AGRICULTURE

Some Varieties Of Field Roots Which Are Recommended

Experimental Farms Have Conducted Tests Along This Line.

By F. S. BROWNE,
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With a good soil type, correct tility and favourable weather, a cultural methods, adequate fertility and favorable weather, a root crop may be below average, or even a near failure, as the result of using an unsuitable variety. During the past twenty years, over three hundred, so-called, varieties and strains of field roots have been grown at the Dominion Experimental Station, at Lennoxville, Quebec. Many of these have proven to be the same variety under different names. Also very striking differences have been found to exist, in the roots of common varieties, with different seed sources. In some instances the roots from one seed source have been smooth, uniform and large, and, the crop entirely satisfactory. With seed of the same variety, from other sources, the roots have been rough, ununiform, prongy and small, and the crop decidedly unsatisfactory. Furthermore, although a variety may normally produce good crops in other parts of Canada or in other countries, it may not be at all suited to the conditions under which it will be grown at Lennoxville.

In general a great difference in value exists between types than between varieties. This is particularly true with mangels. The globe and tankard types of this species are characterized by the smooth, uniform roots of relatively low dry matter content. Roots of well-bred strains, of the intermediate and half-long types are as a rule well-shaped, uniform and high in dry matter. With the long type, dry matter is usually high but the roots for the most part are somewhat rough, prongy and hard to handle. Accordingly most of the better varieties of mangles are of the intermediate and half-long types. Those that have given the best results are reliable strains of the yellow intermediate variety, such as those developed at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, or Macdonald College, Que. The Giant Half Sugar White, or White Half Long, if from a good reliable seed source is also a very satisfactory variety.

With swede turnips, varieties of the round globe type are usually superior to those of the tankard, oval and flat globe types. As a rule, oval and tankard roots are inclined to be rough and hard to handle, and the flat globes are low in dry matter. For stock feeding the most satisfactory varieties that have been tested at Lennoxville are: Ditmars Bronze Top, Purple Top Globe and Hall's Westbury. These are all of the round globe type, and if the seed is obtained from reliable sources, the roots will be smooth, uniform and large. Good strains of the variety Bangholm are also high-yielding, as well as being quite popular for table use.

The most desirable type of field carrot is the intermediate. Roots of the long type are hard to handle and break easily. The half long and short carrots are usually low-yielding. The most satisfactory variety is the Giant, or Mammoth White Intermediate.

FARM STOCK VALUES

According to the annual report on farm values for 1935, there were 2,931,337 horses in Canada during that year; 3,849,200 milch cows; 4,971,400 other cattle—total cattle, 8,820,600; sheep, 3,399,100; and swine, 3,549,200. Although the number of animals was less than in 1934, the value was considerably greater, showing an increase of 18 per cent., or a total of $75,489,000.

Rabbits And Mice Damage Orchards During the Winter

Hazard May Be Eliminated If Proper Steps Are Taken.

By Press and Publicity Division,
Department of Agriculture,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Considerable damage to fruit trees by mice and rabbits is reported from various parts of Ontario, and, as has formerly happened after a heavy fall of snow, damage from rabbits has been almost uncontrollable, as they have been able to stand on top of the snow and nibble at the branches of the young trees. However, although the girdling of trees by rodents is one of the greatest hazards in the growing of a young orchard, it is a hazard that under ordinary circumstances may be eliminated.

Against mice, protection of trees may be accomplished in two ways, (1) by the use of building paper, and (2) by the use of wire or metal protectors. The building paper is a very cheap means of protection so far as the material is concerned but it monopilizes a great deal of time through the necessity of wrapping the trees each fall. Single-ply white or grey paper is used. Tar paper may be employed, but it is not recommended by leading orchardists as there is a possibility of injury to the trees. Cut into strips about six or eight inches wide to the full length of the roll, the paper is wrapped snugly around the trunk of the tree and tied with binder twine top and bottom. A little earth is mounded up around the base to prevent the rodents working under the paper.

The use of wire or metal as a protection is more permanent, more expensive in material, but cheaper in labor, for the metal protectors last for a period of years.

As a protection against rabbits after a heavy fall of snow, building paper and wire protectors are of little avail, and to make matters worse, although poisons are effective against mice, they seem to be of doubtful value in controlling rabbits. At the same time the following poisons have been used with varying success against both mice and rabbits:

1. White arsenic, one part; corn meal, three parts. Mix thoroughly and spread around the area to be protected.

2. Powdered strychnine, one-eighth ounce; baking soda, one-eighth ounce. Mix dry, sift the mixture over one quart of rolled oats, stirring constantly. Heat this poisoned mixture until warm. Mix three quarts melted beef fat with one quart melted paraffin and sprinkle six tablespoonfuls of this mixture over the poisoned oats and stir. Place small quantities of this in small containers in the infested area.

Repellent Washes — Unslaked lime, 20 pounds; flowers of sulphur, 15 pounds; water, 40 gallons. This wash is applied to the trunks of trees with a brush.

CYANAMIDE PLANT

Canada has the only cyanamide plant on the North American continent. It is also the largest plant of its kind in the world. Cyanamide is employed in the manufacture of mixed fertilizers, and its use for single application alone as a competitor of nitrate of soda and sulphate of ammonia is making headway in the Dominion.

MILK PRODUCTION

The total milk production in Canada in 1935 is provisionally estimated at 16,310,836,700 pounds, which is approximately the same as in 1934.

HOW TO COMBAT MOSQUITO PESTS

THE Dominion Entomologist directs attention to the fact that much can be done by community action in reducing the number of mosquitoes which affect the comfort and health of citizens generally. Mosquitoes breed largely in temporary bodies of water, such as the snow and rain pools and river-flooded areas. They develop only in water, and the method of control which ultimately gives most satisfaction consists in eliminating the breeding places by filling or by drainage, and in the case of large flood areas, by dyking and pumping Filling and levelling of low places where water accumulates should be carried out wherever possible. Care should be taken to prevent mosquitoes breeding in artificial containers, such as water barrels, either by emptying or screening them.

The Dominion Entomological Branch has prepared a circular dealing with mosquito control in Canada. This circular is available free on application to the Publicity and Extension Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture at Ottawa. In the case of community campaigns, villages and towns contemplating action against the mosquito pests should write the Dominion Entomologist at Ottawa for direction and information.

Soy Bean Taking New Importance As A Farm Product

Agriculture Departments of Maritimes Should Consider Its Possibilities.

The importance of the soy bean as a farm crop was pointed out in the current monthly letter of the Royal Bank of Canada. The soy bean was the fourth most important cereal crop in the United States last year from the viewpoint of cash returns to the farmers.

In 1935 farmers in the United States sowed 5,000,000 acres to this crop, the yield being double that of 1934, which in turn was fifty per cent, larger than in 1933.

Unknown outside of the Orient thirty years ago, world imports now total 70,000,000 bushels of soy bean feed and 150,000 tons of oil. Its uses now include milk, butter, cheese, coffee, biscuits, breakfast foods, macaroni, flour and in the industrial field, the preparation of paint, varnish, lacquer, soap, glue, linoleum and rubber substitutes.

For Canada the bank letter says. "The wide possibilities of this new crop have impressed the agricultural experts that they have varieties of a type suitable for Canada ready when the Canadian farmer and Canadian industry shall decide to enter on this venture on a larger scale. Two mills for the extraction of soy bean oil are in course of construction in Western Ontario at the present time."

The soy bean should grow well in the Maritime Provinces and the Department of Agriculture should not overlook the possibilities of this crop as a means of placing the farmer on a better economic condition.

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Some Comment On Canadian Maple Products In U. S. A.

About 4,143,487 Pounds Sold in the States Annually.

By Press and Publicity Division,
Department of Agriculture,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Exports of Canadian maple sugar and syrup to the United States are necessary in order to fill the consumption demands of that country. The amount of Canadian maple sugar and maple syrup imported into the United States during the years 1930 to 1935 averaged 4,143,487 pounds annually. In 1930 Canada exported 7,354,819 pounds to the United States; 2,697,249 pounds in 1931; 3,409,578 pounds in 1932; 2,718,953 pounds in 1933; 4,292,427 pounds in 1934, and 4,387,896 pounds (preliminary estimate) in 1935.

The large imports of maple sugar and maple syrup in 1930 occurred while the revision of the United States tariff was under consideration and just before the increased duty provided in the Tariff Act of 1930 became effective. As a result of these large increases in 1930, the imports for the years 1931, 1932 and 1933 were considerably smaller, as there was an accumulation of stocks and it took several years to absorb this over-supply. However, inventories are normal again, and imports for 1934 and 1935 increased to over 4,000,000 pounds for each of these years.

The Canadian imports do not affect the United States "breakfast table" except as they appear in blended syrups (15 per cent. to 20 per cent. maple blended with 80 to 85 per cent. cane sugar). These blended syrups do not displace domestic maple syrup but rather make available to a large number of United States families a table syrup which they could not otherwise obtain. The Canadian maple sugar and maple syrup do not enter the retail trade to any appreciable extent. It is almost entirely a commercial product, sold at wholesale to manufacturers of various products who use it primarily for flavoring purposes, to blenders, and to manufacturers of commercial flavorings.

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Spring Chapeau Had Origin on the Farm, It Is Stated

Many Materials Have Start on the Farm.

By Press and Publicity Division,
Department of Agriculture,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Whether "pillbox, beret, peach basket, ensign sailor, martinique turban," or any other exciting design, fashioned out of velvets, straws, voiles, crepes, nainsook, felt, canvas, worsted, linen, or lace, my lady's spring hat gives no evidence of its humble origin. Certainly few persons associate the natty spring creation with the farm, nevertheless milady's hat is the "butterfly of agriculture. It emerged from the chrysalis of the farm, or in other words, the original material was produced on the farm. And once more, the farm is insisting on less equivocal recognition—the ordinary straws are coming into fashion again.

Flax is one of the oldest and one of the principal agricultural products from which wearing and decorative apparel is manufactured. Its native country is unknown, but linen, fabrics, thread, and linseed oil which are the best known products of flax, have been found in the excavations of the Stone Age, so that these old forefathers of the human race knew a great deal more than is some-

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