

Top dressing.—The custom is not to apply any artificial manure after planting, but top dressing is sometimes done with, say, one cwt. nitrate of soda or sulphate of ammonia per acre when plants are just weeded, and in many cases proves beneficial.

Raising.—Taking one year with another, raising of the crop begins about June 20, and by the first week in July it is general.

Varieties.—The most satisfactory varieties grown at present are Early Puritan, Nonsuch, Windsor Castle and Seedling. The Puritan is the earliest of all, followed often by Goodrich, both of middling quality.

After crop.—Immediately after potatoes are raised the land is sown with rape, Italian rye grass, or barley—rape by preference if there is no chance of finger-and-toe—and excellent crops are secured which are eaten off by sheep, an easy and profitable method of bringing up the fertility of the soil.

To sum up, the successful early-potato grower plows deep, and keeps working amongst the crop all the time;

Some breeders consider it wise where winter lambs are raised to shear the ewe flock in November and again in May. The wool by this plan will not have as long a fibre and may not sell for as much, but there will always be enough more of it to make up the difference in the price, while the extra thrift of the sheep is of value. An American veterinary authority has this to say in regard to sheep shearing:

"If the flock is to drop their lambs in March then I would say shear them just as soon as the lambs were well and thriving. If the ewes were to drop the lambs about May 1st then shear from April 1st to the 15th, and do not wait until the lambs are dropped, as the ewes will become so overheated that their vitality stands a great chance of becoming reduced and weak lambs or other evil results follow. Yearling sheep should as a rule be shorn not later than April 15, and if ticky even earlier. The English breeds need shearing earlier than the American Merino, as they will not hold their wool as well, and when the warm days of April and early May come it will begin to start and not infrequently there will be loss. The old notion was per-



Sheep Corral on a Western Farm

plants not before his soil is in fine condition; manures heavily and uses pure seed.

Sheep-Shearing

The practice on the average farm in this country is not to do any shearing till after the sheep are washed. And as it is considered necessary to wait till the water becomes warm it is well on to the first of June or later before the sheep are relieved of their fleeces. The wisdom of such a practice is open to doubt. With reasonably warm sheds and barns sheep may be shorn very much earlier than is now the general practice. About six weeks ago we visited a large stock farm near this city where we saw a number of sheep, or rather yearling lambs, already shorn. These sheep looked to be thriving well, and the shed they were in was no warmer than sheds to be found on many farms where sheep are not shorn for two or three months later. In some of the Eastern States the practice of washing the sheep has almost died out, and consequently shearing is done very much earlier.

happens all right with the old sheep, but the modern sheep needs a modern man to manage them in many ways, and shearing them is one of them and only one of the many. The grease notion worked well in its time, but the manufacturer now wants wool and not grease. True, a little oil is not objectionable, but a well-kept sheep has enough of that at any time, so there is no need of waiting till June for that."

The Farmer's Garden

One reason why many farmers have poor success with their gardens is because they grow the same kind of vegetables year after year in the same place. A system of rotation should be followed in the garden as well as on the farm. If this is not done care should be taken to have a goodly depth of subsoil turned up each year. In England a system of trenching is followed by some farmers, that is, digging the soil to a depth of 2 ft. or 3 ft., according to the nature of the soil, and adding a certain amount of subsoil