

on the Ground all Winter) to get thoroughly dry, previous to the
chopping, or a great loss will take place. for if it be wet the Coat on
the butt end of the Stalk for seven or eight Inches (being the heaviest
part in proportion to its length) will go to waste in the Operation of
the Brake. it should first be broken in a very coarse brake, the
Floats or teeth of which should be three inches & an half or four
inches asunder, then in a common flax brake - The riving is
performed much in the same manner as flax only applying a more
driving (but not harder) stroke continuing the knife down nearly to
the end of the hemp, striking it as much as possible with the Knife
- A Man will chop about Thirty or Forty pounds a Day, according
to the Wet it gets & its dryness, & the dryness of the weather at the
time of chopping this is very essential - I have been informed
that Mr. Elisha Price of Sudbury has broke & rived ninety five
pounds of hemp in one day - The common produce of hemp on an
Acre varies from nine to twelve hundred weight - I would
recommend to the common Farmer to raise half an Acre or an
Acre of hemp at first for a Trial & not venture too largely at
once -

Recd. 24/1/187

To the Committee of Agriculture ⁶⁻¹² 24 March 87
Boston.

Directions for Raising of Hemp.

The Soil should be a warm, light Loam, composed of a fine
mould & a little Sand, manured in much the same proportion as
for Indian Corn, some compost Manure is to be preferred, which has not
any foul Seed among it, (Weeds are very prejudicial to a crop of
Hemp) better if the Manure is apply'd & plough'd in just before the
Winter. - The Land should have three ploughings at least in the
Spring, & made very fine, The Seed should be sowed on a well
harrowed Surface early in May, if the Season is dry & favourable
but if not the sowing may be deferr'd a Week or Fortnight in that
case another ploughing will be necessary, observing always, that
the Seed should be sowed soon after the last ploughing is performed
before the Land settles and becomes stiff & heavy, then harrow'd in ^{the} with
a fine Iron-tooth Harrow -

The quantity of Seed (if New) may vary
from two bushels & a quarter to three bushels per Acre, If through
necessity, old seed is to be sowed the quantity must be greater, & it
should be deposited in a Cellar two, three or four Weeks previous
to sowing. The time ought to be something in proportion to the
Age of the Seed, the older it is the longer it should lay in the
Cellar, not exceeding three or four Weeks (but old Seed seldom