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Suggestions On HOW TO TOP MORE ONIONS

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THERE are hard ways and easy ways of doing any job. Some people work extremely hard while others get the same results by using easier methods. Inexperienced people may learn by observing closely the methods used by those who work fast and easily. Experienced workers can increase their output by checking occasionally to be sure they are always using the easiest method.

The following suggestions are intended to help workers top more sacks of onions per day and do it easier. The job of harvesting onions may differ from one area to another, but labor-saving principles may be applied anywhere.



Lifting onions with a beet cultivator may be advisable if the ground is hard and the onions are difficult to pull. The onions in this picture were lifted by machine. The next step is to carefully pile them in a row with tops all in one direction. Careful piling is necessary if one expects to top rapidly and easily.



This is the hard way. The onions are poorly piled, making it necessary to fumble and paw the tops to find all onions. This worker has reached too far to get the onion and has raised it too high and away from instead of **toward** the partially filled basket.



Wrong. Time and effort are wasted by extra hand travel because the basket is too far away. The filled basket is on the wrong side of the worker, making it necessary to work cross handed.



The easier way. The onions are all carefully piled for easier and faster topping. The worker keeps close to the onions. The onions are raised **toward** the basket for topping with a knife. This worker cuts upward with knife edge toward thumb. Others prefer to cut with a downward stroke as the onion is raised toward the basket.



System does it. The basket is properly placed for fast work. The topped onion is placed in the basket by “a twist of the wrist” instead of a long reach with the back and arm. A sharp knife and a keen mind are a hard combination to beat at onion topping.



Choose the tool you can use best. Some workers find sharp sheep shears easier to use. They are able to top 15 to 20 percent more onions with shears than with knives.



The following suggestions make for easier and faster harvesting:

1. **Lift the onions with a machine if they are hard to pull.**
2. **Pile onions evenly with tops all in one direction.**
3. **Keep close to onions—to save back and arms.**
4. **Always move onions TOWARD the basket.**
5. **Keep tools sharp—carry a whetstone.**
6. **Keep basket close to work and dispose of onions by a “twist of the wrist.”**
7. **Check frequently to see if you are always using the easiest method.**
8. **Try to develop easier methods of topping onions.**
9. **List below your suggestions.**