

PERTINENT POINTERS for MODERN FARMERS



Prepared Under Direction of
North Dakota Agricultural College

Onions Can Be Successfully Grown on North Dakota Soil

The onion is one of the horticultural crops which will often prove profitable on a commercial scale in North Dakota.

Onions may be grown in one of three ways: from onion sets, sowing seed in hot beds and transplanting to the fields, or by sowing seed direct in the fields. Raising onions from onion sets is a practice followed only by home gardeners. The transplanting method will give the largest yield but requires a great amount of hand labor and therefore can only be followed where labor is cheap and plentiful.

By far the bulk of the onion crop of the country is raised by drilling the seed directly into the field and it is this method that should be followed in North Dakota.

Onions may be a very paying crop, or a losing one, depending on the way the crop is grown. The first requisite for success is to have the land well prepared. The soil should be rich, loose, and free from weeds. Freedom from weeds is a necessity because if there is much weed seed present the amount of hand labor in the onion field will be greatly increased. If the soil is too weedy it will make the growing of a profitable crop impossible. Almost any soil in North Dakota will do well for onions provided it has been liberally supplied with organic matter by the addition of manure, preferably at least one year before the onion crop is put in, and the soil has been clean cultivated. The land should be fall plowed and fairly well worked down before winter. This is necessary because early seeding is extremely important.

The onion seed should be sown just as soon as the ground can be smoothed and seeded in the spring. To make a success of onions the seed should be sown with a garden drill and the plants cultivated with a wheel hoe. These two tools will cost about \$25. Shallow cultivation must be given frequently and continued as long as possible at intervals of ten days or less.

The varieties best suited to North Dakota are Silver Skin for white; Red

Wethersfield, Early Flat Red, and South Port Red Globe for red; Yellow Globe Danvers and South Port Yellow Globe for yellow.

While the market prefers a well-grown white onion it is much easier to deliver to the market well-grown specimens of red or yellow onions, so these are the kinds mainly grown.

The rows may be spaced from 12 inches to 30 inches apart, depending on whether any horse cultivation is to be given. Onion growers generally find it best to cultivate entirely with a wheel hoe, and space the rows about 15 inches apart. After thinning, which is done when the plants are the size of a lead pencil, the plants should stand about two inches apart in the row for a perfect stand. To secure such a stand. To secure such a stand it will require from four to five pounds of seed per acre. While it will pay best to follow the above method, occasionally a good crop is raised by broadcasting the seed on sod land. However, this is more or less of a gamble.

A good crop of onions should yield 500 bushels per acre. The onions are harvested when mature, a stage indicated by the tops breaking over. At this time they should be pulled, left to dry in the field a few days and then the tops twisted off and the onions sacked for market. There is a well-established wholesale onion market so it is as easy to dispose of onions as it is of potatoes.

Cutworms are sometimes a serious pest. If their work is noticed in the spring they may be controlled by poison bran mash, made and applied in the same way as for grasshoppers.

Onions may be sown year after year on the same ground. Unless disease affects them the ground will become better onion ground as the years pass. This is one crop which is likely to be grown more in North Dakota in the future than it has been in the past.

To summarize, the keys to success in onion growing are: Land free from weeds, good preparation, early seeding, thorough frequent shallow cultivation.

DAIRY FACTS

BLOODED CALF FOR RAISING

Select One of Breed Most Admired and Believed Best Suited to Local Conditions.

If you have decided to select a blooded calf for raising, choose one of the breed that you admire most and believe suited to your conditions, provided the community in which you live has not already adopted some other breed. You should co-operate with your neighbors in developing one breed for your community. You will also obtain much valuable information about calves by working and advising with others, especially those who have had more experience. Select a good purebred calf. It is not sufficient that it be a purebred. It should be registered, as shown by the registration certificate furnished you by the breeder and signed by the secretary of the national association representing the breed.

In addition to being a good individual it should have good breeding back of it. Its parents, grandparents, and so on, should have been useful and profitable to their owners. These facts may be learned from a study of the calf's pedigree. To know a good pedigree when you see it will require some study on your part. Read a history of your chosen breed. Become familiar with individuals and bloodlines which have been instrumental in building up the breed. Such information may be obtained from books sold by publishing houses, from live stock journals, or from bulletins issued by your state college of agriculture, or by the United States Department of Agriculture. Much valuable information may be obtained also from the secretary of the registry association of the breed you select. The state association organized in the interest of your favorite breed will be able to assist you materially. Join such an association at your first opportunity.

Subscribe for a good live stock paper, especially the official journal published by the registry association.



Select a Purebred Calf. Blashed by the registry association of the breed chosen. Study the advertising section. Much can be learned from the announcements of sales and auctions in regard to popular pedigrees. Examine carefully the pictures of the breed's best specimens. Become familiar with the names of the breed's noted individuals, both past and present, and look for them in a pedigree.

Attend public sales held by breeders. Study sale catalogues and note the remarks made with reference to the breeding of different animals. An appreciation of the esteem in which the breeders hold blood lines of different individuals may be gained by noting the prices paid and the activity of the bidding on them. A word of caution here, however, may be necessary. Breeders frequently become overenthusiastic on family bloodlines regardless of how distant they may be. In analyzing a pedigree consider carefully the sire, grandsires, and great-grandsires, or parents in the first three generations, for they contribute seven-eighths of the heredity. Look for the names of famous individuals in these first three generations. Back of them the breeding should be consistent, without undesirable outcrosses. Of course the females in the pedigree must not be overlooked, but it is the bulls that determine its value to a great extent. Look for the names of noted men as being the breeders of some of these animals. Remember that a breeder becomes famous by having produced noted animals.

ATTENTION TO STALL FLOORS

Where Cement Is Used Bedding Should Be Spread to Protect Udders of the Cows.

When planning a new dairy barn, the stall floors should be given careful attention. A good floor should be sanitary and permanent and a non-conductor of heat. The drains and alleys may be concrete, but for stall floors, cement is not wholly desirable. When used, it must be covered with sufficient bedding to prevent the udders of the cows from coming in contact with it.

Some form of wood block is most satisfactory for this purpose.

TO DETERMINE AGE OF COWS

Most Common Way Is to Count Rings on Horns—Teeth Also Should Be Considered.

The common way of judging the age of a cow is by counting the rings on her horns. The first ring usually comes at about three years of age, the second one two years later, and then one ring is formed each year. The shape, size and condition of the teeth should also be considered.

When the "S" Was Stolen

We are sorry to say that our comphing room wash entered last night by thome unknown thoundrel who thole every 'eth' in the etthablithment, and thuceceeded in making with euceape undetected. The motive of the mithcreant doubteth with revenge for thome thupposed inthult.

It thall never be thaid that the petty thupite of any thmalthouled villian hath dithabled the Light of the World, and if thith meeth, the eye of the detothable rathcal, we beg to athure him that he underethimated the rethourceeth of a firth qnth newth paper when he thinthkth he can cripple it hopelethly by breaking into the alphabeth. We take oecathion to thay to him, furthermore, that before next fourthday we thall have theven thimeth ath many theventh ath he thole.

We have reathon to thuthpect that we know the cowardly thunk who committed thith act of vandalthim, and if he ith ever threen prowling about thith etthablithment again, by day or by night, nothing will give uth more thathithfathion than to thooth hith hide fluu of holeth.—Thithorred.

Just What They Wanted

Two commuturs were coming to town one morning. "Say, Bill," said one, "what's good to kill slugs? They are eating up all my radishes."

"Well," said the other, "get a couple of bags of salt and sprinkle it between the rows."

The next morning the two met again.

"How did the salt work?" Bill asked.

"Why, you poor fish," replied the other, "when I went out to look at the garden this morning, the slugs were pulling up the radishes, dipping them in the salt and eating them."—Judge.

Plugging Out

A Kentucky man seems to have found a relative of the city girl who thought it would be cold work harvesting the winter wheat.

The young woman of whom the Kentuckian tells is a native of Cincinnati, and was lately talking with him about tobacco and tobacco raising.

"I should like ever so much to see a tobacco field," she said, "especially when it is just plugging out."—Way-side Tales.

Yes, Why.

Why is it that the merchant who refuses advertising patronage to his home town newspaper will always fall for some fly-by-night bird with a fake advertising scheme.—Golden (Col.) Transcript.

Judge Lynch—"Can't this case be settled out of court?"

Prisoner—"Sure. That's what we were trying to do, your honor, but the police interfered."

GET OUT—AND WALK

There is no better tonic in the wide, wide world than a good walk in the open air. If your work keeps you inside most of the day, get up a little earlier and walk to work. It will make you feel better, make you better able to do your work.

As an old hunter once said, "The good Lord must have wanted everybody to get lots of fresh air and sunshine, that's why He made so much of it."

When you walk, walk briskly, breathe deeply. You will find that it beats any amount of medicine and it doesn't cost a cent.

When you play, play hard; when you work, don't play at all.—Theodore Roosevelt.

Geo. B. Cummings

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EASILY REPAIRED

The fancy shop proprietor had ransacked his shop in an endeavor to please the rather exacting women who wanted to purchase a present.

"Now, are you sure this is genuine crocodile skin?" she inquired, critically examining a neat little satchel.

"Quite madam," was the reply. "You see, I shot the crocodile myself."

"It looks rather dirty," remarked the customer, hoping to get a reduction in terms.

"Yes, madam," replied the shopkeeper, "that is where the animal struck the ground after it fell off the tree."—London Telegraph.

Fresh Frozen Fish

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Good Wheat Not Easily Developed

Breeding wheat is a slow job, says L. R. Waldron, plant breeder, North Dakota experiment station.

"The plant breeder is not a wizard," describing the breeder's work. "His work is guided by fairly well-known laws and involves a vast amount of rather tiresome detail. He feels amply rewarded by scoring an occasional success in the shape of an improved plant."

"The plant breeder has many practical problems before him in North Dakota. The outstanding one has been to secure satisfactory wheats resistant to stem rust. Such a wheat is necessary if the hard spring wheat crop is to be saved to the citizens of North Dakota. Rust resistant durum wheats have not taken the place of bread wheats and it is not evident at present that they will in the future.

"Two known varieties of bread wheat are strongly resistant to stem rust, Kanred and Kota. Kanred is a winter wheat not hardy enough for North Dakota. It may be of value to us for breeding work. Kota wheat is highly resistant to stem rust in North Dakota. Growing this wheat in North Dakota and in certain adjacent regions, in place of the Marquis now grown, will be of great benefit to the farmers and to others.

"Kota wheat is not perfect, however, and the plant breeder can see chances for improvement. Kota wheat is susceptible to leaf rust, which does not do much damage, and its straw is less strong than that of Marquis. By crossing Kota with Kanred, one should secure a new wheat resistant to both stem and leaf rust. By crossing Kota with Marquis one may be able to secure a new wheat having the rust resistance of Kota and the strength of the Marquis straw.

"The plant breeding section of the state experiment station at present is studying many thousands of such hybrid plants and certainly some of them look very promising. However, it will take several years to produce a new tested variety superior to Kota wheat."

Put the screens away straight, so they won't be sagged for next summer.

Small hens, such as Leghorns, can get along with three feet of floor space, but most poultry houses should be built to allow four square feet of floor space for each bird.

The number of boarder cows sold from a neighborhood, balanced against the number of purebred sires used, is generally a good indication of the spirit of the place.

Scarify Clover For Even Germination

In order to secure even germination of sweet clover the seed must be scarified before seeding.

Scarification is simply the process whereby the hard surface of the seed mitting the seed to absorb moisture more readily, and thus bring on quick and even germination.

Unscarified seed will at times lie in the ground from several days to weeks, and even a year, before it germinates, depending upon the hardness of the seed coat. One can see the desirability of scarifying where an even germination is desired. The cost of scarifying will be more than paid for by the amount of seed saved in seeding. Where unscarified seed is sown, nearly twice the amount of seed is necessary, because of lower germination.

Where sweet clover is intended as a semi-permanent pasture crop, there is some justification for not scarifying the seed. In such a case some seed might lie in the ground that first summer and not germinate until the succeeding spring, following the freezing and thawing which have the tendency to break down the hardness of the seed coat and thus permit water absorption and germination. Such a germination will then bring on a crop of first year plants the second season, which would be second year plants the third season, making the pasture a more continuous one in that there would be a crop of second year plants coming on every year, first from the original seeding, and later from a natural re-seeding.

Certainly the sweet clover seeded in a rotation should be scarified in order that germination may be complete. Incomplete germination may invite later a problem of volunteering sweet clover which would not be desirable.

"Thou shalt not see thy brothers ox or his sheep go astray and hide thyself from them; thou shalt surely bring them again unto thy brother."—Deuteronomy, XXII, 1.

The best place for your cold is in bed.

In selecting flowering shrubs for spring planting have an eye to those that bloom in an "off" season.

Try chopping the fruit for short-cakes, ice cream, etc., with a cooky cutter.

"Civilization, culture, and development of rural people are to be found in conjunction with town and small city, and not apart."—Galpin.