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RAISING ROOT CROPS.

May is a busy month to the farmer, in which the multifarious work of Spring has to be completed. A large breadth of spring wheat has been sown under favorable circumstances, and the same remark will apply to oats and barley.— Although the Spring is not so early as was at one time anticipated, farm work has been much advanced, and plenty of time has been afforded the farmer for thoroughly preparing his ground for the planting of Indian corn, potatoes, and the root crops generally; a condition upon which after progress and final success so greatly depend. All these crops require land to be sound and dry, deeply cultivated, and, if not naturally rich, to be well-manured,—the manure intimately mixed with the soil, in order to obtain a large and profitable produce. Imperfect and slovenly culture is certain to end in loss; for one acre well managed will produce more than two, subjected to an opposite treatment. In the growth of roots, then, in particular,—although the reasoning holds good in all other crops,—the farmer should aim to obtain the maximum of produce from the minimum of space—the only principle on which root culture can be made to pay.

Mangel-wurzel should be sown as soon as the ground is in a warm and dry condition, and with but little risk of severe night-frosts. The drills are commonly made too close; on good land, and with the larger sorts of mangels, 30 to 36 inches is not too wide. All plants require abundance of light and air, which is particularly the case with farm root crops; and sufficient room should always be left for frequent cultivating with the horn-hoe during the season of growth, without the risk of bruising the succulent plants. The long, red mangel produces the heaviest crop on rich and deeply cultivated land; but upon shallow soils the yellow globe variety is better adapted. Mangel-wurzel is by far a more certain crop in this country than turnips, not being so liable to injury from insects, and rooting deeper in search of food. It will also keep longer in the Spring, and may be given in larger quantities to cows, without imparting an unpleasant flavor, as turnips do, to the milk and butter. It requires, however, to be thoroughly protected from frost, being in this respect almost as tender as potatoes. For feeding purposes it ranks inferior to Swedish turnips. From the large amount of sugar which it contains, all kinds of stock, including