

soil, especially if it has a northern slope or is poorly drained. The marrow and kidney varieties of beans are said to require slightly heavier and richer soil than do the pea beans. The latter will give heavier yields than the marrow and kidney beans on light and relatively poor soil. But in this Province where the natural conditions are not always most favorable for bringing a crop of beans to maturity the greatest care should be exercised in the selection of the most suitable soil and in its preparation.

Beans, may come in the rotation after clover, or they may come after potatoes or other hoed crops, provided there is sufficient humus in the soil. A clover sod provides humus and nitrogen. A hoed crop, such as potatoes or corn, leaves the soil in good condition for the preparation of a seed bed.

Beans to succeed best, require a continuous supply of moisture throughout the growing season. If the soil becomes very dry at a critical time it will greatly lessen the yield. The grower can, to a certain extent, guard against this danger by preparing the soil so that it will absorb the maximum amount of rainfall during the dormant season and by practising proper after-tillage so as to retain this moisture as much as possible. Fall plowing is an advantage in that it makes the land earlier in the spring and puts it into a condition to better absorb and hold the moisture. If the land has not been plowed in the fall it should be plowed and harrowed early in the spring, or at least three weeks before the time of planting. It should receive several harrowings at intervals of a week or so in order to bring it into good tilth, to give the air admission, to retain the moisture and to kill as many weeds as possible before the beans are planted. If this work is properly done the beans will grow much better than they otherwise would and it will greatly lessen the necessary tillage later. Much of the tillage for this and other hoed crops could be given before the crops are planted and would be done much more cheaply than after the crops are up.

### **Planting.**

Beans should not be planted until after settled warm weather arrives and danger of frost is past. In Nova Scotia they are planted from the first until the 20th of June. Some growers in the Annapolis Valley claim that the best results follow from planting during the first week in June. Beans are often planted too deep. In light soil they should not be covered more than two inches; in heavier soil one inch is enough. The rows should be placed 28 to 30 inches apart and the seeds about 3 inches apart in the row.