

7. Plough the summerfallow early. Begin to plough it as soon as the crop is sown, or as soon after that, as the land has been disced if it has not previously been lightly ploughed or disced as recommended in rules 5 and 6. Do not delay starting the plough until weed seeds covered by spring discing have germinated. This germination might be dependent upon rains that may not come for a month. Best results can only come from early ploughing.

8. Plough the summerfallow deeply. This refers to the main ploughing in the early summer, not to the fall ploughing. Plough deeper each time, as power permits, until a depth of at least six or eight inches is reached.

9. Harrow the summerfallow (and every other field you plough) immediately after the plough or at the same operation no matter when the ploughing is done. This applies to nearly all ploughing except sod land. Evaporation of moisture starts immediately land, even dry land, is ploughed. Evaporation can only be checked by a soil mulch—a loose layer of dry soil on the surface of the land—and harrowing is the quickest and cheapest way of getting such a condition. Use a packer if you have one. If you haven't got one, don't buy one on credit, but instead, make still more use of the harrow.

10. Aim to complete the ploughing and working down of the summerfallow before June 20.

11. Don't start breaking until the summerfallow is all ploughed and worked down. It is better to properly and sufficiently cultivate the land already broken than to neglect it and break more to be neglected in its turn.

12. Keep the summerfallow black and free from crust throughout the growing season by the timely use of the harrow on it. Always harrow with one or more of three objects in view: either to work the land down and create a mulch, or to destroy young weeds, or to restore a mulch (granular condition of the surface soil).

SUGGESTIONS REGARDING SPRING WORK

13. First thing in the spring harrow all the land you are going to sow except land that you are afraid will drift. This will help it to "warm up," will conserve moisture, enable you to get on to it sooner with the drill and do better work.

14. Use the cleanest and best seed you can get, and clean it some more after you get it, if it isn't already quite clean and a uniform sample.

15. Treat all your seed with formalin or in the case of wheat with bluestone, if you prefer. The only excuse for loss of yields and grades from smut is carelessness. Smut of wheat, oats and barley is entirely preventable, and the wilt of flax can largely be controlled by formalin, thanks to science and experiment.