

In the letters which follow most of practical points of potato cultivation are discussed, but for brevity and ideas expressed it gives best in a cool bed with moisture. Between the rows from 30 inches to 36 inches at least with a depth of 16 inches set of sufficient size and rotation of the land consist of good deep plowing of well rotted manure, plowing again in quantity is grown, use of the planter, consists of thorough hoeing of the potatoes twice a week after, through the surface, hoe, the scuffer, or started, and this is necessary during

necessary to spray during the summer, of growing, and if necessary to treat ure, but blight has not in this country, and the bulk of without treatment. How long in a state condition is, in a few years, fifteen years, unknown, but now conditions they destroy

op, if one has any is a necessity. A used for a hundred in manual labor lifts the tubers, leaves the crop in a of earth, and easily s probably as well sell directly from ment facilities for carry the crop over ter at least.

ence of opinion a- the cost per acre estimate the cost as e as low as \$17.00. cost one year with per acre, including he necessary labor for planting and the season. The bushels per acre. al Farm the best duced at the rate an Head the high- acre. The grower ails of cultivation, he crop generally, g from 200 to 400 farmers in this after year. And e hundred bushel red or less.

GROWING a profitable crop portant points to preparation of the

d place where the nything else, will idea to clean land t with the idea of ighest laying land u expect to make

very particular in est tubers of the l to select those It is not necessary every other year

f planting is with es in a warm soft l is put in a hard l good cultivating for the planter to re planted, how- n harrowed in the

first week, and every week thereafter each way and every way. Harrowing saves hoeing. I grow about twenty acres of potatoes each year and advise growing less rather than more than one can reasonably handle. The varieties I like best for an early one are the Bovee, the Eureka and Drew Standard. Just now the Wee MacGregor is coming to the front. There are too many varieties of potatoes. It would be better if we had one or two kinds only. Then markets would be better.

As I have said I harrow each week until the tops are showing 9 inches or so above the ground, and as soon as the rows are visible start scuffling and go through the field at least twice and hoe. I follow the hilling system of cultivation and if a dry season, hill twice and three times.

Potatoes should be harvested after the first few early frosts and when the tops are quite dead. I prefer hauling them straight from the field to the root house for a good many get frosted if left out in the field in pits. One has to be guided by the market and circumstances in selling. If one has a good reliable place to store I would advise holding the crop over winter; if not then turn them into money at once and be sure of it. For harvesting I can recommend the digger. It does good work, especially if the land is dry.

I should estimate the cost per acre of growing potatoes as follows:

Plowing	\$ 1.00
Cultivating50
Planting30
Harrowing	1.00
Scuffling	1.00
Hoeing	1.00
Harvesting, with digger	5.00
Seed, 15 bushels @ 50c.	7.50
	\$17.30

Undoubtedly there will be a difference of opinion as to cost of growing, but I think \$20.00 an acre a liberal estimate of the expense.

One may expect a yield of about 200 bushels per acre, and 50 cents is an average price for the crop.

I have always found a good and ready market from the middle of October to the season when the early ones come in at prices ranging from 40 cents per bushel in November to \$1.00 per bushel in June.

The trouble amongst farmers generally in growing potatoes is that they think one has only to put in the seed and harvest in the fall 500 bushels per acre crop, without having carefully planted or looked after the growth of the crop. If a small crop results, which is very likely, they grumble at the wet, at the frost, or anything but themselves. Potatoes require thought and care in growing as much as anything else.

Man. W. J. HARRISON.

GROWS ON AN EXTENSIVE SCALE

I consider the potato one of the best of farm crops, the best for these reasons: 1st.—There are more bushels grown to the acre than any other crop unless it be turnips or beets, and for them there is no market. 2nd.—The cultivation of the potato crop is better than summer fallowing to clean the land, and the soil is left in first class shape for wheat without plowing.

I have five or six hundred loads of manure on the land now for this year's crop. Regarding seed I find the Wee MacGregor is the best producer I can get and is a beautiful smooth white potato, keeps well and cannot be beaten as a table variety. I am trying a variety called the Mortgage Lifter this year. They closely resemble the Wee MacGregor. The only fault I find with the Wee MacGregor, is that it is a little late in ripening, which is a very great drawback.

Now I have been giving you all the bright and glowing sides of the subject. There are a great many drawbacks the same as in growing any other crop. I will just mention a few of them: 1st.—It is sometimes hard to get first class seed. 2nd.—The season for preparing the soil and planting is very short. I find that potatoes planted between the 10th and 24th of May are very much the best, though one has trouble getting help for the few days to cut seed and get the other work done in the right time. I believe in hand-cutting the seed. I used a seed cutter last year and I believe I lost a lot by doing so, and it takes four men cutting seed to keep a planter going steadily while with a seed cutting machine one man will do as much work. Another drawback is the bugs. The bug question is becoming a hard problem. This year may be all right as the snow has not covered the ground

and the frost will have gone down a great depth and by those natural circumstances the bugs will not be bad. Two years ago I used 90 pounds of Paris green, which along with the work of a man and horse and a four row sprayer takes away considerably from the profits.

I do not think it pays to grow potatoes extensively when one is very far from a railroad, as there is so much carting in potatoes for the money received per bushel. Then the harvesting comes in the time when men are at a premium and it takes some planning to work the harvesting profitably. We handle them but once—putting the tubers right in the bags as they are dug up, and drag them from the field to the car, selling them at F.O.B. at our own station. I believe it would be a profitable proposition to build an up-to-date warehouse where potatoes could be loaded at any time in winter into a heated car, and by so doing cut out this great expense of cartage, storing and insurance in Winnipeg and save handling once. The best kind of soil for potatoes is a nice sandy loam, such as we have around MacGregor. There are about ten or fifteen cars shipped from here every year. I am sending you a photo of my potato patch in flower, and my man using a four row Aspinwall sprayer.

Man. M. WARD.

GROWS POTATOES FOR WINNIPEG MARKET

I have two kinds of soil on my farm. In the valley it is a little sandy, and on the hill it is a heavy black loam, but I like the sandy soil the best as it is loose and easy to work. The best method of preparing the soil for potatoes is to plow it in the fall, harrow well in the spring, open out drills and plant your potatoes about eight inches apart, and the drills about three feet apart, and then cover with plow or cultivator. When the weeds start to sprout start the harrow going and keep harrowing whenever you see the weeds making their appearance, until you can see the potatoes in rows. Then use the cultivator and keep it going through the patch about once a week, till the plants are large enough to hill up and look after themselves.

I have been raising six to eight acres of potatoes each year. The kind I raise are the Early Ohio, Early Sixweeks and the Mortgage Lifters. The latter is the kind I like the best. It is a white potato, a good cooker and yielder, it is fairly early, not more than a week later than the Ohio. My average crop is about two hundred bushels per acre. The cost of harvesting and storing them is about thirty dollars per acre.

I have been troubled with bugs some years and I have used Paris green. Sometimes I had to apply the liquid two or three times during the growing season. To use it I drew a barrel of water out into the middle of the patch, and had a dry barrel which I mixed the powder in, then filled the barrel with water, and took a common sprinkling can and applied the liquid to the plants. I never had any experience of blight or scab.

I store my potato crop in the basement. In marketing them I sell what I can in the fall, then towards the end of February or first of March I haul them in to market on sleigh in a grain tank, putting hay in the bottom of the tank and covering the potatoes with blankets. I draw them in to Winnipeg, a distance of eighteen miles, where I always find a ready market, and a paying price.

My estimate of the cost of growing a crop of potatoes per acre is as follows:

Plow in fall	\$ 2.00
In spring harrow, open out drills, planting, covering	3.50
Harrowing weeds four times	2.00
Cultivating four times	3.00
Hoeing	3.00
Harvesting, 7 cents a bushel	14.00
Cost per acre	\$27.50

Man. SAM SMITH. CLEARS A PROFIT OF FORTY DOLLARS PER ACRE

I may say in regard to potato growing that my soil is a black loam with enough sand in it to make it work easily and let the plow run clean at all times. The way I prepare it for potato growing, is to manure it with green manure the year before I want to use it for a crop of potatoes. Manure it in the early fall after freeze up, and continue all winter putting on green manure from the stables every day. We generally get ten or twelve acres covered before spring work starts. We leave this patch until the last week in June or first week in July, so as to let the weed seeds germinate, then put on the plows and bury all weeds and manure and sow a crop of oats for green feed for cows the following winter.

As soon as the oats are stacked, we plow and harrow to start any weed seeds that may be near enough the surface, before cold weather comes. That is my potato patch for next year. We plant in rows three feet apart on the flat, generally about 20th of May or thereabout.

I generally grow from 5 to 8 acres each year and put in a good sized patch of turnips. I find that any of the early varieties are best. I like the Burpees or Bovees. They are good croppers and nice and dry when cooked. We plant mostly by hand, every third furrow. That I find is the surest way of having no blanks. After planting I harrow every week until the plants are up enough to see the row. To handle the crop successfully you have to keep the cultivator and hoe going until you hill the potatoes up; you never want to let the weeds get the start. I may say right here that you never want to let any of your work get the start of you or you will be behind all the time.

The harvesting part is the biggest job of all. We split the drill with the plow and get a bunch of pickets to follow and pick the tubers up, and put them in bags. I always put my potatoes in the root house right away and save handling, putting in what I want to store for winter and spring selling, and pick them over when selling. What I don't store are put in the stable and hauled as soon as convenient to the city to customers, or to wholesale firms, at whatever price is going.

As nearly as can be estimated, the cost of growing an acre of potatoes is as follows:

Seed per acre, 15 bushels	\$ 7.50
Two men dropping seed	3.00
Man and team plowing	4.00
Harrowing until plants grow	5.00
Cultivating and killing	5.00
Hoeing	3.00
Two men and team plowing and hauling in	7.00
Five pickers	7.50
	\$42.00



POTATO GROWING ON AN EXTENSIVE SCALE. A field of potatoes with the crop in full bloom, on the farm of Mr. Milton Ward, Macgregor, Man.