THE EVENING NEWS.

Friday, - - Jan. 22, 1875.

Prize Potato Raising.

[CONCLUDED.]

S. R. DeWolfe, Parrsboro, Nova Scotia, cut to single eyes and planted in hills three feet apart, one eye to a hill, May 29. Soil fine, rich, mellow loam, with a slight mixture of clay with gravelly subsoil, possessing natural drainage. Ground spaded and common barnyard manure partly rotted spread on at a rate of about five tons to the acre, and turned under. At the time of planting, a fertilizer composed of ashes, soot, lime, nitre, and sulphur was put into the hills at the rate of about one pint to each. The potato shoots were very long when planted, and being put in flat, layered, largely increasing the yield. Hoed several times, kept clear of weeds and mellow, using a spading fork between the hills July 15. Dug Oct. 6.

A. W. Titus, Wilmington, Vt., planted May 27, four feet apart each way, making forty hills to each of three varieties on an average. Soil light loam, with a gravelly clay subsoil, not drained. Plowed ten inches deep, and manured with a compost made of leaf mold taken from a maple grove, where sheep and cattle had lain, and mixed with droppings where cows were yarded previous summer—to twelve bushels of each kind of the above was added one barrel of hard wood ashes, and the compost well mixed. Put a shovelful of the compost in each hill, cut potatoes to single eyes, put two pieces in a hill and covered three inches deep. Hoed when four inches high, covering them nearly up. July 4. hoed second and last time, making very broad hills. Aug. 4, the vines covered the ground, and were of a very dark green color. Dug Oct. 13.

H. C. Pearson, Pitcairn, N. Y., planted Brownell's May 16, soil light loam, with some gravel, with sand and gravel subsoil, having good natural drainage. Land new, having produced only one crop before. Applied broadcast a two-horse load of barnyard manure three years old, plowing it under seven inches deep; then went over the ground three times with a pulverizing harrow. Placed in each hill before planting, two quarts of a compost, composed of ten bushels decayed manure, two bushels of ashes, four quarts salt, and two pounds sulphur. Cut the tubers to single eyes, dividing some of the stronger into eight pieces, making in all 112 pieces, and planted them in rows three and a half feet apart and three feet apart in the rows, planting one set in each hill and covering them about three inches deep. When tops were two or three inches high, before hoeing put a handful of the compost about each hill. Ran the cultivator twice between the rows during the summer, and hoed twice, making the hills broad and flat. They grew to an enormous size, 491 selected tubers weighing 500 pounds, and thirty-seven fair sized fifteen pounds were dug from one hill. Matured about Sept. 18.

Abram Loveless, White Mills, Penn., planted May 23 the Surprise in clay soil with sandy gravel subsoil, not underdrained; the Beauty in clay soil with sandy loam subsoil, not underdrained. The ground for all was very rich and prepared with great care. Cut the tubers to single eyes, rolled the sets in plaster, and planted in drills three and a half feet apart, and eyes two feet apart in the drill, one eye to a hill, covering four inches deep. At time of planting put one pint each hen manure and wood ashes in each hill, and at first hoeing, put a handful of super-phosphate and about one spoonful of salt around each hill. After that kept them clear of weeds, watering them frequently during the dry season and putting plaster around each hill every week while growing. After last hoeing, put one good handful of wood ashes around each stalk, hoed twice and kept clear of weeds. Dug Oct. 21.

Henry Bullis, Canton, N. Y., planted May 29. Soil clay loam with hardpan subsoil, underdrained. Before planting, spread one inch of muck broadcast, working it well in, and at time of planting gave each hill a handful of wood ashes, and after each hoeing gave each hill a top dressing of a handful of wood ashes. Cut to single eyes and planted in hills 2½ by 3 feet apart, one eye in a hill, four inches below the surface, covering with two inches of soil. Hoed twice, July 4 and 17, hilling up broad and flat. This is all the culture received except keeping free from weeds. Dug Oct. 14.

Chas. Whiting, Jasper, N. Y., planted May 16, soil a mixture of clay and loam to a depth of about two feet, lying on a clay subsoil hardpan, not underdrained. Plowed eight inches deep and spread broadcast about one cord of rotten barnyard manure, two years old, and about one and a half bushels of unleached ashes, which were thoroughly mixed with the soil in the hills. Made a solution of two barrels of water and ten quarts of hen manure, and applied this to the plants when ten inches high; used same solution twice at later periods. Used twelve quarts gypsum on the plants, applying three quarts each time after hoeing. Dug Oct. 10.

P. C. Wood, Esther, Ills., planted May 13, soil deep black loam with stiff red clay subsoil, not underdrained. Manured with about one cubic foot of well rotted barn yard manure to each square foot of land, and five bushels of wood ashes to each square rod, which were well mixed with the soil by plowing twelve inches deep three times, harrowing well each time. Cut to single eyes, dividing some of them, and planted four and a half by three feet, one set to a hill, covering two and a half inches. Planted each set on a small shovelful of the following mixture: Two bushels lime slacked with water, three pecks salt, seven bushels wood ashes; on this a large scoop-shovelful of well-rotted chip manure. Kept the ground well stirred ten to twelve inches deep until potatoes began to form, hilling up slightly after July 1st. Raked over the surface after each shower, and kept clear of weeds. Dusted with plaster when two inches high, repeating it at intervals of a week or ten days until Sept. 1st, when 179 pounds of plaster was used on the two lots. Dug Oct. 19th.

D. Steck, Hughesville, Penn. (quarter acre), planted May 5. Soil light, sandy loam, overlying creek gravel, and a crop of clover had been taken from the land the previous season. Early in April spread 14 two-horse loads of cow manure over surface, then plowed about six inches deep; after this spread 15 loads of compost, made of decayed chip and barnyard manure, over surface, and then the ground was well harrowed and marked in rows two feet apart and three inches deep. Cut the potatoes to single eyes and planted the Vermont seven to eight inches apart in the rows, and the Beauty eight to ten inches apart. As soon as the plants appeared, ran a narrow cultivator once between each row, after which the loose soil was drawn toward the plants, which operation was repeated in about ten days. This was all the cultivation they received, as the growth was so dense he could not get through them. The season became so dry about this time that the crop was cut short nearly half. The tubers of both varieties grew of very uniform size, with but few overgrown ones and scarcely any small ones. Dug Sept. 10—24.

Mrs. M. A. Royce, Home, East Tenn., (quarter acre), planted May 22, soil deep, vegetable and leaf mold with mixture sand, with clay subsoil, on steep hillside. It was a piece of new ground, cleared and burned over in the Spring; tried to plow it but there were so many roots used hoes, making small hills one and a half to two feet apart. Cut to single eyes, very often dividing them still more, rolled in plaster, and put a tablespoonful of plaster and a handful of unleached ashes in each hill when planted. When about eight inches high hoed, hilling a little. Sprinkled the tops once with plaster, and this was all the attention received. Dug Sept. 22.

Alfred Rose, Penn Yan, N. Y. (quarter acre), planted, May 13–16. Soil sod of twelve years standing, sandy loam, with a subsoil of sand and gravel, mixed with marl and not underdrained. Cut to single eyes and planted in rows three feet apart, and one foot in the row, one piece to a hill. Used as fertilizer the following mixture, a handful in each hill at the time of planting; a cask of lime slaked with water stirring in a bushel of fine salt and then mixed with wood ashes until dry enough to handle. Cultivated only twice with common cultivator, hoeing with a garden hoe at the same time. Thinks that with a favorable season, would have yielded at the rate of one thousand bushels per acre, but the season was very hot and dry. Dug Sept. 17.—*New York Tribune, Jan. 18.*

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