

INTENSIVE FARMING.



LAST fall I became convinced that I had been trying to farm on too extensive a scale; that I had spent a great deal of time, labor and money in cultivating a large area rather indifferently, and I determined to see what I could do this year in the way of intensive farming. I selected a piece of land about as poor as any on the farm—which, by the way, is saying a good deal—but chose it because it was sheltered by a cedar hedge from the north-west winds, and had a slight slope toward the south-east. On this piece, 250 feet by 70 feet (about four-tenths of an acre) I spread manure from my cow stables—rich from feeding cotton-seed meal, bran and corn meal—covering the land at least three inches deep. I plowed and harrowed it carefully, and September 20, sowed it all to spinach in rows 36 inches apart. This did not grow well enough to sell any in the fall, but all through January and February I sold it at \$1.20 per bush., using only the thinnings.

March 8, after giving the bed a very careful harrowing and raking, I sowed 18 rows (250 feet) each, of Eclipse beets, putting two rows between each two rows of spinach. I also sowed two rows, same length, of potato onion sets; and again March 12, ten rows more of Eclipse beets and four rows of onion sets. March 22, I sowed two rows of radishes; March 31, two rows of radishes; April 5, four rows of lettuce and four rows of turnips. May 14, I had cut out all the spinach in the bed, and on the rows thus left vacant, I gave a dressing of 200 pounds of superphosphate, working it well into the soil with my Planet Jr. wheel hoe. In these rows, we set out lettuce transplanted from the four rows mentioned above, and Early Jersey Wakefield cabbage raised in the hothouse—13 rows of lettuce and 10 rows of cabbage. All the onions, beets radishes, carrots and turnips, were sold bunched, cabbage and lettuce, of course, by the head, and the spinach by the bushel. The returns from the “salad patch,” as we call it, to date are as follows:

Spinach	\$61 65	Beets, bunched..	\$21 84
Onions, in bunches.....	28 51	Cabbage.....	31 76
Lettuce.....	44 00	Carrots, bunched.....	13 00
Radishes, in bunches.....	21 69	Turnips, bunched.....	5 60
Beet tops, for greens	8 47		
Total.....			\$239 52

I think there are enough beets, carrots, cabbages and turnips still in the ground to bring this amount up to \$500, and I am sure, from this experiment that, could I have given this “patch” all the time needed, I could have increased these returns by at least one-half. I am also sure that the returns would have been much greater had I given the bed a dressing of nitrate of soda early in the spring. The cold, wet spring prevented the nitrification of the