

MANGEL WURZEL.—VALUABLE HINTS AS ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT.

THE Mangel Wurzel is so valuable a root that hardly anything connected with its growth can fail to be a matter of interest. We, therefore offer no apology for the insertion of the following record of experiments upon Mangels made during the present year, to which we shall append some remarks upon the general condition of this year's crop deduced both from our experiments and from observations upon field examples. We have before placed on record the important fact that Mangels deprived of any of their green leaves whilst in a growing state are curtailed in their root development in proportion to the amount of leaf injury; still we are so repeatedly asked questions both by students and farmers relating to the possibility of feeding from the leaves and growing a crop of roots at the same time, that we have experimented several times in a manner similar to that which has now to be related, in order both to test the soundness of our daily teaching. In April of the present year we sowed two of our experimental plots with Yellow Globe Mangel, depositing the seed in ridges but without manure. The plant on coming up was thinned and hoed in the usual way, and in the middle of August the one which appeared the best plot had each plant stripped of its large outer leaves, an operation which was repeated in the middle of September, and again in the middle of October. In the other plot the plants were left intact.

On the 27th October the topped and tailed roots were weighed, and the result will be gathered from the following :

TABLE I.—Results of the Stripped Mangels.

	Weight of Single Root		Circumference of single root
	lbs. oz.	lbs. oz.	Inches.
6 largest roots	10 10½	1 8	12
6 smallest do	3 9	0 8	
9 remaining do	10 1		
21 roots	24 4½		

TABLE II.—Results of Intact Mangels.

6 largest roots	27 4½	5 8	19
6 smallest do	11 7	1 4	
8 remaining do	22 10		
20 roots	61 5½		

Here then we see the immense preponderance of root growth of the unstripped, over the stripped root, and from it we deduce the following important conclusion : *That as long as a Mangel leaf, is in a fit state to be wholesome or useful as food for cattle, so long is it important to the wellbeing of the root.*