



Since the outbreak of war, mangolds have been increasingly used in England as the basic maintenance fodder for cattle. In New Zealand, too,

this crop has a distinct value in maintaining stock in condition, and this article describes the operations necessary for successful cultivation.

## Here Is A Crop To Keep Your Stock In Condition

**T**HE mangold, because of its high yield of feeding value per acre—probably higher in this respect than any other crop—and its excellent keeping qualities, claims the attention of all producers, whether of dairy products, mutton, beef or wool. The mangold fails as a fodder in that it contains very little protein. Therefore, when fed to cows it will maintain condition, but is not productive of milk, which is secured from the grass consumed. If, however, cows on a ration of hay, mangolds, and a limited supply of grass are deprived of the roots, then the production of milk will fall, because the grass consumed is required for maintenance purposes. When fed to pigs, mangolds should be supplemented with meat-meal fed at about  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. per pig per day to make up for the protein deficiency.

The mangold seedling is slow in establishing, being at the mercy of the faster-growing weeds. Consequently, the crop requires much attention during the early half of its growing period. The mangold must be pulled a month or so before being fed to stock. During this period it is said to "ripen," and during this process the poisonous substances present in the fresh mangold are made innocuous. Thus, the growing of mangolds entails a large amount of hand work, making it a crop suited to the smaller and more intensive farms.

### Sowing the Seed

The seed bed for mangolds must be very fine and firm, because the real mangold seed is very small. The so-called mangold seed which is sown is really the fruit of the plant, and normally contains three seeds. The seed is sown in October in rows 28 in. apart either on the flat or on ridges at the rate of 5 lb. or 6 lb. per acre. As

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soon as the young mangold plants can be seen the crop is intercultivated and then hand-hoed to destroy weeds and space the plants about 10 to 12 inches apart. Sow with the seed either 4 cwt. superphosphate or 2 cwt. superphosphate and 2 cwt. blood and bone-

dust. In dry climates where injury to germination is liable to occur, mix the superphosphate with an equal amount of lime two weeks before application or use basic super. Where phosphate deficiency is very great, apply an additional dressing of 4 cwt. super broadcast over the seed bed before or after drilling the seed. This will be necessary in districts where the top-dressing of phosphates on pastures is a common practice. If potash deficiency is suspected, then the 4 cwt. super broadcast can be replaced by a mixture of 2 cwt. super and 2 cwt. of 30 per cent. potash salts.

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