

# MANGOLDS CROP HEAVILY ON HERETAUNGA PLAINS

**O**N the fertile new soils of Hawke's Bay's Heretaunga Plains probably no more sure and prolific crop is grown than mangolds. If the necessary work is put into the land, a heavy crop is assured. R. P. Hill, Fields Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Hastings, describes methods of preparation and cultivation.

**M**ANGOLDS are grown principally as a cash crop, the roots being sold to hill-country sheep farmers for sheep and cattle feed and to dairy farmers who are unable to grow their own roots. Some sheep farmers on the plains grow their own mangolds in rotation with ryegrass seed, the crop being lifted in May, stored in clamps, and fed out to breeding ewes after the pumpkins are finished. Feed is then assured until the end of August.

On the rich silt soils skim ploughing does not appear necessary. The crop is always grown out of pasture, which is disced heavily in August, deep ploughed in September, given several double cuts with the discs, then fallowed for two or three weeks, after which it is again disced several times, rolled, and the seed drilled in at the rate of 5 to 6lb. an acre in rows from 24 to 28in. apart, depending on the width of the implement to be used for

cultivation. About 1cwt. of superphosphate or a mixture of superphosphate with blood and bone is drilled with the seed. Finally the paddock is chain harrowed. As soon as the plants are through and the rows are defined the land is cultivated with a scarifier, and the cultivation is continued until the leaves are meeting in the rows. When the plants are about 4in. high they are thinned to a distance of 12 to 15in.

The amount of work put into the land to grow this crop is probably more than that required for potatoes, but the yields justify the work. An average crop of mangolds grown on the plains in the manner described yields about 85 tons an acre. Last year the heaviest crop weighed in the Hawke's Bay A. and P. Society's competition yielded 140 tons an acre and the next three 120, 115, and 110 tons.

The varieties most grown are Yellow Globe and Tankard, which invariably produce the highest yields.



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## Radio Broadcasts

**R**ADIO talks to farmers will be given from Station 1YA, Auckland, at 7.15 p.m. on the following dates:—

June 1—"Current Farming Problems for the Month," by C. R. Taylor, Fields Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Rotorua, and E. R. Marryatt, Fields Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Whakatane.

June 8—"Earth Worms," by R. Nielson, Soil Biologist, Soil Fertility Research Station, Hamilton.

June 15—"A Discussion on the Varieties of Fruit for the Auckland District," by I. L. Nottage and W. S. Kemp, Orchard Instructors, Department of Agriculture, Auckland.

June 22—Young Farmers' Clubs' session, by the Central King Country District Committee.

June 29—"Stock Diseases Controlled by Winter Feeding," by D. M. Corbett, Veterinarian, Department of Agriculture, Whangarei.

The following broadcasts will be made from Station 4YA, Dunedin, after the stock session at 7 p.m. on the dates shown:—

June 1—"Feeding and Management of Stock in Winter," by C. V. Dayus, Livestock Superintendent, Department of Agriculture, Dunedin.

June 15—"Winter Work in the Orchard," by R. E. Binfield, Horticultural Superintendent, Department of Agriculture, Dunedin.

June 29—"The Potato Crop," by W. R. Lobb, Instructor in Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, Dunedin.

Other talks are given from 1YA Auckland on Tuesdays at 12.35 p.m., 2YA Wellington on Thursdays at 12.35 p.m., and 3YA Christchurch on Mondays at 12.20 p.m.

## Pig Broadcasts

**U**NDER the auspices of District Pig Councils broadcasts will be delivered in June as follows:—

Auckland—1YA, on June 28, at 12.35 p.m., "Preservation of Skim-milk Curd for Pig Feeding," by H. H. Preston, Supervisor, Northland District Pig Council.

Napier—2YZ, on June 10, at 7.15 p.m., "The Case for the Pedigree Pig," by H. A. Hopkins, Supervisor, Tairāwhiti District Pig Council.

Dunedin and Invercargill—4YA and 4YZ, on June 13, at 7.15 p.m., "Sound Feeding Methods," by N. Macdonald, Supervisor, Otago and Southland District Pig Council.

## Rabbit Skin Levy Raised

**A**N increase in the rate of levy on rabbit skins produced and sold in New Zealand was announced recently by the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. E. L. Cullen. The new levy is 20 per cent., a rise of 10 per cent., and will be effective for the 12 months beginning on June 1, 1949.

The Minister said the increase had been fixed on the recommendation of the Rabbit Destruction Council, and in view of the fact that the levy was payable only at the time of auction or on direct sale to the wholesale trader, buyers were being given due notice of the increase. The rate of levy is based on the full market value of the skins and the new rate would apply up to and including May 31, 1950.