

area under bulb cultivation already covers 7,500 acres, and, according to the latest returns, is steadily expanding. Hyacinths and tulips are the principal bulbs raised; at present the former is the favorite, and a few years ago there was a boom in these flowers, when as much as £130 sterling was paid for a single bulb. Tulips, too, have had their palmy days, and it is on record that over 250 guineas have been paid for a special variety. Other bulbs raised include anemones, ranunculus, narcissus, crocus and iris.

The number of cultivators has greatly increased of late years, and the cultivation has extended in the whole district between Haarlem and Leiden. About 1850 thirty export firms were established in Haarlem and locality, a number which has increased to 150. Besides these there are in the bulb trade 2,000 independent bulb growers, who do not export, but regularly sell their bulbs to the exporting firms.

The keen demand for land suitable for bulb growing has driven prices up enormously, and now the "core of good bulb land in the centre of the district will fetch from £300 to £335. The extent of the trade may be judged from the fact that the exports amount to nearly 10,700 tons annually, which means that the exports have doubled

during the last seven years.

Bulbs are exported into nearly all countries and parts of the world, and about 70 per cent. of the whole production is sent to England, the next best customers being America, Germany and Russia.

The success of bulb culture is mainly due to the extraordinary favorable condition of soil and climate. The coarse grained sort of sand and the climate along the inner downs are exceptionally suitable for their cultivation, while the height of the water level is regulated at any time by the regulation of the sluice draining the polders. Manuring consists mainly of cow dung, applied in large quantities.

With the increase in the trade co-operation has made great strides. In 1860 a general society for the purpose of bulb cultivation was established, and it has at present 30 local sections with 2,000 members. It owns a newspaper, an exchange at Haarlem, and regularly holds exhibitions. There are also special societies for the purpose of looking after the interests of the exporters and bulb growers. The main exporters' society has a mutual cash and intelligence office, which is in possession of information about more than 20,000 foreign consumers.

tivation, but the greater the distance apart the less the yield. On most farms implements narrow enough can be secured to do the cultivating when the drills are placed twenty-six inches apart. When the soil is low or wet ground it is advisable to sow in ridges while the flat method usually gives the best results on the drier soils. By the drill method of sowing a greater yield can be secured. It has also the advantages of a hard crop in that by the cultivation it receives, moisture is conserved and weeds and insects are destroyed. The stock where pasturing on it (especially sheep), will follow the rows and as a result there is less of the crop lost by tramping.

When sown with grain it is seldom a success. If the catch of rape is good, the leaves of it which have been cut with the grain, on account of their juicy nature prevent the rapid drying of the sheaves. High cutting of the grain, in seasons when straw is plentiful, is more satisfactory. Rape is sometimes sown along with the corn, but the last cultivation but as the corn field is usually exceedingly dry at this time, and the corn itself so high and leafy as to exclude all sunlight, the rape is seldom a success. Even if it can survive these adverse conditions it is severely treated in the harvesting of the corn.

AS A FODDER CROP

The uses of rape as a fodder crop are many and varied. It is pre-eminently a sheep pasture. A good acre of rape will support last autumn to eighteen lambs for two months and give good gains. However, on account of the omnivorous nature of the sheep's appetite, which should be catered to at all times in order to secure the best results, it is good practice to allow the lambs to run on some good mixed pasture as well as the rape. The ewes will also do well on this feed, and in the fall may be got in good shape for breeding by the same feed.

Nor are sheep the only class of farm stock that can do well on the pasture; all kinds of young stock, as well as the more mature, make rapid gains on it, but should have other pasture as well. Nearly all steer-leaders regard rape as the best possible feed preparatory to winter feeding or fattening. Stock should be turned on with a full stomach, in the middle of the day, and left on. A small amount of clean oat straw or hay is often relished by the stock when on this pasture.

When one considers the great amount of pasture yielded by one acre of this crop in a year it is a good year will grow about 10-12 tons of forage), its great palatability to all kinds of farm stock, the large and rapid gains secured from its use, one wonders, to say the least, why it is not more extensively grown. With the seed of the crop within easy reach of all there is no excuse for the farmer with small or unthrifty stock.

H. McFAYDEN.

Cardwell Co., Ont.

"The fools are not all dead yet," said the angry husband. "I'm glad of it, dear," calmly replied the other half of the combination; "I never did look well in black."

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Rape and What It Will do for the Farmer

Although we have been favored with an abundance of rain this season, and there is on every hand plenty of good pasture, with every prospect of a good hay crop, yet on many stock farms rape will be profitably sown. The comparative cheapness of the seed, the excellent returns per acre secured, with the ease with which it can be grown on a great variety of soils, and the relish with which it is eaten by all kinds of farm stock, these qualities combine to make this plant one of the most important of our forage plants.

There are several varieties of rape but only one has given satisfaction in Ontario, and that variety is the Dwarf Essex. For this reason, the seedsmen, from whom the seed is to be bought, should be made to guarantee it to be true to name. The seed is of a dark purple or black color and can scarcely be distinguished from the seed of the ordinary Swede turnip. In many cases this seed has been sown in mistake for turnip, and the young plants, which resemble young turnips, treated as a root crop until the great development of the leaf as compared with the small spindley roots revealed the true nature of the plant. The seed is very oily, and many varieties of this plant have been grown as a source for oil. The seed usually germinates in about ten days after sowing. Fresh seed should always be sown. It is seldom advisable to use seed that is more than three or four years old as the vitality decreases very materially after that age is reached.

BEST SOILS FOR RAPE

While the plant gives good returns on almost any soil, the best results are usually obtained from dark rich loams. Such soils are generally rich in nitrogen, which stimulates leaf growth, and as this is the desired end in rape culture such soils are very satisfactory. One may take it, as a general rule, in the preparing of the land for this crop: that it should be regarded as a root or hood crop. Following this rule, soil should be plowed some time previous to the

sowing of the rape in order that the grasses and roots may become rotted and thoroughly incorporated with the soil so that the cultivation following will produce a fine friable seed-bed. Land which has been newly cleared, stumpy land, or in dry seasons, low flats give good pastureage when sown to this crop. Farmers in this locality who, instead of summer fallowing, sow rape as a preparatory crop for wheat, claim that it does best on land which has never before grown it, and some even go so far as to maintain that the longer it is grown on the same soil the smaller will be the returns. In order to supply water for the great evaporating surface of the leaves, the roots are very numerous and penetrate deeply into the soil. They are more numerous in fact, than those of any other of our common farm crops. The effect of these roots is of obvious importance in the use of this crop in preparing land for winter wheat or in fact for any of the shallow root crops.

WHEN AND HOW TO SOW

In certain rare favored parts of Ontario, rape, it is claimed, may be sown with good results as early as the last few days in April. However for the greater part of the province the first warm days in May will generally be plenty early enough. It is seldom advisable to sow later than the middle part of August. Good pastureage may be counted on eight weeks after sowing. Stock should be turned out with full stomachs and left on when the rape is a good height and the leaves have a bluish cast. Stock may be allowed to feed on it until quit; late in the season, as this plant, like its near relative, the turnip, will stand quite a heavy frost.

It is most commonly sown broadcast at the rate of 4 lbs. to the acre. Most of our experiment stations, however, recommend its being sown in drills and its being treated as a hood crop. When sown in this manner the drills should be twenty-six inches apart and the hood of seed should be used. The drills may be placed wider apart to facilitate cul-