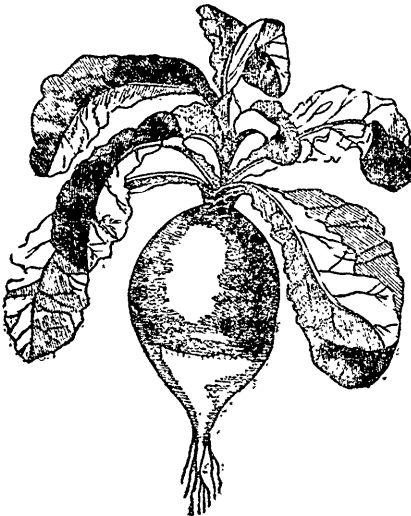




Fig. 2.

The annexed cut (fig. 2.) will afford a correct view of a good specimen of this sort. It differs from other "purple tops" in the more oblong shape of the bulb, having a large neck, standing more out of the ground, and consequently, in this climate, requiring to be taken up early, as being much exposed to frost. It is a good variety to sow in shallow or hard dry soils. In the former case it produces a better crop than any of the other varieties of Swedes, in consequence of the slight hold it requires of the ground; and in the latter, it swells out on the surface, and when lifted there is not such an adhesion of earth as with the deeper seated roots; a circumstance of great advantage in a wet season.

*Laing's Improved Purple-top Swede.*



(Fig. 3.)

In Lawson's *Agriculturist's Manual* the author says of this turnip, "that it differs from all hitherto known varieties of swedish turnips, in having large cabbage-like leaves, which, by their

horizontal growth, form a thick covering to the soil, thereby materially checking the vigour of autumnal weeds." This peculiarity of shape will be seen in the annexed cut, (fig. 3) where both the leaves and bulb are seen in their natural condition. We have seen excellent crops of this variety raised in Canada, but we question whether for ordinary field culture it is equal to the common or Skirving's Improved Purple-top; certainly it will not yield so large a weight. Of all the class of Swedish turnips *Laing's Improved* is unquestionably the best suited for domestic use. Its size, form and quality admirably adapt it for the table, and it should therefore be preferred by market gardeners to all other sorts of Swedes. *Matson's Swede* some what resembles Laing's in its mode of growth, being remarkably neat and trim in its appearance, both grow late in the fall, and consequently are not so well adapted to a climate like ours, so peculiarly subject to early autumnal frosts. Both these sorts have been found quite hardy, good keepers, and but little liable to run to seed. This latter circumstance, by the way, greatly depends on purity and change of seed, good cultivation, and the character of the season.—The *Green top Swede* is considered to be one of the oldest varieties, and had formerly a high reputation, which Lawson considers it would have maintained—had the same care been given to its cultivation and the selection of roots grown for seed, as have been devoted to the Purple tops.

The following table is compiled from the results obtained by the writer of the article on Turnips in *Morton's Cyclopadia*, in experimenting on the growth of different varieties of Swedes, in 1848. The land on which they were grown is a good black trap soil, dry and easy to work. The foregoing crop was oats, after clover and rye-grass cut once and then pastured. The manure for the turnip crop consisted of sixteen double cart-loads of well rotted compost, (straw, yard dung and river mud) per acre, and in addition, from four to five bushels of bone powder were strewed in the drills above the dung. The seed was sown on raised drills, at the rate of 3 lbs. per acre; the young plants all braided well, were thinned about the 30th of June, and the crop raised in the end of October.