

DISC AND MOLDBOARD PLOWS COMPARED.

Expert Advice on a Subject of Importance to Farmers Who Have Not Tried Disc Plows.

Shall I buy a disk or moldboard plow? is a question frequently asked by the farmer. The conditions under which the plow is expected to operate must help answer it.

All farmers are acquainted with the moldboard plow and know how to operate it to the best advantage. The disk plow, on the other hand, is a newer invention, and has not been used so extensively. It is harder to operate successfully, and for that reason has not given the general satisfaction which should be obtained. The use for the disk plow, however, is gradually growing, and in a few years it will have almost as large a place as the moldboard plow.

Under similar conditions, the disk plow is of lighter draft, but this difference is not so much as is often claimed by the manufacturers. Rolling friction makes it pull somewhat easier than sliding friction. Because of the rolling motion of the disk and cutting effect, it is not so likely to bog as the moldboard plow. What the disk cannot cut it will roll over.

The disk is capable of plowing ground that has become too dry and hard for the moldboard plow. This is oftentimes of much value, as it is not necessary to wait for rain, and the seed can be planted at the proper time.

For humid sections and irrigated lands, the moldboard plow must be considered superior. Under favorable conditions for plowing, where the soil is not too dry, the moldboard plow pulverizes and turns the soil more satisfactorily. It also handles sod to better advantage.

To do the same amount of work, the disk plow will require very little sharpening compared to the moldboard plow. This makes the running expenses of the disk very much less than that of a moldboard.

A 24-inch disk for general use is to be preferred to one of larger diameter. The 24-inch disk will pulverize the soil more than a 28 or 30-inch one. The draft is a trifle more on the smaller one, but the difference is more than made up by the class of work it is able to do.

It is far better to use two disks 24 inches in diameter, each one cutting 8 inches in width, than to use a 30-inch disk cutting 14 or 16 inches in width. Taking a narrow furrow tends to make the bottom less corrugated.

Plowing the same ground year after year with the disk does not keep it in as good condition as if plowed with a moldboard plow.

H. M. BAINER,

Colorado Agricultural College, Fort Collins.

Treat All Potatoes for Scab.

Kindly tell me if all of my seed potatoes ought to be treated for scab or only those affected. E. N. B.

(Answer by Prof. H. C. Thompson.)

All seed potatoes should be treated for the potato scab, whether showing any signs of the disease or not. Some spores may be present even though no signs of the disease could be seen. Treatment of the tubers is a safeguard against the scab though treated potatoes are not proof against the disease because the disease lives over in the soil.

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