

Q. Do you ever sprout the seed for early potatoes?

Mr. TERRY: No. I would rather they would not start at all until put in the ground. If you wanted to have early ones you might do it, but for field culture I would not do it. I know some have done it, but I see nothing gained by it. Potatoes that lie in the ground all winter are the ones that come up the strongest in the spring.

Q. How deep do you put them in?

Mr. TERRY: Four inches on our drained land; but if the land was not drained that might be too deep.

Q. If you don't hill them at all won't these large varieties get sunburnt?

Mr. TERRY: Practically we cannot grow them without hilling a little. There is a little dirt turned to them. I suppose the ridges are two or three inches higher than between the rows.

Q. How far apart are your rows for early potatoes?

Mr. TERRY: We have settled on 32 inches, perhaps 33 would be better, because that would give you exactly six rows to the rod. If you want them larger plant them a little further apart.

Q. What varieties do the best?

Mr. TERRY: We have made most money out of potatoes like the early Hebrons, New Queen, Clark's Number One. Of course that is largely a matter of locality, there are farms in our township where potatoes will not do well, that do well for me. No man can tell except by actual experiments on his own land what potatoes are best to grow.

Q. Did the Freeman do well with you?

Mr. TERRY: It does with this exception that it is inclined to start a great many potatoes, and they cannot all grow large. By cutting to one eye and planting far apart we have good results. If I wanted to grow the most bushels possible on an acre, if my life depended on it, and I could have everything I wanted to work with, I would grow the Freeman, but to grow to ship by the carload I would not do it, because they would not sell on their merits. I can grow a larger, coarser potato that will sell better in a market where they are not tested.

Q. What style of weeder do you use?

Mr. TERRY: I have two kinds of weeder, the Original weeder, but Bread's Universal weeder is the best one I have.

Q. Do you try seed potatoes from different soils?

Mr. TERRY: It is better to get seed from a soil better than your own. We send north for our seed because it is better. Up in the northern part of Maine the potatoes grow splendidly.

Q. Have you tried fertilizer on your potatoes?

Mr. TERRY: We have tried it, but with no good results whatever.

Q. You strongly advocate underdraining, and then you say for this potato growing you want to retain the moisture?

Mr. TERRY: The underdrain only takes up the surplus water that would be injurious. It is not taking the water from the subsoil but simply from the seed potato, the surplus that would otherwise be injurious. The water does not run away when it comes from the crops when the drains are properly put in. The water should soak down into the earth, and fill the earth up and when it gets all the water it wants it runs off and with plenty of vegetable matter in the upper soil it holds more there.

A MEMBER. I thought if we had a dry season it would be better to stop up the outlet.

Mr. TERRY: It is a fact that on well tile-drained land in a dry season you could raise better crops than you can on land that is not well drained. I always do my own tile draining. I won't trust anybody else with it, because it is something like a doctor's