

stood that this statement implies that any new ground is preferable. I insist that the land shall be as rich as it is possible to make it previous to taking it for onions. The reason why many think that old onion ground gives better results than can be expected with new land the first year, is because the continued cultivation and the high manuring which onions need have improved the land up to the necessary standard. But if one can start with this standard already established it is just as well. To insure this point, I take tobacco ground that has been manured with stable manure for a number of years, not less than ten cords to the acre each year. In the fall previous to growing an onion crop, I plow under a coat of tobacco stems (not stalks) at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons per acre, costing about \$30. I prefer these to stable manure as an immediate fertilizer, for they furnish a high rate of potash, which onions need, and besides bring in no weeds. The stems also have a tendency to keep off the maggot and other pests. The latter result is also assisted by plowing in the fall. The plowing should be done as early as the first of October, to insure the thorough rotting of the stems, and should be as light as possible, for deep plowing is at any time detrimental to an onion crop.

In the spring, plow to the depth of five inches as soon as the land is in good condition to work. We usually plant beets and spinach first, as it is necessary that they should be as early as possible. Next peas and other of the earliest crops, and then onions. We plant the seed of the whole onion first, as this is the best for the early fall market.

As a topdressing any of the better grades of superphosphates will do, 600 pounds of this is sufficient for an acre, dragged or raked in. The ground should

be made as fine as possible before sowing. Flat land is the best, and in order to prevent water—after heavy rains—from standing on the onions, I plow in ridges of one rod wide, leaving a shallow furrow and raking into it from both sides. This leaves the ridges slightly rounded and sloping a little each way toward the furrow, thus shedding the water, although the depression is but slight. These furrows necessitate leaving out one row of onions for each furrow, but it pays if heavy rains or sudden showers take place, as at certain stages of growth, onions are damaged if water stands upon them, if only for a short time.

The rows should be 14 inches apart, and six pounds of seed per acre is, I think, the best rule. Many plant only five pounds; should all come and grow to maturity this is quite sufficient, but as there are some drawbacks, that result is not always sure. I spat the rows after the planter with a hoe, as this packs the soil around the seed, prevents drying up, and gives an opportunity to cover any little place skipped by the follower. I think this pays, as the seed comes sooner and eveners.

The use of wood ashes is to be recommended, but I think they are best applied at the second weeding. I have known a crop ruined by their too profuse application, but if rightly used they are one of the best fertilizers for onions. It is never advisable to mix them with other fertilizers, especially those whose principal element is ammonia, or to apply them at the same time.

With regard to varieties, I have had the best success with the Southport stock, the White and Red Globe. The former is by far the best white variety; though not as early as the Tripoli, it is a better cropper and keeper. The Tripoli will not keep later than October, under ordinary management. The Wethersfield Large Red is a standard