

*Turnip Soil.*—The best soil for turnips is a light, dry, friable soil, of a free nature, with some depth of fertility. Clays are unfavourable. But although the common root can be grown upon the poorest sands and gravels, yet there are some species, which require rich, free loams. They all require careful culture, with an abundant supply of manure, and a cool, temperate, moist climate.

*Culture.*—Turnips are considered by all farmers, as the most complete fallow crop, that can be grown; the land should be well cleansed from weeds, liberally manured, and limed, if necessary. When turnips are to be sown, upon stubble land, the stubble should be ploughed to a good depth immediately after harvest, the upper drains and water furrows should be drawn and opened as soon as the ploughing is finished, and the ground laid as dry as if it were under crop. Ten-furrowed lands or five-bout ridges are considered best in strong soils, liable to wet in winter; this kind of furrowing favours the good effects from frost. Broder work may be adopted on dry soils. Let the land be in this state until the close of the oat-seeding, when it should be cross-ploughed; if leisure permitted for a previous ploughing, it would be still better; after the ploughing the land should be well harrowed with a heavy harrow, and then rolled so as to pulverize it completely; all roots of weeds and rubbish should be collected and raked together, and either burned upon the land or carried to the compost heap. If the land is clear, three carths or ploughings may be sufficient to bring it into condition, but four are more frequent—the second and third not quite so deep as the first and fourth. If the ground is very foul, a fifth ploughing is sometimes necessary, after which it is fitted for the seed.

In the application of manure, if lime be used, it will of course have been mixed with the soil during these operations, and if the seed be sown broadcast, the dung must also be previously

laid on. Some farmers advocate sowing broadcast, others prefer “drilling;” all however agree that the broadcast is best upon soils of a compact or cloddy nature, which would prevent the due application of the drill and horse-hoeing implements, which are generally preferred on light and loamy soils, as affording the most effectual means of cleansing the ground. Many farmers, who adopt the drill, manure the land before giving the winter furrow, which they think saves time in the hurry of turnip season, and meliorates the soil more equally for the subsequent crops. This will answer best with those farmers who have the manure to spare at the time. But as most men have to wait for the production of it in their yards during the winter, the most generally approved method of applying the muck is in drills, immediately before sowing, in the following manner: “The land being levelled by the former ploughings, is divided into straight lined ridgelets, either by the operation of the double-mould-board plough, or by the common swing plough, at distances of 27 inches; others prefer half this distance; the turnips in the former grow larger, but the actual quantity from the soil is made up by the greater number in the close ridges. The manure should be duly fermented, and pit dung of the richest kind, and put on most abundantly after the last ploughing—say from 12 to 20 tons per acre, according to the state of the land, and the quality of the turnip, as Swedes require more than any other. The loaded cart goes between the rows, so that the wheels run in each of the furrows of the two adjoining drills on each side—the drills are the wide ones; the muck is then deposited in small heaps at regular distances, and spread with forks in the hollow drills, and the ridgelets are then immediately split open by the passage of a plough through the centre of each, by which means the manure is completely covered, and a bed is formed for the reception of the seed.”