

A good supply of moisture is necessary for a good crop of oats, and this is obtained by a deep fall ploughing in heavy and loamy soils; the compactness of such soils being lessened by the disaggregating effects of fall and winter frosts, the water will have a deeper and greater penetration. Early cultivation will prevent its evaporation without being of any use to the roots.

In light soils not capable of retaining sufficient moisture, the only mean to have them retain a sufficient supply of water is to provide them with humus-forming materials such as barn and green manures: clover, alfalfa buckwheat ploughed under. To sum up, the soil destined, to oat crops must be prepared as follows:

(a) Deep fall ploughing in soils that are heavy or so; fall or spring ploughing in light soils.

(b) The soil shall be properly drained and moderately loose, although free from large lumps and weeds.

(c) A good supply of moisture guaranteed and kept by deep ploughing and a loose surface in heavy soils; by the incorporation of large quantities of humus in light soils.

Seeding

(a) *Quality of seed.*—Good seed oat should have a smooth and glossy hull, should be of uniform size, rather plump, free from weeds and diseased kernels. It should be cleaned as many times as necessary to eliminate small oats; one should be particular in the choice of seeds for future crops just as one would be for brood animals.

(b) *Seeding time.*—Oats sown early in the spring will yield a better and more abundant crop than when sown later.

(c) *Rate of seeding.*—From 2 to 2½ bushels should be sown per acre. One should sow thinner in heavy soils properly pulverized than in light soils. When used as a cover-crop, 2 bushels of oats will be enough; sowing too thick, in such circumstances, would harm the uniform and vigorous growth of clover and Timothy....

A good rolling is given after seeding so as to pack the soil and promote germination; however this should not be done before the soil has warmed up. Should it happen to rain about that time, rolling will be delayed a few days.