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62/W/C/10 Effect of Subsoiling - Potatoes

Rothamsted Research

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62/C/10.1

EFFECT OF SUBSOILING

Woburn Roadpiece and Great Hill. Test crops: Sugar beet, spring wheat and barley - the 1st year 1962.

Design: 3 randomised blocks of 2 plots each, with three crops grown in strips across the plots.

Area of each plot (acres):	Area harvested (acres):
Sugar beet: 0.0068	0.0051
Spring wheat: 0.0290	Roadpiece - 0.0138 Great Hill - 0.0119
Barley: 0.0290	Roadpiece - 0.0138 Great Hill - 0.0130

Treatments: None; subsoiled, 7 strokes per plot, 3 feet apart, 18 inches deep.

Basal dressings:-

Sugar beet: 8 cwt per acre compound fertiliser (17% N, 11% P_2O_5 , 22% K_2O).

Spring wheat and barley: $3\frac{1}{2}$ cwt per acre compound fertiliser (16% N, 9% P_2O_5 , 9% K_2O) combine drilled.

Cultivations, etc. (both fields except where stated): - Subsoiled: Oct 25, 1961. Ploughed: Roadpiece - Nov 1 - 11, Great Hill - Oct 31 - Nov 6, 1961.

Sugar beet: Basal dressing applied, seed drilled at 7 lb per acre: Mar 20, 1962. Singled: May 11. Lifted: Oct 3. Variety: Klein E.

Spring wheat: Seed drilled at $2\frac{3}{4}$ bushels per acre: Mar 2, 1962. Roadpiece sprayed with MCPA/TBA at 4 pints in 40 gallons per acre: May 9. Great Hill sprayed with MCPA/MBA at 4 pints in 40 gallons per acre: May 14. Combine harvested: Aug 31. Variety: Jufy I.

Barley: Seed drilled at $2\frac{1}{4}$ bushels per acre: Feb 23, 1962. Roadpiece sprayed with MCPA/TBA at 4 pints in 40 gallons per acre: May 9. Great Hill sprayed with MCPA/MBA at 4 pints in 40 gallons per acre: May 14. Combine harvested: Aug 22. Variety: Proctor.

Previous crops:-

Roadpiece: sugar beet 1960, spring wheat 1961.

Great Hill: potatoes 1960, barley 1961, except barley 1962 which followed potatoes 1960, spring wheat 1961.

Note: The spring wheat on Great Hill was severely and irregularly infected with Fusarium.

62/C/10.2

Summary of Results

	Treatment		Mean
	None	Subsoiled	
	<u>Sugar beet. Roots (washed): tons per acre</u>		
Roadpiece	16.63	15.95	16.29
Great Hill	14.61	15.38	14.99
	<u>Sugar beet. Sugar percentage</u>		
Roadpiece	17.2	17.3	17.2
Great Hill	17.8	17.7	17.7
	<u>Sugar beet. Total sugar: cwt per acre</u>		
Roadpiece	57.4	55.1	56.2
Great Hill	51.9	54.3	53.1
	<u>Sugar beet. Tops: tons per acre</u>		
Roadpiece	17.49	17.78	17.63
Great Hill	10.37	10.49	10.43
	<u>Spring wheat. Grain (at 85% dry matter): cwt per acre</u>		
Roadpiece	15.7	19.2	17.5
Great Hill	10.2	8.8	9.5
Mean dry matter % as harvested:	Roadpiece 81.3		
	Great Hill 80.9		
	<u>Barley. Grain (at 85% dry matter): cwt per acre</u>		
Roadpiece	23.1	29.3	26.2
Great Hill	15.6	18.1	16.8
Mean dry matter % as harvested:	Roadpiece 84.3		
	Great Hill 83.8		