

The Early Potato Crop.

Fertilization of Preceding Pea Crop—Formula Suggested for a Potato Fertilizer.

There is no market garden crop of greater importance or one that occupies so large an area in the South Atlantic States as the Irish potato crop. It is a crop in which a large supply of organic matter, or humus resulting from the decay of organic matter, is of the greatest importance. This condition in the soil can be best promoted by the growth of the legumes. In the trucking regions of the South Atlantic States the cowpea is one of the best preparations for the crop. There the potatoes are planted too early for a fall-sown crop to amount to much, unless a good stand of crimson clover could be had very early in the fall, and

phoric acid and potash that he may apply to the peas will be retained by the soil and when the peas are turned under the potato crop will benefit by the application that has increased the growth of peas. This becomes of greater importance in the present interest in the pulverized rock as a cheap source of phosphoric acid, for if this is applied abundantly to the pea crop, it may not affect that crop very greatly, but with the turning under of the peas, it will come into availability for the potato crop better than an immediate application of acid phosphate. Then, if kainit is abundantly supplied to the peas it will have lost any injurious effect it might have had on



[Courtesy Bateman Mfg. Co.

THE POTATO DIGGER IS A LABOR SAVER IN POTATO MAKING.

this is usually hard to get on account of the usual dry weather in September and October. Hence, the next best thing is an abundant and late crop of cowpeas to be left on the land entire to be plowed under when the land is prepared for planting in February or earlier.

Nitrogen and Moisture are Needed.

The early potato crop in the South, being grown during the cool part of the year, needs more nitrogen than the main crop grown in the North. The peas will give a considerable portion of this in the form of organic nitrogen which the crop has largely gathered from the air, and a smaller amount of artificial nitrogen needs to be applied than if no peas had been grown. But the decaying organic matter has a further effect in its power of retaining the moisture essential to the solution of the fertilizers applied, and the acids formed in the decay tend to prevent the growth of the scab fungus and will also enable the grower to use the pulverized phosphate rock or floats to a great extent in place of the more costly acid phosphate.

Phosphoric Acid and Potash Applied to Preceding Crops of Peas.

The fact that a soil abounding in organic decay retains moisture well has an important bearing on the fertilization of the crop, since without a due amount of moisture in the soil, the fertilizer that is needed in abundance by the potato crop would not be properly dissolved, and unless dissolved in the soil-water the plants cannot get the use of it. The wise trucker will always take time by the fore-lock and prepare the best conditions for his crop. If he has sown a crop of peas in preparation for the potatoes, which can be easily done after some early crop of the previous season has been shipped, he will understand that any amount of phos-

the potato crop while the potash will still be there.

Formula for Potato Fertilizer.

Not that I assume that kainit is the cheapest form in which to get potash, but that when applied a good while ahead the dissolving salt may have some effect in the solution of other matters in the soil. But in any event, the truckers of the South have learned that an abundant fertilization is important to the success and profit of the Irish potato crop, and I have found that 1,000 pounds per acre of the following mixture will always pay, even when the best previous treatment of the soil has been made. Acid phosphate, 900 pounds; nitrate of soda, 100 pounds; fish scrap, 600 pounds, and muriate of potash, 400 pounds, to make a ton. If the previous treatment has not been as suggested, I would increase the application.

W. F. MASSEY,
Editor of "Practical Farmer."

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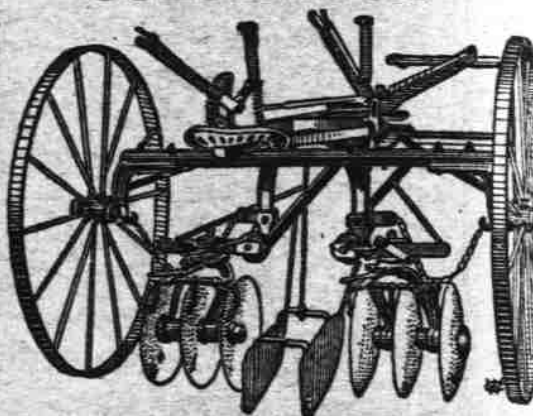
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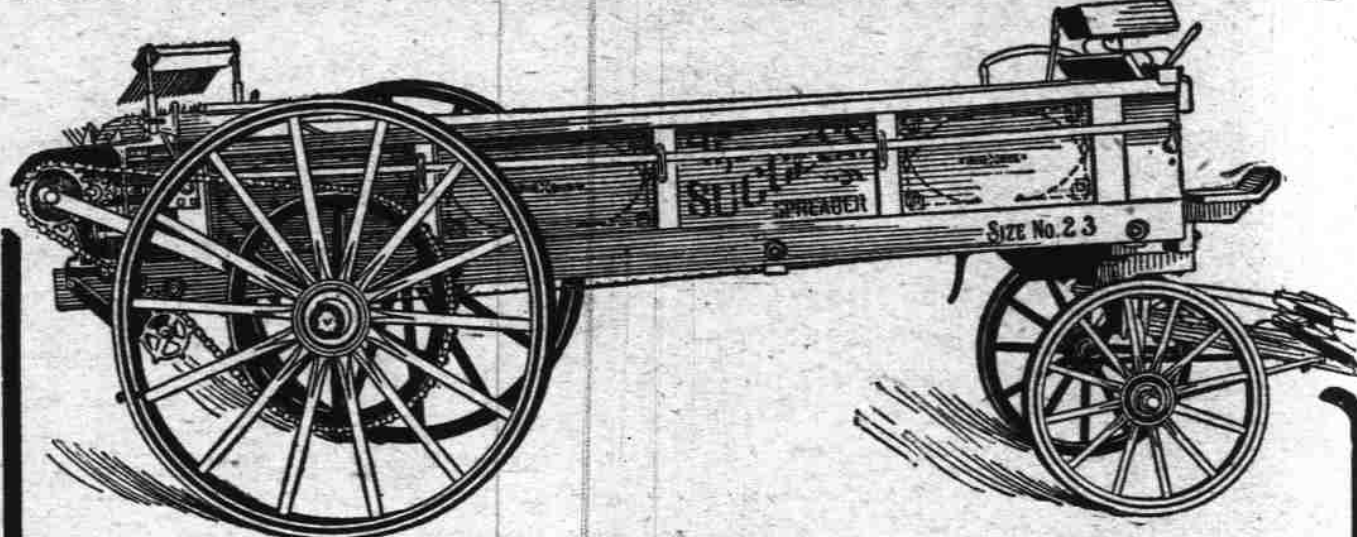
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—will only stop at Johnson Street, arriving, southbound, at 1.55 a. m., northbound, 2.30 a. m. Other trains arriving at Union Depot as follows:

- No. 34 arrives 1.34 a. m., leaves 1.38 a. m.
- No. 33 arrives 2.45 a. m., leaves 2.50 a. m.
- No. 29 arrives 10.15 a. m.
- No. 66 arrives 11.50 a. m., leaves 12.14 noon.
- No. 30 leaves 4.55 p. m.
- No. 32 arrives 1.50 a. m., leaves 1.55 a. m.
- No. 31 arrives 3.50 a. m., leaves 3.55 a. m.
- No. 35 arrives 11.00 a. m., leaves 1.05 a. m.
- No. 41 arrives 3.57 p. m., leaves 4.05 p. m.
- No. 43 arrives 7.30 p. m., leaves 7.35 p. m.

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