain crop than carrots, and has the advantage that it may be kept in the ground all winter without injury, and fed out to milch cows and to horses in spring, at a time when other roots are pretty well used up. The soil must be deeply ploughed and well worked. Plant in drills the same as for carrots; but this can be done earlier, as frost does not hurt the young plants. Seed costs 75 cents per pound, of which about four pounds will sow an acre. As the roots grow entirely below the surface, most of the work of weeding, &c., can be done with a scuffling hoe or scarifier. Thin out the young plants at the first weeding to four inches apart in the drills.

**MANGOLD WURTZEL**.—This will give the largest yield of roots per acre of any crop we can grow, but is not equal in quality to carrots, beets, or turnips, for feeding to stock, by about 20 per cent. It has also the disadvantage of not keeping so well in our winter climate as turnips or carrots, and does not answer for fattening purposes. It is grown in the same way as carrots, except that the drills should be further apart, say twenty inches, and the plants thinned out to eight or ten inches apart in the drills. Sow from 20th April to 15th May. The Improved Long Red is best on rather light soils—the Globe varieties, either yellow or red, on stronger soils. Four pounds of seed, costing \$2.50 per pound, will sow an acre. With good soil and good culture, this crop will give from 1,000 to 1,500 bushels per acre.

**SUGAR BEETS** may be grown in the same way as mangolds, except that the drills should be closer together, say 14 to 18 inches apart, and the plants should be thinned out to about four inches apart in the drills. The large white sugar beet, which is the only kind of which seed can be had here, is better adapted to stock-feeding than sugar-making. Seed costs about 40c. per lb. Four pounds to the acre would be sufficient. The Silesian sugar beet, which is the kind grown for sugar-making in France and Germany, is smaller, more solid, and contains the largest percentage of sugar. In Europe, we believe, the beets are grown first in a seed-bed, and afterwards dibbled out in the field by hand, which is too expensive a process to succeed here.

**WHITE BEANS**.—This is a valuable crop to grow, especially on light, sandy soils that are too porous to derive any benefit from the application of barn-yard manure. They always bring a good price, and will yield 20 bushels per acre, on light, warm soils, with fair treatment. Plant in hills two and a half feet apart each way, six or eight seeds in each, about the first week in June. Keep the ground free from weeds, and hill up after the rough leaves are out. Top-dress the soil at the time of planting with a large handful of unleached ashes to each hill, and after the plants have been weeded and hilled up, drop a handful of a mixture of plaster and ashes, or superphosphate, on each hill. There are both dwarf and tall varieties, the former the most suitable and least troublesome to grow on light soils; as they require no poles.

**TURNIPS**.—This is about the last of the field crops that is put in the ground. The land must be well prepared and heavily manured where the seed is to be drilled in. Drill in rows 26 inches apart. On newly cleared lands very fine crops of Swedes may be raised from a broadcast sowing on the burnt surface. Give a liberal allowance of seed—three to four pounds per acre—and if some radish seed is intermixed in the proportion of one-fourth, the turnips will often escape the fly, as it prefers the radish plants,