

better crop. Individually I have a liking for a smallish uncut potato—one just large enough to cook; but I can assign no reason, except early habit, for my preference. It seems however certain that, if cut, the sets should be prepared some days in advance, and spread out thinly to dry. (1)

If, however, it should happen that potatoes have to be planted on an already manured soil, it would be a good plan to set them in every third furrow made by a common plough. This would place them, if the man "holds small," at from 24 inches to 27 inches apart, and afford plenty of room for the horse-hoe to work. This system is often followed when land is too rough for drilling; the dung is spread over the whole piece, and the plough is followed by boys or women who poke the manure into the furrow with small forks, and an untidy job it makes; but what would you have? There is the land, the dung, and the sets, so the potatoes must be planted, and this is the only way in which it can be managed! (2)

A few days after the potatoes are in, depending upon the season, the harrow should be passed over the field to lighten the soil, destroy what weeds have sprouted, and allow the young shoots to come up easily in their regular rows. The chain-harrows make beautiful work on drills, but the ordinary harrows should of course be used when the ground is flat. The horse-hoe follows, as soon as the plants are visible, accompanied by the hand-hoe, and, last of all, the earth is laid lightly, and in moderation, on the top of the drill by the double mould-plough. This last named implement has been wonderfully improved of late years; by cutting away the lower parts of the mould-boards it has been adapted to draw drills infinitely better than used to be done by a bout of the common plough, which used to make the drills uneven, so that the potato plants always came up through the side of the drill.

Too much earthing up is worse than none at all. The earth is given to keep the tubers from the light which would make them look green and taste bitter.

As our enemy the potato beetle has almost disappeared from many districts (3), and as early planting is seen to secure this valuable esculent in a great measure from disease, it may be expected that a largely increased area will be planted next year. It is no exaggeration to say that where one bushel is grown now two ought to be produced, and it is not a difficult thing to do; the mere lessening of the distance between the sets would go a long way towards it: the quality of the crop this year is really so very superior (particularly of the Early Rose) that we ought to be encouraged by the ready sale it has met with in England to compel our willing soil to yield a fair return and, instead of sitting down satisfied with 80 or 100 bushels, to insist upon receiving at least 200. For consider for one moment that, at 27 inches by 12 inches

(1) For over 20 years we have carefully comparing the planting of potatoes cut to one sound eye, with sets of two eyes or more. The larger the number of eyes, the greater the number of potatoes, but the smaller the crops and less uniform. This stands to reason. Each sound eye forms a complete plant by itself, which requires space to grow and develop its seed. The placing of from two to twenty eyes or plants in a bunch must evidently crowd the young plants, causing death to many, and injury to all. E. A. B.

Again, a sound eye or a very small potato as proved with us fully as good as the eye taken from the largest, and a great deal more economical. This question requires still more looking into and especially numerous practical tests. E. A. B.

(2) When the manure can be ploughed under in the fall, the planting could then be done with less trouble and better results under the third furrow, as recommended. E. A. B.

(3) Unfortunately, we must not trust to the beetle's disappearance yet. It will be but to be ready for them with plenty of land plaster in which 1 lb. of Paris green has been thoroughly mixed to every 50 lbs of plaster. The Messrs Lyman, Clark & Co., are, we believe, preparing this mixture for the coming spring. E. A. B.

between the plants, there are 19,360 bunches of tubers to the acre, and allowing each bunch to weigh 1 lb. there will be 322 bushels of 60 lbs. each, so that, supposing no gaps to occur, and really one does not see many as a general rule, our bunches of potatoes, instead of weighing one pound, can hardly weigh five oz.

The sorts of potatoes cultivated in the Province are so fine, and, generally so well selected, that it would be superfluous to offer any advice on the subject. Suffice it to say that the Early Rose should be the main dependence, as it is a large cropper, stands any amount of dung, ripens very early, keeps well, and is of superb quality. For early garden culture nothing has ever come up to the "Ashleaf Kidney," which, in Canada, is fit to eat, if not earthed up, by the 21st. of June. It should be stirred as little as possible, as breaking the rootlets causes the plant to put forth new ones, and delays the formation of the tubers. The land can hardly be too rich for this sort, as it hardly ever rots. The Chilis last out well but, except on real potato soils, the flavour is harsh, and, as a general rule, the white sorts, as usually found in our markets, are not true to their sorts, and are, therefore, not trustworthy.

The next crop that claims our attention, and which almost jostles the potato in its demand for early sowing, is the Mangold Wurzel. It is generally supposed to be a hybrid between the red garden beet and the white sugar-beet. The bulk of this crop in England and Ireland is sometimes enormous. Instances are known of 80 roots weighing a ton, and individual roots have been grown of 36 lbs. each. An ordinary crop in the south of England is 30 tons to the acre, where 15 tons of Swedes would be rare, to say nothing of the quality being very inferior.

There are four principal sorts; long and globe red, long and globe yellow. On heavy land there is no doubt that the long red yields best, but the quality of the yellows is superior.

I strongly recommend soaking the seed. I have tried it during fifteen seasons, and have never found the "braird" injured by it. Place the necessary quantity (4 lbs to 6 lbs per acre) in a bag and, plunging it in river or rain water, let it steep for 30 hours, take it out and hang it up until it is thoroughly drained, then place it in a warm situation and when it has "chipped," i. e. when tiny white points appear at the points of the seed, mix it with a small proportion of dry sand. Having previously rolled the drills down flat with a light roller, let a shallow rut be made along the top with the corner of a hoe, and drop the seed at once, covering it over about one inch deep, and then pass the roller over the drills again to confine the moisture.

It is of the greatest importance to the future yield of this crop that the drills should be deeply hoed when the plants are sufficiently advanced. The hoe should leave them as flat as possible, the space between the drills becoming the higher of the two. If the plants lie down on their backs, the grower need not fear that they will die, the dew and coolness of the following night will restore them, and all the stem that is left bare of earth will become converted into bulb.

The sowing of carrot and parsnip seed may be conducted in the same way, only sow seed enough, and use seed not more than one year old, 6 lbs of the former, and 8 lbs of the latter, are not too much.

The distance between the plants of mangold, to yield the greatest crop, should be ten inches. Keep the horse hoe going once a week, until the leaves prevent its passage; then a moderate use of the hand-hoe will cheaply finish the cultivation.

There are always a few plants that run to seed in every crop. Beware of using the seed of these for another year, as they most surely propagate their peculiarity.