NOTES

A WASHING MACHINE FOR ROOT CROPS

Agronomists dealing with root crops are confronted with the problem of accurately determining and evaluating tare. \(^1\) Irregularities in root shape and root type, as well as degree of branching, vary more or less with seasonal and soil differences, so that fixed percentage deductions to allow for soil adhering to roots are not trustworthy in calculating net yields of plats, unless roots are dug under optimum conditions when adhering soil falls off readily. Roots dug from wet soil give results that are questionable, unless unusual care is taken to remove all the soil from them. The fibrous roots found in the suture side of the sugar beet make it very difficult to remove all the soil with brushes.

Thorough washing of the roots obviously dispenses with the determination of a tare value, but does present the problem of how to wash a large number of samples quickly and thoroughly. The washing machine herein described and illustrated was built by the writers for

\(^1\) In the sense here used, tare refers to a deduction that must be made from the gross yield of a plat because of the adhering soil.