

to loosen it. Good potato land should be ploughed in the spring, turning under the clover with its top dressing of manure. The soil should be ploughed deep enough so that the clover will be well covered. Different methods of preparation will be necessary for different kinds of soil, but the nearer the land can be got into a thoroughly pulverized condition to a depth of about six inches or more before planting time the better the crop will be. When a planter is used, the soil should be ploughed, thoroughly harrowed, and then rolled just before planting.

When rotted barnyard manure is used on land without clover it should be applied in the spring and thoroughly mixed with the soil. If it is well rotted it may be harrowed in. Neither rotted nor fresh manure should be put in the drill with the sets, as manure when it comes in contact with the tubers favours the development of scab. This was well proven in experiments at the Central Experimental Farm.

PLANTING POTATOES ON GREEN SOD.

If the land has been ploughed the potatoes could be planted by opening holes for the sets about four or five inches deep and fourteen inches apart, making the rows 2½ feet apart, the manure having been spread over and harrowed in with the disc harrow. If the sod has not been ploughed one of the best methods of planting in green sod is to have some one planting when the ploughing is being done, the sets being dropped every third furrow and covered by the plough, when the next furrow is made. After the potatoes have been planted the ground is disc harrowed and if it is light soil it may be rolled after that to help close up any openings where grass could grow through and to compact the soil somewhat and hasten the rotting of the sod. This would not be desirable where the ground was heavy, as it would make it too firm. As soon as weeds start, harrow with the smoothing harrow and as soon as the potatoes are showing above the ground harrow again, then if thorough cultivation is followed afterwards and the tops protected from insects and disease, there should be a good crop.

TIME OF PLANTING.

The best time for planting potatoes will vary in the different parts of Canada, much depending on the condition of the ground and spring frosts, but when these have not to be considered the earlier the potatoes are planted the larger the crop is likely to be. The sets should not lie long in the ground before sprouting, as there is danger of rotting, hence they should not be planted when the soil is cold and wet. If they are planted too early also the young vines are liable to get nipped by spring frosts. As early potatoes usually command good prices it is often worth taking the risk of frost and planting early if the soil is in good condition. If the vines should be above ground and there is danger of frost they may be covered slightly with the soil by turning a shallow furrow over them. Potato growers have saved their vines by doing this.

IMPORTANCE OF SOURCE AND VITALITY OF SEED.

In an experiment carried on at the Central Experimental Farm in 1917 with seed from Fredericton, N.B., Port Arthur, Ont., and Ottawa, the following yields were obtained: Total yield per acre, Fredericton seed, 341 bushels; Port Arthur seed, 400 bushels 24 pounds; Ottawa seed, 85 bushels 48 pounds.

The importance of seed from different sources has been confirmed by experiments conducted at the Agricultural College, Guelph, Ontario.

Just as marked differences were obtained in other years.