

[On the Culture of Potatoes from the Shoots] Rev. William Maunsell

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Contributors

Contributor Role

Author

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Rev. William Maunsell

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Agriculture

Ingredients

potatoes

seed potatoes

Places

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Nova Scotia

Dublin

Ireland

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Description

Directions for planting potatoes from shoots instead of seed potatoes. Vol. 15, No. 745. The author of "Cultivation of Potatoes" published in the Royal Gazette and the Nova Scotia Advertiser may refer to the original, which was published in Dublin in 1794.

Transcription

THE Secretary laid before the Society an Extract from the Pamphlet, entitled, "Letters to the Right Honorable "Dublin Society, on the Culture of Potatoes from the Shoots, "by the Rev. William Maunsell, L. L. D." printed in Dublin, 1794, which, being read, was directed to be published.

In this pamphlet the most eligible process in cultivating potatoes from their shoots, is not particularly pointed out, but we are left to judge from the great variety of experiments which are minutely described in it, none of which seemed to have failed of success, and in some ever shoot planted has been productive.

By the shoots are meant those fibres or branches which immediately grow from the eyes of the potatoes after they have begun to vegetate without being put into the earth.

The following are the methods which have been generally used in planting them:

1st. Drills of about six inches deep and two feet apart from each other are made in ground previously prepared in the usual way. Potatoe shoots are then cut into lengths of about five or six inches each, and planted in the drill six inches asunder, with their thickest ends, or those that have been next to the potatoe, downwards. They are then covered with earth about one inch under.

Or 2d. A furrow is made with a plough, some dung spread in it--the furrow is closed back with the plough, and the shoots planted in it as you would do cabbages with setting sticks.

Or 3d. The shoots are laid down in any direction in the furrow at proper distances from each other and covered with the plough.

Which of those methods of planting is the best upon the whole, does not seem to be clearly decided by the experiments.

When the stocks appear above ground, keep earthing them up at least eighteen inches high, leaving always about two or three inches above ground, "for," says the author, "the higher you earth them up, the greater will be the produce; for the potatoes from the shoots, if properly attended to, will not spread in the ground, but ascend to the surface, as you may see them when dug out growing to the stuck as Onions tied to a trace."

The superior advantage of raising potatoes from the shoots instead of the potatoes themselves, are the following:

1st. The seed potatoes, which in Ireland are reckoned to be one sixth of the whole crop, are a clear saving.

2d. The same space of ground will produce twice or three times the quality.

3d. The growth is more vigorous. The produce earlier and of a better quality.

4th. The labour of cutting the seed potatoes into what are called sets of scullains, is also saved.

5th. It is probable they will not be so apt to degenerate as in the old way of raising them.

The following certificates, taken from the pamphlet, leaves no room to doubt the advantages which will result from the Doctor's mode of cultivating this valuable root.

On the Culture of Potatoes from the Shoots recipe from Early Modern Maritime Recipes:
<https://emmr.lib.unb.ca/recipes/231>