

farmer devotes to after-cultivation, it is essential that the ground should be kept as free from weeds as is possible.

### Harvesting

Onions are ready for harvesting six to seven months after sowing. In the case of autumn sown onions maturing in January, and the earliest maturing bulbs of the transplanted crop, the bulbs may be lifted, and topped when green, and used immediately. This is not the general practice, however, and in nearly all cases the onions are allowed to ripen fully before pulling.

When the bulbs are fully formed and the tops yellow, they may be bent over, care being taken only to bruise the leaves, and not break them, as otherwise new leaves will start to form, and the bulbs become useless for keeping.

If the autumn be very warm and dry it is not necessary to bend over the tops. When the tops are dry, or nearly so, the bulbs are pulled and placed into windrows, three or four rows comprising one windrow. They are left to lie in the paddock five to ten days, depending on the weather. When the tops are dry they are cut off with shears about  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. from the bulb. If rain intervenes the onions

are turned until dry. When clipped the onions are roughly graded according to size and quality. Yields vary considerably, but 12 to 16 tons per acre is considered a good crop.

If onions are to be stored, drying must be thorough. They may be stored loose in sheds, in sacks or crates, or in clamps under trees covered with straw or a tarpaulin.

### Answer to Correspondent

#### Sowing of Swedes

"M.W.H." (Whakaangi):—

I know it is against all laws to mix turpin seed with super, but, can swede seed be mixed with serpentine superphosphate and sown through the drill, and does serpentine superphosphate flow faster than super in the drill?

FIELDS DIVISION:—

Numerous field trials have shown that serpentine superphosphate can be mixed with swede seed for sowing through the drill with little or no harmful effect on the germination. Compared with superphosphate, the serpentine super has given very much better germination. With regard to the

question of the relative rate of sowing compared with super, generally the serpentine superphosphate is in a better physical condition and runs more freely, about four hundredweight being sown with the setting to give three hundredweight of super.

### Pig Industry Broadcasts

UNDER the auspices of the District Pig Councils concerned broadcasts will be delivered in February as follows:—

1YA, Auckland.—February 18, 7.15 p.m., "Care of Young Pigs after Weaning," by H. H. Preston, Supervisor, Northland District Pig Council.

4YA, Dunedin.—February 8, 7.15 p.m., "Concrete for Piggeries," by the Supervisor, Otago and Southland District Pig Council.

2YH, Napier.—February 9, 7.30 p.m., "Housing and Sanitation," by I. H. Owtram, Supervisor, Tairāwhiti District Pig Council.

2ZA, Palmerston North.—February 16, 8.30 p.m., "Avoiding Losses in Pig Production," by H. H. Marsdon, Supervisor, Wellington District Pig Council.

**You** CAN GAMBOL ON OVOLIS

Osmonds' Ovolis lamb drench