

Preparation of the Soil

We will never insist too much on this point, because failures usually originate in the lack of care brought in the digging up and loosening of the soil.

It would be taking useless trouble, time and money thrown away than to sow beans in a soil that would not have received a preparation appropriate to this crop.

This preparation consists in plowing the ground in the fall so that it may benefit of the salutary action of the frost which contributes to its desaggregation, to make it porous, permeable and loose, and to destroy many insects and weeds.

This fall plowing is particularly imperative in the case of lands that are rather heavy (1) than light and must be 8 to 9 inches deep, if the thickness of the coat of arable soil allows it. In case of the contrary, it would be better to break up the sub-soil with a digging harrow and plow to a smaller depth.

In the following spring, as soon as the state of the ground will permit, a plowing of at least 6 inches in depth will have to be executed without delay (2).

After this, the ground will be incessantly submitted to strong harrowings worked lengthwise and crosswise, either with a disk-harrow, a cultivator or a drag harrow, with a view of breaking the clods, of eradicating weeds and perfectly loosening the surface.

As it is extremely important that the evaporation be reduced in order to prevent the soil from drying and hardening, and to destroy weeds as they grow up, subsequent use of the harrow, roller and hoe will be made as often as necessary, at all intervals of about 8, 10 or 12 days, until seeding time has come.

Time of Planting

The bean is extremely sensible to cold and fears very much a too abundant moisture or that lasts too long. In fact, when put in a cold and wet ground most of the seeds rot and others successful in coming up lose their vitality.

Even if they were planted in a soil well dried and warmed up, the spring frost might yet kill all beans that would have come up. It follows that bean seedlings in the open ground cannot be made in the spring, as long as the ground

(1) Although fall plowings are just as recommendable for light soils, they could however be suppressed without too much inconvenience when a soil will have precedently been loosened and cleaned by a previous hoed crop.

(2) If it is advisable to dig in fertilisers that are not lost into the soil, (rotten manures, phosphates, potash salts) they may be very regularly distributed all over the plowed area, under proper weather conditions, and immediately closely incorporated to the soil by means of the disk-harrow.