

In the preparation of the soil for this crop, when intended for sugar making, animal manures, and all such as abound in ammonia, should be avoided, or very sparingly applied, as although these tend to the formation of a large luxuriant plant, the juice which it yields under such circumstances is so mucilaginous and saline as to render it extremely unsuitable for sugar making. As I have before stated that rich soil is not requisite, the land will probably be found to be sufficiently manured by ploughing in clover or other green crops or stubble. Should further manuring be required, ashes and bones would probably be found the best, and as sulphuric acid enters largely into the composition of the stalks, gypsum will be highly beneficial. After a crop of the sugar cane has been taken off, the *begasse*, or crushed canes, should invariably be returned to the field and ploughed under, provided the same field is to be used for the same crop in the succeeding season. The land should of course be well worked and deeply stirred both before sowing, and in the earlier stages of growth; as it is essentially requisite that the progress of the plant to maturity should be stimulated to the utmost, which is best effected by the free access of the atmospheric influences to the parent seed and the roots. Notwithstanding the great size to which the plants grow, it is not an exhausting crop because the parts which are employed in manufacture, consist only of carbonaceous matters, while the nitrogenized matters in the stalk and leaves are, or should be, returned to the soil.

### CULTIVATION.

Having procured seed which can be relied on as genuine, it should be soaked before planting for twenty-four hours or even longer, in tepid water, to which is added a small quantity of saltpetre, say about one ounce to six gallons of water. Previous to sowing (which should be done about the middle of May, or even a little later,) it should be rolled in plaster. This treatment will expedite the germination of the seed by four or five days. About eight pounds of seed will be required per acre.

The seeds, when intended for sugar making, should be planted in drills (*not in hills*), about three feet six inches apart, and the plants in the row thinned out to eight or ten inches apart. An excellent plan for at once marking out the rows and preparing the ground for the immediate reception of the seed, is to use a small *one-horse* subsoil plough, thus thoroughly loosening the soil directly under the row of plants. The seeds when planted should be covered very loosely and lightly, as otherwise, should continued wet weather supervene, they will most certainly rot. A moderate degree of moisture in the ground at the time of sowing, is however advantageous. As soon as the rows can be seen—and this will be facilitated by dropping a radish seed at intervals in sowing—the cultivator or horse-hoe should be run through the piece to destroy the weeds