

FERTILIZING THE PLOT.

Barnyard manure is about the best fertilizer to use. The objection to it is that it produces conditions favourable to the growth of the potato-scab. It does not produce the scab, but the "scab" spores may be in the soil, and the manure will increase its growth. Sometimes the spores get into manure through feeding scabby potatoes to the stock. If the soil, seed, and manure is free from scab, use the manure freely, 20 to 30 tons per acre at least. If applied in the spring, it should be well rotted.

Where the manure is scarce, commercial fertilizers may be used to help out. The following amounts will serve as a guide:—

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| Sodium nitrate | 200 lb. per acre. |
| Potassium sulphate | 300 " |
| Superphosphate | 450 " |
| Total | 950 " |

Apply the potassium sulphate and superphosphate early in the spring, and harrow in. Do not plough it in. Apply half of the nitrate at time of planting, and the balance after the plants are a few inches high. Do not allow the nitrate to touch the plants while they are wet.

All the fertilizers should be sown broadcast.

TIME TO PLANT.

The date of planting will depend on whether the late or early varieties are grown, and on local season conditions. If there is danger of blight in the district, plant early, because the further advanced the potato is when the blight strikes, the less will be the damage done. It is impossible to give definite instructions as to the best time to plant, but plant the potatoes at such a time that the growth will be made during the most favourable season.

SPRAYING FOR LATE BLIGHT.

There is no reason why the potato-crop of British Columbia should suffer from the ravages of this disease if the potatoes are not planted on the same ground two years in succession, and the crop is sprayed with Bordeaux mixture. Preparation and use of the mixture is outlined in Bulletin No. 56 of the British Columbia Department of Agriculture. A copy of this bulletin has been sent to every member of Farmers' Institutes in the Province. If you have none in your home, write to us for a copy.

SELECTING NEXT YEAR'S SEED.

If you study your plot carefully you will notice quite a difference between the plants. Find the same types of plants in your father's potato-field, and ask for permission to dig up a hill or two of each type, and notice the type that gives the best potatoes. Of course, your plot is small, and digging a number of hills would affect your yield a little; but if you cannot experiment on your father's crop, do so on your own. You will likely find that where you get one or two straight, clean stalks with fairly light-green leaves, that there you will find the cleanest, most even hill of potatoes. Thick-set, heavily-branched, dark-green plants usually give a large percentage of small potatoes. When you have decided which type of plant is giving you the best returns, put a stake at quite a number of this kind of plant, and when digging-time comes, dig these hills first, and from the product of these hills select your "seed" for next year. It would be very interesting to keep the potatoes from the different hills separate, and plant each in a separate row next year, and note which row gives you the best returns. If you select the best potatoes from the best hills for a year or two, and do it carefully, you will surprise yourself and your neighbours with the result. Think the matter over.