

not less than two, eyes, indicating vigour; and if other conditions are favorable, they will at once commence a healthy growth, and yield a large return. Much will depend upon the after culture that potatoes receive. Cultivating between the rows by the horse-hoe, so as not only to keep down the weeds, but also to admit freely air and moisture to the roots, with carefully earthing up twice, at the proper times, are well known to be among the most important points in the management of this crop.

Every effort should now be made towards completing the preparation of land for mang-el wurzel and swede turnips; two of the most important crops the farmer cultivates. The former should be sown without delay, if not already done; but the latter may be deferred to the end of the month or the beginning of next, according to the state of the ground and the character of the weather. If swedes are sown too early, especially on rich, moist land, they will be very liable to mildew, and the bulbs will become hard and woody, and consequently much less nutritious. September and October are the months in this climate, when swedish turnips, to be sound and nutritious, should uninterruptedly increase in size and weight.

Both these crops should be cultivated in drills; a practice that may now be considered an essential feature of improved husbandry. The distance between the rows should be varied to suit the strength of the soil, and the size of the variety cultivated. On good land, and proper preparation, mangels should not be nearer in the rows than two feet and a half; and three feet will often be found better. Turnips will require from two feet up to thirty inches; and plenty of room for both should be allowed the plants in the row to attain perfect maturity without crowding. While in this climate it is an advantage to get these crops to shade the ground by the end of July, great care is necessary that the plants be properly set out; as most people allow

them to remain too close together, thereby diminishing the amount of produce.

The variety, perhaps, which produces the heaviest crop of Mangels is the long red, which is admirably adapted to deep and rich soils; upon such as are shallow the orange globe is more suitable. Of swedish turnips there are many varieties, but the Improved Purple top, introduced by Mr. Skirving, of Liverpool, may, perhaps, be considered as yielding the largest weight. This is a matter, however, that will vary in particular instances according to the nature of the soil, mode of manuring, and character of the season. Laing's Improved Turnip Top Swede produces very pretty bulbs, and better adapted, perhaps, than any other sort of Swedes for table use, but is not the most bulky grower, especially in late districts. No farmer can go wrong in attempting to grow any of the approved varieties of Swedes, the seed of which can now be readily procured of any respectable seedsman in our larger towns; and we would strongly recommend our readers to use every exertion this spring for procuring a good supply of roots, being persuaded that they will find them of the greatest value in carrying their stock through the succeeding winter.

THRASHING MACHINES.

It would be interesting and instructive to trace the origin and progressive development of machinery for the purposes of agriculture; and we should find in, perhaps every instance, improved and efficient implements and machines to belong to the present century, more particularly to the latter part of it. Thrashing by machinery is a practice that has been introduced for a considerable number of years among the larger and more enterprising farmers, yet till within a comparatively recent period, the operation was performed in a rude and imperfect manner; the machines being frequently inefficient in working, requiring great force in order to keep them in