

Growing Potatoes for Profit*

W. A. Broughton, Sarnia, Ontario

JUDGING from 30 years' experience, the best soil for potatoes is a rich, sandy loam, with six to nine inches of surface soil, that is well drained either naturally or by tile. Drainage is important. Potatoes do not thrive on land that is not well drained. Drained swamp or muck lands grow good crops. As many as 400 bushels an acre have been grown on this kind of land. Sandy lands require more manure than any other kind. Stiff or heavy clay soils do not grow good potatoes. A clay loam will grow a good crop if properly handled.

PREPARATION OF THE LAND

The land should be plowed and disc-harrowed in August. It should be harrowed after each rain to keep down the

harrowed lightly. It is then ready to plant.

PLANTING

It is best to plant potatoes, both early and late varieties, as early as possible. Some growers plant the later varieties late. This is a mistake. I have found that late varieties will do better when planted early.

The best early potatoes are Early Ohio, Early Burpee, Bovee and Early Michigan. The best late ones are American Wonder, Rural New-Yorker, Empire State, Elephants and Clark's No. 1.

A change of seed is always desirable; that is, from one kind of soil to another. Seed potatoes should be of medium size and cut to one or two eyes. They should be planted as soon after cutting

fertilizer attachment that can be used when desired. With it 400 to 800 pounds of good fertilizer can be put in the rows. This gives the potatoes a better start and insures a better crop.

CULTIVATION

A week or 10 days after planting, the potatoes should be gone over with a weeder, the same direction as planted, to level the ridge that is left by the planter and to kill small weeds. This operation should be repeated every few days until potatoes are a couple of inches high. They should now be cultivated with a cultivator every week until tops are too large to permit cultivation. For the first few times they should be cultivated deep and close to plant, but shallower and farther from plants as they grow. Hoe them before the tops get too large. At the last cultivation, hill them slightly, just enough to protect the potatoes from the sun after the vines are dead.

The vines should be kept free from "bugs" by spraying with the following mixture: Two pounds of good Paris green to 50 gallons of water. For blight they should be sprayed with Bordeaux mixture five or six times during the growing season. Apply the Paris green and Bordeaux mixture at one application.

Melons and Melon Growing†

W. G. Horne, Clarkson, Ontario

Muskmelons and watermelons require warm, sandy land and considerable manure. The latter should be spread broadcast. It is too concentrated in hills, and has a tendency to dry them out. All the roots that need feeding are not only in the hills. They extend as far under ground as the vine reaches above ground. I have turned them up with the cultivator much farther away than I expected.

Melons need good cultivation. While the vines are small, the land cannot be worked too much. The land should be kept as free from weeds as possible.

Hot seasons suit melons best. They are of better flavor when the season is warm. They can stand dry weather for a long time if we have heavy dew at night. Much rain is not required, and too wet weather causes muskmelons to crack open. This renders them unfit for market, and not much good for home use.

WORK IN THE HOTBED

There is much to contend with in growing melons for the early market. It is necessary to start them in hotbeds,

†Extract from an address delivered at the last annual convention of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association.



The Potato Planter at Work in Mr. Broughton's Market Garden

weeds and to clean the land. Just before it freezes, the land should be plowed again seven or eight inches deep, if the surface soil will permit. Land prepared in this way the fall before, stands the dry weather better than it otherwise would.

As soon as it is dry in the spring, the land should be harrowed enough to level it and then 25 or 30 loads of rotten manure an acre should be put on with a manure spreader. If the land were a clover sod or second crop of clover plowed under the fall before, less manure is required. The land should be plowed, harrowed, rolled and again

as possible. Plant them in drills from 30 to 32 inches apart and 12 to 14 inches apart in the drills, and about four inches deep.

I use an Improved Robbin's Planter, which, in one operation, marks the row, opens the furrow, drops the seed and covers them. The machine requires a man, a boy and a team of horses. Planting done by the machine is better than the old way of planting by hand, for the following reasons: The depth is uniform; 2, the seed is put in moist earth, covered at once and, therefore, not so apt to dry rot on account of lack of moisture; 3, the rows can be made straight; and 4, time is saved in planting, as the machine will plant four or five acres a day. The machine has a

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