

# Of Interest to Farmers

## CULTIVATION OF GROWING CROPS (Experimental Farms Note)

The cultivation of crops requires reasonable care. There is seldom gain from deep cultivation after the crop has been planted. Such cultivation is necessary in preparing the soil for all hoed crops, but if not done, later cultivation will not make up for the neglect. Summer cultivation should be shallow; sufficient to destroy weeds and produce a fine surface mulch one or two inches deep.

It may be possible and is then advisable, to narrow the cultivator and cultivate deeply the space between the rows not occupied by growing roots. It should be remembered, however, that these roots penetrate the soil towards the centre of the row very rapidly and frequent observations are necessary to determine whether the feeding roots are being disturbed or destroyed by cultivation, as so very often happens. The moist soil below the loose surface soil covering is where soil bacteria are most active, and consequently where the most plant food is being liberated, as a result of which roots will be found in his soil area in greater abundance than anywhere else.

Although there seems to be no good reason for using care in selection of seed, preparation of the soil and fertilizing to grow a good plant—only to destroy the roots as soon as they have grown yet this is what is very often done. Root pruning has so far, never, been shown to be desirable and, as the root development is a big factor in crop yields, the better chance they have for development without being disturbed the better use they can make of the plant food the soil contains. The object at this time is to point out the desirability of surface tillage by shallow surface cultivation and warn against deep culture in the area occupied by the growing plant.

Another reason why roots should not be disturbed more than possible is because injured roots may not be able to take up the full moisture required and wilting may result bringing about premature maturity, particularly in the case if the weather is hot and accompanied by drying winds.

A depth guide should be used on the cultivator to avoid too deep cultivation and as the plants grow toward the centre between the rows the cultivator should be narrowed. The advent of the horse hoe or hiller has marked the greatest advance in economic potato culture of any implement on the farm. This implement has made it possible to distribute around the potato hill a fine earth mulch sufficient to kill the weeds, if done when the weeds are young, and not in any way disturb the growing roots in the hill. The tooth cultivator should follow the horse hoe, setting it as close as possible, to loosen the hard centre between the rows in order to protect the land from drying out, form a loose soil to quickly absorb rains that may fall and give fine soil, for subsequent hilling.

In potato culture the point above mentioned indicates the necessity for reasonable distance between the rows in order to grow this crop with the least amount of hand hoeing for, if the rows are narrow, there is not the space from which to draw the soil for hilling purposes and the row cannot be cultivated without doing damage to the feeding roots as there is not space enough for the cultivator to work without doing such damage. Thirty-three inches apart seems to be the distance most suitable. Tests made at Kentville covering a period of five years including 16 tests show that rows thirty inches apart yielded an average of 255.6 bushels and those thirty-six inches apart 293.1 bushels, the potatoes being spaced twelve inches apart in the row. The system of cultivation outlined above having been followed.

### LIVE STOCK NOTES

One of the worst wind storms for some years occurred the first three days of the week of May 7th. In mid-Saskatchewan, the dust and soil in the air was thicker than a heavy fog, and it was impossible to see more than fifty feet. The weather continues bright, clear and dry around Edmonton. This is enabling farmers to get well on with their seeding. A few local showers have been reported during the last week which is encouraging to the farmers because prior to this it was very dry. In some parts of New Brunswick hay is selling at \$35.00 per ton, feed oats \$1.00 per bushel and seed oats \$1.25 per bushel.

In Megantic District, Que., farmers practically finished seeding during week ending May 7th. The Dominion Live Stock Branch reports that a large number of shearing demonstrations were given during the week in New Brunswick, some one hundred head of sheep were shorn. Where wool was not sold co-operatively last year about 60 p. c. to 80 p. c. of the farmers still have it on their hands. The number of contributors this year will no doubt be considerably greater than in previous years. Considerable satisfaction is expressed by sheep men in the district of Stanley regarding lambs sold co-operatively last fall and indications are that all will continue selling co-operatively again this year.

Mr. A. B. MacDonald, Branch representative, has been giving demonstrations in Cape Breton County assisted by Mr. MacDonald of the Provincial Department. Considerable interest was shown regarding these demonstrations and, as a result, the work will be extended so that purebred rams may be used to greater advantage on common grazing areas. Also assisted Secretary of Antigonish Fall Fair to organize young men's judging competition to be held at the County Fair.

Arrangements for the co-operative selling of Antigonish wool have been completed. This wool will be collected and graded at Antigonish which will reduce the expenses considerably over last year when wool was shipped to Truro. The Provincial Department will pay the salary of the man in charge of the work. Fifteen shearing demonstrations were given during the week in the vicinity of Quebec. Arrangements have been made for further demonstrations to be given in Kamouraska Co., where it is expected that two purebred ram clubs will be formed and also two Boys and Girls' Swine Clubs.

The result of the lambing season in British Columbia has been quite successful as a general rule. One instance of over 190 p. c. lambing was brought to notice. All the lambs are in good shape. Twelve carlot inspections of eggs were made in Ontario last week; quality is reported lower. The demand for inspection in the West is brisk and movement is increasing in the Maritime. The market in Britain is somewhat easier.

Hatching is late in Prince Edward Island, only limited numbers of chicks yet hatched. The breeders on the Island are very enthusiastic over Record of Performance work and the benefit they have personally acquired from trap nesting.

The Camrose Poultry Association, Alberta, has nominated two local men following instructions of officers of the Live Stock Branch, to cull the flocks of poultry in the Camrose district. This is an important step in culling demonstration in Alberta.

The proportion of pure bred eggs set this year in Alberta will be higher than ever before. There is also some demand for turkey eggs, which demand cannot be met in Alberta. Some individual farmers report selling as high as \$300.00 worth of eggs last year. Sixty-seven loads of cattle for overseas arrived at Toronto yards last week, billed through to Montreal and New York and handled by H. P. Kennedy of Toronto, Salsberger of New York, and Swifts of Chicago. Export buying on the yards has been confined to a few heavy bulls. H. P. Kennedy received one car of heavy export steers of good grade from Edmonton. There were also a number of heavy feeders from Winnipeg.

There were 827 cattle passed through the Winnipeg yards on through billing for overseas export during the week. No cattle were purchased at the Calgary Yards, for the export trade. During the month of April, 280 cattle were shipped from Alberta Stock Yards under the terms of the Free Freight Policy. Farmers are not purchasing breeding stock to the same extent as they were in previous years when prices were high.

Killing charges at the Moose Jaw Abattoir are \$2.50, for each bullock, \$1.00 per hog, and 50c for sheep. These prices do not include delivery, and fifty cents per head is added for delivery, if required.

### PLANT PARASITES

One of the most destructive insects is the red spider. He will be found on the under side of a leaf, a very minute speck but capable of doing plants great harm. Directly the red spiders appear the leaves turn yellow and fall off. Water makes this little fellow take his departure. Wash the plants carefully and frequently and there will be no further trouble. A solution of fir tree oil is even more effective.

For the green apple aphid which appear on the tender growing shoots, dipping the plants in a tea made of tobacco stems or leaves is best. Florists fumigate their greenhouses but this is objectionable to the house. The only way to rout the white mealy bugs is to pick them off with a stiff bristle brush or pointed stick.

### POSSIBLE TO HASTEN RIPENING OF OAT CROP

The ripening of oats is very important. Certain varieties ripen from one to two weeks earlier than others, hence there are special uses for each class of oats. As a rule, early oats are somewhat smaller in size than later ones and finer in straw. They show more rapid growth throughout the entire season and are ready to harvest, as we have already said, fully a month earlier than the later oats. This is a great advantage when you plan to have Fall wheat follow early oats. The early ripened oats may be harvested and the ground plowed immediately and prepared for the seeding of the Fall wheat.

You can hasten ripening of oats from a week to ten days by fertilizing. This means a uniform product which can be harvested early. Early harvesting is especially valuable where you plan Fall wheat to follow early oats.

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## EASTERN GUARDIAN

RESERVE this date, July 5th, 1921 for Tea Party at Georgetown.

AS THE SCHOOL CHILDREN have been examined recently those with defective vision should consult us and if they need glasses we will fit them. Should they require the service of an oculist, we will advise them. H. J. Mabon Optometrist, Montague.

MEDICAL INSPECTION.—The medical examination at Montague school is over. Miss McMahon has proved herself a very capable and tactful nurse in this capacity. She was ably assisted in her good work by nurse McLeod, Charlottetown, and Doctors McInnes and Grant of Montague, and Mrs. Wyn Iyer who was instrumental in getting Miss McMahon to visit Montague.

## EASTERN PERSONALS

Mrs. Brehaut, Georgetown, visited Charlottetown recently. A

Mr. Governor McInnes was a passenger to Georgetown this week. A

Mr. Sandy MacGregor and Miss Jean Thomson paid a visit to Georgetown recently. A

Miss Elizabeth Skinner, Mr. Jack Yorston of Georgetown, were visitors to Souris this week. A

Mr. and Mrs. Nickerson and daughter Jean, Cardigan, visited friends at Georgetown last week. A

Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Solomon and Miss Agnes Gallant, motored to Souris from Georgetown Tuesday. A

Among the visitors to Georgetown last week were Mr. Nathan Johnson, Charlottetown, Mr. Doucette, Cardigan and Miss Alma Brehaut of the firm of R. T. Holman, Summerside. A

Mr. and Mrs. N. M. MacLeod of East Milton, Mass., are receiving congratulations on the birth of a son, John Ewen. Mrs. MacLeod was formerly Miss Belle McPhee of Commercial Cross, P. E. Island. A

Mr. Arthur McIsaac has returned to Halifax after enjoying a fishing trip at Chester Basin, the guest of his brother, Mr. F. L. McIsaac. Mr. McIsaac reports the price of country produce very attractive. A

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