

but which are not sufficient to warrant that this is always the case. But at the same time I fancy that this will prove the rule. The only disadvantage that I can see is that it is in general a little longer ripening than the majority of the six-rowed types. But there are several types of two-rowed that are just about as early as the ordinary six-rowed, and the difference of a week or ten days is easily avoided by a little earlier seeding if the time of ripening is required to be a factor.

I am not a brewer, and therefore am hardly qualified to make a definite statement that the malting quality of Western barley is A1, but I think I can get around the question in a very satisfactory way by answering the query: "What constitutes a good malting barley?" It is this: A sound, plump berry, with its germinating power totally unimpaired and of a bright color. Well, Mr. Editor, we can grow barley in the West with all these properties; perhaps not quite 100 per cent. perfect, but very near it.

But it must be understood that to grow such barley for yield and quality, there must be the proper conditions—thorough cultivation and good, clean land. Barley requires soil that has been thoroughly pulverized and a good seed-bed, in order that the fibres of the roots which are very tender and minute may readily penetrate the soil in search of the necessary nourishment. Barley on this sort of ground is, I think, the surest crop we can grow, when drought is a question of consideration. Given a fair start at seeding, with the seed properly placed to moisture time, barley will, if the soil was well prepared, give a very fair crop, even in the dry seasons.

There is another point to consider. Even though the quality of the barley may not merit its qualifying as a good malting commodity, and it is the point unto which all the farmers look first, viz., the dollars and cents. As far as I can ascertain the English and European markets would be the best at the present time. Taking the English market for an example, the prices, I understand, range from 75c. to \$1.00 per bushel for such barley as we can grow. Freight rates, quoting from Winnipeg to Liverpool, run according to season from 7c. to 20c. per bushel, making an average of 14 cents per bushel. Two-rowed barley, such as the Standwell or Malster and other varieties suitable to our soil and climate will run in yield from 45 to 70 bushels per acre, weight ranging with the season. This is not a very hard matter to figure out, and if this price can be realized it looks to me to be as good a proposition as Red Fyfe. Of course, a market has got to be established and a trade developed before it would be safe for us to branch out into the business on a large scale. But I happen to know that such a business and trade is being pushed and sought for, with a fair outlook and there is no doubt our respective governments, together with the Dominion Government, will forward and assist any such trade that is likely to benefit Western agriculture.

A word or so regarding color may not be out of place. Color is the brewer's one hard mark in barley, and color we have to make for top prices. I don't think there is any better country than ours for color. The only trouble is to keep it. My idea of obtaining the best color is to cut the barley just when the heads begin to droop and the dark hue changes to a lighter color, always before the berries are hard. Remember this is a malting proposition, not for seed. Cap the shocks, which must not be too large, and stack or thresh as soon as the grain is hard. This is essential for color, and if one has a market for malting barley. Don't leave the barley threshing till last, as is generally done, for each rain leaves its mark. Thresh the barley first, and remember that your other grains will not lose a grade in weather that would ruin barley for malting prices, so easily is barley germinated or discolored.

One often hears discussions on barley color, and there seems to be a great idea that color is all necessary to the brew. Again, I am not a brewer and will not argue the point, but I don't think I am very wide of the mark in stating that the color as called for, by the brewer, is more for a safeguard and surety; that the germinating qualities are not destroyed, either by treating or growth, either of which renders barley absolutely useless for malting purposes. In conclusion let it be understood that my experience with two-rowed barley has been on a medium loam. I cannot say what it will do on the heavier clays, but I am of the opinion that neither kind of barley is as well suited to clay

as to the medium or lighter soils. Further I think that the question of growing malting barley is one that the Western farmers should look into. Let them get together and solve the question of market. We can grow the barley as well as other countries. Let those that doubt it try a few bushels of good seed and give it a fair chance.

Sask.

R. H. CARTER.

I had malt. If farmers grew two-sowed in car lots brewers or maltsters may buy. You could grow many more bushels of barley to the acre than wheat, and if you could get a good price for it, it may pay well to plant it in place of a wheat crop, instead of a catch crop or a weed killing crop as stated above. I should plant it the last week in May or not later than the first week in June.

Man.

JOHN C. WALKER.

Tow-Rowed Malting Barley

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

During my five years of farming in the West and in this district only I have raised two-rowed barley with more or less success, and, taking the five years crops as a whole I say good success. The best features of the business are that I have sown a good deal of barley after wheat seeding, and when sown the fore part of May I have been able to fall fallow the barley ground. The best and heaviest (forty bushels to the acre) crop I have had was sown on the tenth of June. My two-rowed 1908 crop sown May 28, won first and sweepstakes for the southern division of Saskatchewan at the Regina Seed Fair. It was taken out of the general crop without any special preparation of seed or land, or forethought as to exhibiting.

I find that two-rowed barley has many advantages over six-rowed or any other rowed barley, and simply consider it the best barley to raise in this part of the West. I have had little experience as to the malting merits of any barley. Many years ago the wheat production of Eastern Ontario fizzled out and farmers had to turn their attention to other farm products, amongst which was the raising of barley fit for the Eastern States malting market.

It was soon found from experience, that two-rowed barley, all things considered, was the most satisfactory and profitable to produce. It was even and plumper in kernel, being taller and more erect was easier to harvest, was less liable to rust and color with dampness and dews and commanded higher prices than the multi-rowed varieties.

From my western experience in barley raising, were I to pander to the malting market, I certainly would stand by the two-rowed varieties of barley. I understand from maltsters that they desire and look for a clean, smooth, even, plump, heavy, and, above all, a bright grained barley. I therefore consider the malting quality of two-rowed barley of sufficient merit to warrant farmers in many sections of the West undertaking the production of this cereal.

Sask.

J. E. FRITH.

Satisfied with Two-Rowed

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I remember in England a gentleman appointed by the Government lecturing before a large body of market gardeners on the uses of artificial manures. Speaking of nitrate of soda he said: "It is no use putting it on peas, it won't do them a bit of good." A man in the hall spoke up and said: "It's no use your coming here and telling us that, gov'nor; we've tried it and we know."

Now, I have tried out here some of the best two rowed barleys from England so ought to know a little about them. One sort I have tried was Webb's Chevalier, secured from the firm that are seedsmen to King Edward. I got it with other barley direct from them. Chevalier has taken the Brewers' Prize, London, England, open to all the world 8 or 9 years in succession.

All I got did well here, but they all take from two to three weeks longer to ripen than Mensury or other six-rowed barleys grown here. This does away with the object of many in planting barley, as they plant late to enable them to kill a good crop of weeds before planting, and hope to catch a lot more before fully matured when barley is cut. One year I should have sent to Brewer's exhibition but for expense.

I hear brewers or makers of malt will not buy these barleys because they can buy them only in small lots at the present time, and I know to mix them with native barley such as Mensury, you would make very inferior malt. I have had a good deal of experience in malting in England. You want even there to class your barley for each wetting, and not to mix these barleys with native varieties as they would not germinate together; so that if one was just right to go on for drying the other would not be far enough advanced. The consequence would be

Old Country Grower's Experience

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In regard to two-rowed barley for malting purposes, I think if you will refer back to the years 1890, 1891 and 1892 you will find that the farmers west of Brandon, more especially around Alexander and Griswold, raised quite a lot of two-rowed barley known as Carter's Prize Prolific, and it was a splendid malting variety and a very heavy cropper, but appeared to have a soft straw and lodged very badly, as the head seemed too heavy for the straw to carry it. I counted 92 grains of barley in one head, and eleven heads from one grain. This was in a five acre field of C. E. Hall, a prominent farmer of the Alexander district. I had the pleasure of busheling this crop when it was threshed, as we used the bushels then. I busheled 335 bushels off that five acres, and I am satisfied that nearly a third of the crop was left on the ground, as it was lodged so badly. I know Mr. Hall offered a man he had hired, with his three horses, \$1.00 per acre to cut that barley and find the binder, and he would not do it at that price, but cut it by the day.

I know this as a good malting barley, as much of it is grown in Gloucestershire, where I came from, and I believe it could be grown here on the lighter soils, where it would not grow such rank straw.

I may mention this five acres of C. E. Hall's was in a field he had had fenced off for three years for a pasture for the cow he kept for the use of the house.

There is another question about growing barley for malting. It has to be the right color. I find a heavy dew or a misty day or two will change the color of barley. Certainly anyone who wants to grow barley for malting will have to make small stocks and cap the stocks, and be sure your cap sheaves are kept on.

The great drawback in growing two-rowed barley, is the fact that it takes too long to grow and ripen. I find growing the six-rowed barley is one of the best methods of clearing a farm of wild oats, and the two-rowed variety is no good at all for that purpose, as all oats shell out before the two-rowed barley is ripe enough to cut.

Man.

J. BENNETT.

To Combat Couch Grass

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

A Kenville reader writes: "I have some couch grass on my farm. It is spreading over the valley very fast and no one seems to know what to do to prevent its spreading."

Couch grass is one of the most persistent weeds to be found in this country, and unless eradicated it will soon take possession of any farm. During a dry summer the land may be plowed lightly about the latter end of June, well harrowed, and then cross plowed during July. This will bring a large number of the roots to the surface, where they can be drawn to the surface with the ordinary spike-tooth harrow; or, better still, with a spring-tooth harrow, and then raked up and burned.

The above plan entails a lot of labor, and can only be carried out successfully during a hot, dry summer. In many respects a much better plan is to plow the land during the first week of June; harrow it once, and sow about three bushels of barley per acre. If the land is moist, the barley will grow up quickly and smother out the couch grass, but to secure success with this plan the soil must not be allowed to get dry before the seed is sown, otherwise the couch grass will get the start and choke the barley.

Plowing the grass late in the fall and leaving the land rough so as to expose the roots to the winter frosts often destroys many of them.

Cultivation during damp weather, or when the soil is wet, only helps to spread the roots and increase the pest.

M. A. C.

S. A. BEECHER.

At what farmers to and how plowed?

Ans. — generally, be plowed time to plow. The conditions. I is possible over. This backsetting summer fairly deep the soil and M. A. C.

EDITOR FA

The plac under an ol and I find it we can use. as it is gene about 16 in out, but las myself made in town and in one day rough ice fo

The way I out all the o and put a some lengthy as it will so away freely. and the ice cc far side from wall and pac and fill up all I start again in four layer Then I get a l will pack in be chaffy as poss around the s can't get and fill up the cl boards and th take it out th

I would lik Mrs. Brown's the hot spell i pails and fill i chairs near t draught was c nice and cool a Man.

Ice Su

EDITOR FARM

When a boy stream in Easte ance and con opened up an o and 8 feet deep poles to preve about two feet sawed out blo three feet wide with a chain. hole with crow ice closely toge straw to the de

