

MARTON EXPERIMENTAL AREA.

OPERATIONS FOR SEASON 1922-23.

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THE spring of 1922 was very good in the Marton district, and all crops at the experimental area were sown under favourable conditions. Average strikes were obtained, and the prospects for good crops looked bright. The weather, however, broke in December and continued wet right through the autumn, consequently crops did not ripen evenly and harvesting operations were very trying. The cereal crops were saved in fair condition, but later-maturing crops such as peas and tares suffered badly.

OATS MANURIAL TRIAL.

Ten acres of Algerian oats were sown at the end of April, 1922, fed off once in June, and harvested in December. The area was divided into five 2-acre blocks, a different manure being used on each area. Following are the different manurial applications, together with the weights of chaff per acre secured from the different plots:—

Plot 1—1 cwt. superphosphate and $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. sulphate of potash per acre, 2 tons 4 cwt. chaff; plot 2, half super and half bone char, at $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. per acre, 2 tons 7 cwt. chaff; plot 3, half super and half Nauru rock phosphate, at $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. per acre, 2 tons 5 cwt. chaff; plot 4, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. Nauru phosphate per acre, 2 tons 10 cwt. chaff; plot 5, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. super per acre, 2 tons 6 cwt. chaff.

It will be noticed that Nauru rock phosphate shows rather the best return, but all the manures gave very even yields.

WHEAT.

Three acres of Major variety were grown, 2 of which were sown on 7th September—1 acre after peas and 1 acre after rape, both the peas and rape having been fed off with sheep; the other acre was sown on 2nd October. Marquis and Yeoman, 1 acre of each, were sown on 7th September. The following table gives yields and dates of harvesting:—

Variety.	Date of Harvesting.	Yield per Acre.
Major (after peas)	1st February	Bushels. 46.6
Major (after rape)	1st February	42.0
Major (late sown)	12th February	30.0
Marquis	1st February	29.2
Yeoman	1st March	13.3

The following averages have been recorded at the Marton Area: Major, four years, $43\frac{1}{4}$ bushels; Marquis, three years, 35 bushels; John Brown, three years, $28\frac{2}{3}$ bushels per acre.