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### POTATOES, MANURES, HAY.

To raise Potatoes of the best quality, old manure only should be used; that which was made in cow-pens and pig-pens the preceding summer will be fit for this purpose. With the exception of dry burnt woodland, an old pasture is the best soil if dry, and sandy or gravelly,—a clayey soil may produce more, but not of the first quality. Two thirds of the manure may be spread upon the ground, which should then be ploughed deep; and the remaining third part of the manure being carried on, and spread upon the surface, it should be well harrowed lengthwise with a light harrow. Two lines should be provided, made of salmon twine, long enough to reach across the the field, or as large a portion of it as may be convenient; the ends of the lines being attached to small stakes thirty inches long, or of the same measure that it is designed to leave between the rows. A man at each end of the lines then stretches them, driving the stakes at the proper distance, and each going forward the length of his line makes holes beside it, about two feet apart, and two inches deep, (a single stroke of a hoe only, is needed to make a hole.) They are followed by boys who drop a piece of Potatoe in each hole, cover it with their feet and then tread upon it. If it has been well harrowed an acre of potatoes can be planted in a short time in this way; a narrow harrow cultivator may be passed between the rows at first, and at hilling time a light plow may be used, but, even should the land be even, it will be necessary also to use the hoe, (the best is the German forked hoe) for it is necessary to good quality that the ground should be as light and mellow as possible, that the air may readily reach the roots; and for this reason they are planted shallow, and will in consequence, require to be well hilled up to prevent the potatoes from protruding their noses through the ground.

In some seasons Potatoes are blighted, and die before they have gained their full growth, proving necessarily of inferior quality. To prevent a disappointment of this kind, the seed should be added in hay chaff near a stove as early as the middle of March, and occasionally sprinkled with water. These Potatoes will have shed out sprouts an inch or more in length by the time the buds of the trees begin to swell, when they should be planted whole, without cutting or breaking the sprouts, and will in most seasons be nearly ripe by the first of September. It should always be remembered, that situations most exposed to the southerly, or sea winds, are most affected by the blight. Dry and very good Potatoes are raised by using stable manure made the preceding Winter,

but they always have a stronger and more acrid taste than those which are raised with old manure, and with the soil so often stirred, that it is always very loose and light, giving a free passage to the air. There are some plants, like the cucumber and onion, which may be grown of the best quality with fresh manure, but it should not be used for grass or any kind of grain, except Indian Corn, and as we raise but little of this, it is necessary to use the fresh manure for Potatoes, which will bear it much better than grain or grass, for we cannot afford to keep it a year in a compost heap because it will lose probably one third of its value by the evaporation of the volatile portion. Yet as our climate is remarkable for the good quality of the Potatoes it produces, it would often be desirable to use a little extra care and labour in raising those designed for the table.

It is hardly possible to raise Potatoes of the very best quality with kelp or rockweed, but if they are planted as above directed, with the exception of covering all the manure with the plough and spreading none upon the surface after ploughing, they will pass for good. Care should be taken that this kind of manure be heated and beginning to putrefy before it is used.

In a dry season and on dry gravelly land Potatoes will have the crop considerably increased if a small quantity of half decayed rockweed or kelp is put in the bottom of each drill, under the stable manure, as it enables them to resist the effects of drought in a remarkable degree.

The peculiar food which will make any particular vegetable of the best quality is not well known—"there are more things in Heaven and earth than are dreamt of by our Philosophers." There is still an immense tract of "Terra Incognita" awaiting the researches of the Agricultural Chemist. The worn out pasture which has not been ploughed for twenty years will produce better Potatoes than any land which has been well cultivated. It is hardly possible to raise a patch of black winter radishes of the best quality—of this, the Flemish, who make almost daily use of this vegetable, are well aware, they therefore sow two or three seeds wherever there is a small gap in their field or garden—the radish which grows singly, remote from others, being generally good.

A plentiful dressing of fresh animal manure of any kind, is more or less injurious to the quality of most vegetables, but the remainder of the manure which has lost most of its strength, will generally produce crops of good quality.

There is great difference in the quality of hay, caused by the soil and manure. I have seen a growth of Timothy raised on a drained swamp extravagantly manured with night soil. I judged the yield to be fully five tons to the acre. It was cut when in blossom, and made in good weather; upon chewing the hay it appeared to be a tasteless wood without any sweet or mucilaginous juice. Cows fed with it for a few days lost their milk, and fell off so fast, that it appeared probable they would have died had they had no other food for five weeks. A Horse who was fed with it for some time was found to require such an extraordinary quantity of corn, that it was certain he received very little nourishment from his hay. We see that cattle do not willingly eat the rank grass that is produced by fresh manure, but will leave it untouched if they can procure a scanty allowance of short grass. Their instinct teaches