

Makes one Hundred and Fifty Dollars per Acre from Early Potatoes

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

For the benefit of any of the readers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE who may be interested in potato growing, I will explain my system of growing this crop. My soil is black loam on a clay subsoil. I plow this land in the fall ten inches deep, and in furrows not more than twelve inches wide. I give it one stroke with the harrow in the fall, and then haul manure onto it. I like well rotted manure, the older the better. Fresh manure is too strong for best results in potato growing. At least that has been my experience from growing this crop in the soil conditions described. Fresh manure, I always think, stimulates too much stalk growth.

I never plant until about the first week in May, finding that the most desirable time for seeding. I set the plants about four inches deep in drills three feet apart, planting the sets ten inches in the rows. The sets have been cut to pieces of three eyes each. I like them to lie long enough before planting for the cut to heal over.

I usually plant from five to six acres of potatoes each year. In my time the crop has been affected by every trouble such a crop is heir to, including bugs, blight and scab. For the bugs I used Paris green and had no serious trouble from them. The blight is from the plant. I have learned never to plant a tuber that has a brown or black streak in it. Such a tuber seems to affect the stalk in some way from the bottom. At least that is the only manner by which, so far as I can see, blight is carried to the crop.

In harvesting, I usually use the plow, plowing out the crop and picking them by hand, storing in the stable or in an outside cellar. I haul my crop to market by team, being close to Winnipeg. The cost of growing potatoes per acre I estimate at about \$17.00. This may seem low to some but it is about the figure I place the cost at. The yield is from 150 to 250 bushels per acre. My early potatoes paid me last year \$150.00 per acre, and the late crop \$80.00 per acre. I find the Mortgage Lifter a very satisfactory variety.

Headingly, Man.

S. M. BROWN.

Growing barley is very much neglected. Many of us, if we have a weedy piece of land and the season is getting too late for wheat or oats, think that barley should do well on that particular field. Regardless of preparation or the kind of seed purchased, we sow barley up to the first and the middle of June. The result is a failure or partial failure; then we blame the kind of a cereal instead of blaming ourselves for not planting it in proper season.

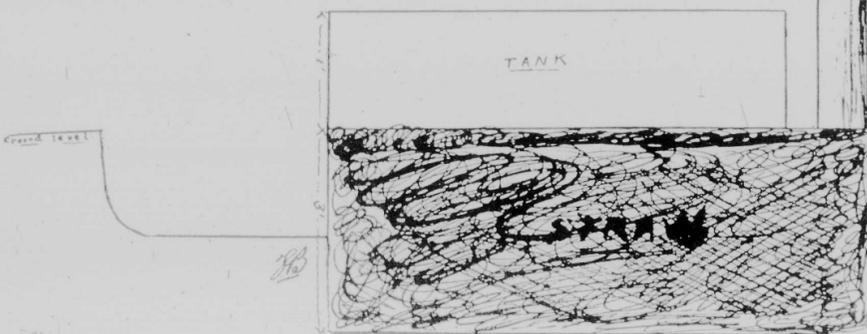
Winter Water Supply

EDITOR "FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I know that many an animal is turned out during winter, and, instead of getting water, has to get along on snow. Those who are not blessed with water for their stock can soon get a supply, if they will take the trouble to make a melter, of which I send you a sketch. After one has used this for a while, he wonders why it was not thought of before. I used flax straw as fuel. Dig a hole 6 feet long, 3 feet 6 inches wide, 3 feet deep, making a place at one end for the firing, and the other for a chimney. Build a tank, using 2 x 12, making a frame 6 feet long, 4 feet wide, 12 inches deep, cover this with galvanized iron for a bottom; place it over the hole, banking it up with dirt, which will keep the wood-work from burning. I used three lengths of 7-inch stove pipe for a chimney, which was banked up with sods; fill the tank with snow; start a fire underneath, and you will be surprised how easy it is to keep a supply of water for the stock. Make a cover to fit the tank, and fill up the fire hole at night, and you will have water however cold it may be. The coldest night in winter we had water.

Sask.

W. S. S.



TANK FOR MELTING SNOW

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

While my experience in corn growing in this country is rather limited and confined to small acreages, I have found corn a profitable crop to grow, and a good crop if properly handled. One of the most serious drawbacks to success which I have encountered is the gophers. These pests will go right through a corn field, following the rows and digging the seed out. Aside from this I have had no difficulty in growing corn successfully. Any of the land in Southeastern Saskatchewan is adapted to corn, unless it is wet and altogether too heavy. Corn prefers a rather light soil. In preparing the land I have not noticed much difference in the crop resulting from either fall or spring plowing, but I want to emphasize one point in the preparatory cultivation of land for corn, and that is to harrow it thoroughly; not simply harrow it once or twice, but as many times as possible before sowing. The more the land is harrowed before the seed is sown, the more weeds will be destroyed and the less work is required to keep the crop clean after it is up.

I prefer to plant the seed by hand with a planter, but the seeding may be done quite as well with a grain drill. I like to have the rows just about three feet apart, and set the drill to sow so that the kernels are dropped in the rows about ten inches apart. Cultivation after the crop is up should consist of frequent but shallow cultivation with a horse scuffler. Care should be taken not to cultivate too deeply, as deep cultivation disturbs the roots and is not favorable for the best growth of the crop.

While we cannot expect to grow corn in this country, and ripen it as we used to down in the East, still we can produce a lot of excellent fodder, which makes a summer and winter feed for stock, cows especially, that is superior to most other feeds. I find that the North Dakota Flint, a yellow variety, is preferable to most others for this part of the West. One bushel of seed is sufficient for three acres.

WM. CASTER.

Believes the Growing of Fodder Corn Will Displace the Summer Fallow

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I usually grow a few acres of corn as fall and winter feed for cattle. I find it is the best fodder for producing a continuous flow of milk from milking cows, a quality due probably to the amount of succulence it contains, even after it is cured.

For the corn crop I find the land cannot be too rich. Summer fallowing is the best one can give the land if a big yield is required, but I have never had a failure of corn on any kind of land. My soil is a medium heavy one, not the best altogether for corn growing. The crop should be sown on a well prepared piece of land as soon as danger from frost is over, say about 24th of May. I like to harrow the field well at intervals of a few days before sending to start and kill weed growth. I seed with an ordinary wheat drill, by closing up some of the spouts.

Corn should be sown in rows about two feet, six inches to three feet apart and the drill so arranged as to have the grains drop about every

six inches. The field can be harrowed once or twice after the corn is up and until it is, say, six inches in height. After that, work between the rows with a one-horse cultivator, the oftener the better. The variety I have had success with has been the Northwestern Dent, but I believe there are other kinds equally good. I cut my corn with an ordinary six foot binder, before the wheat harvest starts. If it should be frozen before it can be harvested, cut it as early after the frost as possible. It is a good plan if the weather is favorable after cutting, to leave the sheaves on the ground for a few days. The hot sun will dry the upper side and they can then be stooked in long stooks with the dry side "inside." In stooking I have learned to avoid large round stooks as they usually get musty and spoil. When the stooks are thoroughly dry I have stacked them on small long narrow stacks, but I intend to try what I understand is Professor Bedford's suggestion of stacking in the usual manner, with alternate layers of wheat straw. This prevents the corn from heating and also it is claimed, imparts a flavor to the straw that is much relished by the cattle. Corn makes an excellent feed cut green and fed in the late summer, when the pastures begin to fail and for this reason should be sown near the buildings.

It is an acknowledged fact, in the older settlements at least, that dairying must in the future, have a far more important place in our farming operations, in order that we may return to the soil the constituents that the continual cropping to cereals depletes it of, and I believe the time will come in all districts where a fair rainfall may be expected, that the wasteful method of the bare summer fallow will be discontinued and in its place will be grown fodder corn, providing abundance of the very best dairy feed and leaving the land in splendid shape for the next cereal crop. I hope to hear the experiences of other farmers on this important subject.

Man.

PAUL H. PHILLIPS.

Oat-Growing in Southern Alberta

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In plowing our ground, we run the plow at a depth of from five to eight inches, our object being to get a little deeper each plowing. We follow the plow as closely as possible with a disc harrow, set with very little throw, but heavily weighted, lapping half way each trip, making a double discing, which firmly packs the soil onto the bottom of the furrow. We follow this up with one or two strokes with a drag harrow, using six horses on a 20-foot harrow, and have the driver ride, running it with the teeth set straight. This firms the soil and puts it in condition to retain moisture, but does not form a "dust blanket." Many do not understand the relative merits of a dust blanket and a soil mulch. The former draws the moisture from below right up to the very surface of the soil where the sun and wind cause rapid evaporation, but the soil mulch, made up of particles of earth of all sizes, the largest on top, keeps the moisture below the surface where it is available for the roots of the growing plants.

In seeding, we put on from 2½ to 3 bushels (by weight) per acre, seeding heavier as the season advances, as the later-sown grain does not stool as much as that sown earlier in the season. Although we have never been troubled with smut, we always sprinkle our seed with a solution of one pound of formalin to 40 gallons of water, shovel it over several times and allow to dry several hours before seeding.

Under irrigation, and in this climate (Southern Alberta), the time of seeding is not so important as in districts where the season is not so long, and where there is more or less danger from drought. The best field of oats we have raised yet we finished seeding on the first day of June. Taking one year with another, we believe that irrigation will increase the yield of oats at least fifty per cent, and vastly improve the quality of the grain as well. We usually begin irrigating when the grain is about one foot high, and try to get it all watered before any of it begins to show a lack of moisture. Late irrigation sometimes causes uneven ripening of the grain. Oats require more moisture than wheat, and are not easily injured by too much water. With our system of flood, irrigation, one watering is always sufficient to bring the crop to maturity in good shape, and is not expensive, as one man can cover between five and ten acres per day, depending on condition of soil, size of ditches, etc. A good many farmers come into this district with the idea that irrigation will take the place of good hard work on the soil, but such is not the case. Irrigation increases the yield and quality, and insures against loss of crop by drought, but moisture alone will not produce a crop of grain, and the soil must be in proper physical condition before the plant can make use of the elements of fertility stored up for it.

Alta.

W. H. PAWSON, JR.

HORT.

The

Almost the first in the spring is g... sential to the hap... many dishes are r... They are also heat... and quite delicious... things are scarce.

It would be imp... early in spring fr... sets take some tin... Shallots may be pl... grow quickly, and... the end of May usu... of all are the Egyp... live outdoors fr... They are propagat... that grow on the t... "tops" grow in bun... they should be tak... and planted about... onions as well as th... as soon as the grou... ly, and multiply, ar... there will be plenty... for tea some night... mid-summer, these... tough and strong-f... unfit for use the... bulbs of the Shall... will form fair-siz... to grow and ripen... ground over winter... will then come on... ans. Yellow Dutch... grow first into nice... large firm bulbs, w... ripen and form good... Onions will not d... They require well... Land plowed deep... better than spring... be used year after... farm or garden cr... rotation. I have... thirty successive c... on the same plot, a... better than those fr... fully the land is pl... are gathered. In t... thoroughly rotted c... surface, and well h... of ashes and salt... comes seriously inf... it will be best to g... for one year. To c... eat the onions son... with a solution of... portion of one tea... quart of water. I... lates the growth of... Onion sets should... be planted in rows... according to the... used. The onions... four inches apart... quite a deep fur... wheel hoe. Then... the bottom of the... over them again... the soil firmly dow... onions have passe... soil should be sligh... until at the time... posed. They will... in this way. In... break down the t... treatment seems t... the bulb, and it... ripened of its ow... back, and keeping... the ripening proce... thoroughly ripene... half-green ones, e... small.

Onion seeds sho... well-watered bef... sown quite thickl... tance apart as f... when the bulbs ar... the time. They... small onions used... thinning should n...