

Soil

Any good medium soil is suitable. Provided the land is clean, its selection is of less importance than its proper preparation before sowing the seed. As the crop is unable to withstand drought, sandy soils are useless, and on heavy clays it is difficult to prepare the necessary fine seedbed. Land that is clean and well adapted to barley, or a medium loam with a stiff subsoil—a good wheat bottom—are excellent. Some good crops have been grown on poor chalky land after using a complete fertilizer.

Wireworms practically ignore linseed, and although leather jackets occasionally attack it, a poison bait dressing (Paris Green 1 lb., moistened bran 25 lb.) scattered over the young crop gives a good control. It is therefore worthy of consideration as a crop on newly ploughed-up grass. Rabbits generally leave it alone.

Wheat does well after linseed, and it does well after wheat. It is usual, in fact, to grow it after a straw crop of some kind. Where the soil is inclined to be light, however, it is advisable to take linseed after a root or green crop that has been fed off by sheep. It is a good nurse crop for clover or seeds. The clover benefits by the shade given by the linseed and the weeds are checked.

Cultivation

Linseed is a rapid grower, and it is the aim of cultivation to provide conditions for this growth to be even and continuous during the ten weeks or so that the crop is growing. The land should be deeply ploughed in autumn or early winter, and left to weather until near the time of sowing, for which a fine seedbed with a firm bottom should be prepared.

Manuring

A high state of fertility is not necessary, and the crop does best when using the reserve of fertility left from a previous well-manured crop. Unless the soil is very poor, the application of nitrogenous artificial fertilizers does not bring about

any marked increase in the yield of seed or in the oil content of the seed. Potash and phosphates help towards early ripening; these are best applied to soils that require them, as a dressing of 1-3 cwt. superphosphate and 1-3 cwt. potash salts per acre.

Varieties and Sowing

For seed production, farmers are urged to grow Redwing, seed of which has been imported from Canada. Good results have been obtained with Diadem, a pedigree variety from Canada that was recently tested under Scottish conditions.

Care should be taken when using imported seed either to dress it thoroughly or to ensure that this has been done by the seedsman; otherwise there is a danger of introducing foreign weeds on to the farm. Seed should be kept in a cool, dry place, as it readily absorbs moisture and thereby loses its vitality.

Seed should be sown as soon as the danger of severe frost has passed, and as soon as a fine tilth can be prepared. A moderate frost can be tolerated, but drought in the early stages is a serious drawback. On the lighter lands, and in the south, sowing may begin as early as the end of March, but on heavy land, and in the North, it may not be possible until May.

An expert sower may be able to broadcast this slippery seed by hand, but more usually sowing is done with a "fiddle," a seed barrow, or a corn drill with narrow spouts set about 6 in. apart—not all corn drills, however, can sow this seed thinly enough. The seed should not be deeply buried— $\frac{1}{2}$ in. to 1 in. deep is desirable.

If broadcast, $2\frac{1}{4}$ bushels (117 lb.) of seed will be required per acre, but this may be reduced to $1\frac{3}{4}$ bushels (91 lb.) for the other method of sowing. A heavy crop has been obtained on poor land with $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels assisted by a complete fertilizer. If grass seeds are to be sown they should be put in at the same time as the linseed.