[On the Method of Raising Seedling Potatoes]

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Description

Instructions on how to raise potatoes from seed from someone with experience on the peninsula of Halifax.

Image courtesy of Nova Scotia Archives and found in Nova Scotia Newspapers on Microfilm, reel 8165.

Transcription

On the method of raising
SEEDLING POTATOES.

TAKE of the apples of any sort of potatoes, hang them up in a warm room, during the winter, and in the spring separate the seeds from the pulp, by washing the apples in water, and pressing them with the fingers. Then dry the seeds upon paper--otherwise when the apples are thoroughly ripe press out the seeds and dry them on paper.

In the month of April sow these seeds in drills, in a bed of earth well dug and manured with rotten dung. When the plants are about an inch high, draw a little earth up to them with a hoe, in order to lengthen their main roots. When they are about three inches high, dig them up with a spade, and separate them carefully from each other, in order for planting out in the following manner.

Prepare a piece of fresh ground by trenching it well. Dig up the seedling plants as before directed, and plant them out in the ground thus prepared, in such a manner that there shall be sixteen inches between every plant. As they advance in growth, let them receive one or two earthings up, in order to lengthen the main root, and to encourage the shoots under ground.

By this management they will in the course of one season, arrive at the size of hen's eggs, and the haulm or stalks will be as vigorous as if sets or cuttings had been planted, and although this may seem impossible, at least, very improbable to the unexperienced readers, yet one experiment properly conducted, will convince them otherwise, as I have experienced upon the peninsula of Halifax.

By the method commonly used by unexperienced Farmers in general of raising potatoes from seed, they are always two and probably three years in bringing them to their full size. By the above method of transplanting with wide distances, many of the potatoes nearly attain their full size in one season.

It is observable that these seedlings produce potatoes of all the different kinds; and sometimes new sorts are procured.

Potatoes when propagated from sets or cuttings, after a number of years, are found to decrease in bearing; for which reason they should be brought back every 10, 12, or 14 years to their original.

For want of attention to this circumstance, I have known potatoes to run out, that they hardly return treble seed. The farmer complains his land is tired of them, but the true cause is the age of the sets.

The encrease of potatoes raised from seed is truly astonishing. They continue in vigour from about ten to fourteen years, according to the soil,

after which the produce gradually declines.

On the Method of Raising Seedling Potatoes recipe from Early Modern Maritime Recipes:
https://emmr.lib.unb.ca/recipes/33