

The Sugar Beet World

Devoted to Sugar Beet Culture in Canada

Thinning Beets

Prof. Harcourt of the Ontario Agricultural College gives the following advice on growing and thinning beets.

BEFORE THINNING

As soon as the plants can be traced in the row, surface cultivation of the soil between the rows should be commenced, to clean the land and preserve moisture, to admit air more freely into the soil, and in every way to hasten the most rapid growth of the young plants. This cultivation may be accomplished by hand, but more quickly by means of a horse hoe. In cultivating, it should be remembered that the young plants are easily injured, either by a covering of earth or by being loosened; therefore a strip of two inches on each side of the plants in the row should not be disturbed by this early cultivation.

THINNING.

The thinning should be commenced when the young plants are developing the fourth leaf and finished as soon as possible. In thinning, the aim should be to leave a good, strong healthy plant every seven inches in the row. With a narrow hoe (about five inches wide) block out the row of young plants, leaving little patches from one to two inches wide. Select the most vigorous plant, hold it firmly in place and remove all others by hand. Care must be exercised in the thinning; for the plants, unlike turnips, must not be roughly handled.

CULTIVATION AFTER THINNING.

After thinning, cultivate thoroughly and often, in order to open up and loosen the soil and thus allow the free admission of air; to form a soil mulch which will check the too rapid evaporation of the soil moisture, and to produce growth. Cultivation should cease when the plants become so large that the work cannot be done without breaking the leaves.

Money in Beet Thinning

Be very careful not to disturb the roots of the plant that you wish to save. A good man, boy or girl who is accustomed to the work can earn from \$1.50 per day at one-quarter cent per rod, and if the foreman does his part by seeing to it that the plants are not left too far apart, and that all weeds and surplus plants are entirely removed, there ought not to be any further hand work to do, unless excessive rains prevent cultivation afterwards. In case it becomes necessary to go over the ground again to remove weeds, it can be done with a long handled hoe by cutting out the weeds and hoeing around the plants.

In the process of thinning we believe it is advisable to first in-

struct the help and see to it that they do their work right, and they will soon learn to do it quickly, then by working by the row, as good work can be done for less money. We think it is advisable to distribute the hands in a way that they will be given several rows in a section, so that it will be easy to keep account of the amount done, and their work can always be inspected.—Michigan Sugar Beet.

The Coming European Beetroot Crop

According to the latest information from Europe, the acreage planted with beets this spring, amounts to as follows:

	ACREAGE IN HECTARES*		
	No. of Factories.	1902.	1901.
Germany	260	112,100	100,341
Austria-Hungary	210	106,610	96,000
France	290	24,200	24,100
Russia	277	564,870	597,272
Belgium	99	57,500	54,300
Holland	20	40,740	32,000
Sweden	17	24,720	24,110
Denmark	7	14,700	14,700

Total 1,669,051 1,670,986 Hectares.

*Hectare is equal to about 2 1/2 acres.

As will be seen, there is very little difference compared with last year and now all depends on the weather. In Germany it is now first-rate for the growing of the young plants and similar reports come from Austria-Hungary and France; anyhow we may, under ordinary circumstances, expect about the same beetroot sugar crop as in 1902, which is now estimated to have been 5,228,700 tons from the above mentioned eight countries, with another 210,000 tons from other European countries.

R. Bach, Montreal.

Beet Sugar in Alberta

The Knight Sugar Co. at Raymond, Alberta, has secured a to-

tal of 3,000 acres of beets for its first campaign. This acreage has been planted this spring and the prospects for a satisfactory yield are excellent.

The Russian Beet Sugar Industry

A statement published in the St. Petersburg Messenger of Finance, Industry and Commerce (Viestnik Finansov, etc.), shows that the number of beet sugar factories in operation in European Russia in 1900-01 was 276 against 271 in 1900-01, 286 in 1899-1900, and 242 in 1898-99. The area under beets was 510,336 dessiatines (1,377,754 acres), against 484,747 dessiatines (1,308,671 acres), in 1900-01, 414,658 dessiatines (1,200,443 acres), in 1899-1900 and 401,714 dessiatines (1,084,507 acres) in 1898-99. It appears from a comparison of these figures that during the four years named there was a continuous increase in the area devoted to sugar beets and that the total increase within the quadriennial period covered amounted to 108,622 dessiatines (293,472 acres), or a fraction more than 27 per cent. On an average for the four years, 32.7 per cent of the total area was on land pertaining to the sugar manufacturers, but in 1901-02 the proportion on such land is a little less, being 30.3 per cent.

Demand for Sugar Workers

There has never been so great a demand for sugar beet workers and this demand gives some idea of the importance of the industry as shown by the fact that the western roads are making special rates for workers who desire to go from Nebraska to the farms in Colorado and Michigan. The railroads are carrying them both ways for 15 cents per mile. A great many workers are taking advantage of the rate, but the supply is not equal to the demand for labor in this new and growing field of farm labor.—Michigan Sugar Beet.

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