

The best potatoes are those grown in sandy soils abundantly manured, with a permeable subsoil.

Fertilizers.

In view of the present high cost of commercial fertilizers, it is hardly possible for farmers to employ them to reconstitute to the soil the potash and phosphoric acid it may have been deprived of by previous crops or poor rotation. Nitrogen and lime may however be used, but potatoes will be scabby if too much lime is added.

When the soil is short of this element, it is better to apply same in the shape of carbonate calcium, superphosphate calcium or calcium sulfate (plaster) rather than quick or hydrated lime; however, quantities should not be exceeded or not more than four to five hundred pounds per acre.

The most recommendable is rotten barn-manure. Potato sets should not be planted in a soil that has received fresh manure. Fresh manure, when no other is available, should be spread in the fall prior to ploughing, at the rate of 15 to 20 tons per acre.

Potash, however, is the most useful fertilizer for tubers, and, in this connection, all wood ashes available should be reserved for this crop and spread on the surface.

Preparation of the Soil

This point will never receive too much attention. The potato yield partly depends on the loosening and breaking up of the soil. On an old sod, it is obvious that fall ploughings are imperative as well as on any soils that are more clayey than sandy.

The ploughing will vary with the nature of the subsoil but in all cases it should be as deep as possible, without however, bringing up to the surface more than one inch of earth that will not yet have been submitted to the action of air.

In the following spring, as soon as the soil is warm enough, another ploughing shall be given followed by two good harrowings so as to destroy most of the weeds that might be found. Rotten manures should also be spread at that time.