

to keep the tree upright. The trees thus treated will, for the most part, succumb to the winds and storms, pulling up the stumps with them as they fall.

The next process will be to tackle the young saplings, as previously described, by means of a chain and team, pulling them out of the ground, stumps and all. Attention is called to the fact that where the stump has to be removed by pulling, whether in the way just described or by the stump puller, it is important to select for the purpose a day succeeding a wet spell or a thaw, when the earth is soft and wet for a considerable depth below the surface, a condition which will greatly facilitate the operation of stump pulling. As the work progresses it may be necessary from time to time to again resort to firing, burning worthless timber and litter, the timber designed for lumber or fuel having been previously removed and piled for future use.

At this time we have our lot pretty well cleared of standing timber, save such as has been left for the influence of wind and weather, and work must now be undertaken on such stumps as it has been found expedient to leave in the ground up to this time, but which from their position or nature it will be necessary to remove before undertaking to plow the land. In these cases the method indicated may be adopted, or the stump puller, if available, may be called into service. Possibly in a few cases, probably exceptional on this lot, recourse may have to be had to dynamite. Toward the spring those trees which have been dug around and which have succumbed to winter storms will in their turn have to be removed. By pursuing systematically the course above set forth on a lot of the character indicated, the owner will doubtless have it in proper condition for the plow by the spring following the year in which he began the clearing.

Cultivation of New Land.

The quantity of roots remaining in the ground after it has been cleared is always surprising. No matter what clearing method has been pursued or how carefully it has been done, the plow will discover an aggravatingly large number of roots. When stumps are pulled out by machinery many more roots are removed than by any other method. But even in machinery-cleared land the ground will still be full of roots, mostly small, it is true.

In plowing new land a good, steady, strong span of horses is of the first importance. Horses that are fast or fractious will not answer. They will fret the plowman, break the plow, and bruise their shoulders. With a spirited team, even though nothing is broken or injured, it is hard to do good work. If the plow is drawn rapidly it is quite impossible to guide it closely and avoid stumps and roots.

After the winter season of comparative idleness horses should not be put to plowing new land. Their shoulders have grown tender from disuse and should be first gradually toughened in old land; moreover, some of their accumulated energy should thus be worked off.

Oxen Preferable to Horses.

For plowing new ground oxen are preferable to horses. They are steadier and stronger. Formerly in breaking new land it was a common occurrence to see several yoke of oxen attached to one strong plow; and they did yeoman service. Now, in this age

of hurry and rush, the slow, plodding ox has been forced to give way to the faster horse, and when new ground is to be plowed unfortunately the ox is seldom at hand.

There are several patterns of plows made especially for new ground work. These grub plows, however, while strong and healthy, are not essential. Any standard plow with a good cutter properly and securely adjusted will do good work.

Cut Roots that Stop the Plow.

When plowing new land always have a mattock conveniently fastened to the plow handles, and cut all roots that do not break. When the plow becomes "hung" in roots it is better to cut it loose than to back and pull out. The roots that stop the plow will interfere with cultivation, and the same root, unless severed, will occasion this annoyance for several successive seasons. In plowing new land it is well "to make haste slowly." Leave no skips. Turn a continuous furrow. The time saved in cultivating the crop, together with the increased harvest, will more than pay for the pains taken.

The second season the plow furrows should be run at right angles to those of the first. If these two plowings are thoroughly done, the ground will be completely broken and subdued.

If the land is very stumpy it will be quite difficult to level down for planting purposes. When the stumps are too thick for the old-fashioned A harrow to be used a heavy brush or cultivator, run opposite to the way the land was plowed, will answer fairly well. When the land is not too stumpy or the stumps are cut very low the spring-tooth harrow will do excellent work. The teeth will bound over the stumps and roots that are fast and comb out a great many that are loose or broken. If the roots are plentiful, and they usually are, many of them will have to be removed. With an improved adjustable spring-tooth harrow, many of the loose roots may be combed out and windrowed and then burned or hauled off.

New Land Should Be Cultivated for Successive Seasons.

In bringing new land under cultivation, cultivate for several successive seasons or until all roots are thoroughly broken and all foul vegetation completely destroyed. If cultivated for only one year and then seeded down or left idle any number of roots and small bushes will revive and start into renewed life.

Crops Adapted to New Land.

New land, because of the large quantity of vegetable matter it contains, is exceedingly loose. The leaf mold also gives the soil a dark color and fertile appearance. Humus or decomposed vegetation is an essential element in productive soils. It imparts a wholesome physical character and furnishes properties that enable it to retain heat, moisture, and plant food. But soils may contain too much organic matter, especially if it is not well decayed, hence virgin soil is usually not sufficiently productive at first for best crop results. Ordinarily, however, on new ground each succeeding harvest will exceed the preceding one until the third or fourth year is reached. So that, in the long run, this excess of vegetable trash on recently cleared woodland tracts will, by its fertilizing value, and adding humus to the soil, more than compensate for the immediate loss in the earlier years.

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Clover Well Adapted to New Land.

Among the grasses, clover seems best adapted to new land, upon such soil it will invariably thrive, while upon old neighboring fields it may be difficult or impossible to secure a stand. In seeding new land to clover select the largest and most vigorous variety. The denser the growth the more difficult it will be for foul matter to secure a lodging; and the higher the clover stands the more shade it will afford, and this will facilitate the decay of roots and stumps. In fact, a most excellent treatment for new-ground pine land is to stir the surface with a harrow or cultivator and seed it to the large sapling clover. The clover will serve a most useful twofold mission. It will add nitrogen and humus to the soil and greatly assist in rotting the roots and stumps by the shade and contiguous decaying matter it affords.

Fruits of all kinds do well upon cleared woodland, provided, of course, that the location and mechanical condition of the soil are suitable. But it is not wise to plant trees on such land until it has been thoroughly plowed and is in a condition to be conveniently cultivated. In planting an orchard upon stumpy land, stumps should not be allowed to remain in proximity to the newly set trees. The stumps will not only interfere with cultivation but greatly endanger the trees by bruises from horse or plow.

Strawberries Make a Satisfactory Growth.

Among small fruits the strawberry thrives especially well on recently cleared land. Upon such soil it makes a most satisfactory growth and fruitage, and much less labor is required

to keep the weeds and grass down, as the ground is not impregnated with foul seed. The immunity of new ground, compared to old land, from weed and grass infestation is a most important factor not only in strawberry culture but in all gardening or trucking operations.

New Ground is Desirable for Trucking

For vegetable growing new land is very desirable, not only because of its comparative freedom from foul growth, but because such soils contain a large supply of organic nitrogen, the most necessary and expensive of vegetable fertilizers. It is light and porous, thereby enabling the tender sprout after germination to more rapidly push its feeble form through the earth's surface. Upon old land frequently a crust will form on the surface or the soil become baked, thereby preventing seed from coming up, but not trouble of this character is experienced with new ground. The physical condition of such soils greatly encourages the development of those tuberous vegetables that grow by a process of expansion under ground.

These are some of the properties of new ground that render it desirable for trucking. Potatoes, Irish, will certainly thrive on this soil. They will yield well, be symmetrical in form, clear in color, and very free from scab. The tomato is another vegetable most congenial to new ground; upon such land it is relatively free from blight and less liable to be choked or smothered by a late summer grass, which so frequently appears upon old land after the size of the vines prevents cultivation. Indeed, there is no question about