

AGRICULTURAL.

From the American Silk Grower.

EXPERIMENT WITH POTATOES.

About the 29th of May, 1836, when planting potatoes, I left five rows for experiment, on each side of which I planted the row with one good fair-sized whole potato to each hill, I then planted the five rows in the following manner:—The 1st row with three to four small ones laid scattering to each hill, making about the same amount of seed, by weight, as the wholes. I then took the seed-ends, taking as near half the potato as I could judge, from a good-sized potato, like those generally planted in the field; and to each hill laid two of these pieces six or eight inches apart; next I selected some quite large, and took enough of the seed-end to be of equal weight, each of one good fair-sized potato, and to each hill put one of these seed-ends; the 4th row I cut into quarters and planted scattering about eight inches apart, all four of the quarters in each hill; the 5th row was planted with two good fair-sized wholes to each hill, (double the seed of the rest,) then next to them, as you will understand, came my wholes, planted one to the hill, as I before stated.

Now for the result. To make the story plain. I took as much ground of each sort as produced 100 pounds from those planted with wholes of good fair size.

1st row, planted with small ones, 86 lbs, but only about two thirds as large as an average of the others.

2d row, planted with two seed ends to the hill, 87 lbs., and the size about like the produce of the wholes.

3d row, planted with one seed end of a large potato, to the hill, ninety-two and a half pounds, the produce of these being fair and handsome.

4th row, planted with four quarters to the hill ninety pounds, of a quality rather below medium.

5th row, planted with two good potatoes to the hill 105 pounds, having rather more small ones than those planted with single wholes, and although they produced the greatest crop by 5 per cent, yet it is estimated, this surplus was only about half enough to compensate for the extra amount of seed planted; therefore, on the whole, we find the greatest profit in planting one good-sized, fair, whole potato to each hill, provided the distance of hills be such as I usually make, that is, nearly 4 feet by 2 1-2. But if you are intent on making the hills further apart, then perhaps it may do to put two good ones to the hill, but in no ordinary case do I approve of cutting. Repeated experiments in former years have fully convinced me on this point; even cutting into halves and planting both pieces, is not quite as good as to plant whole, for by cutting we mutilate the germs of the coming plant with which nature has furnished each potato, and being thus lacerated it is rendered incapable of throwing up so vigorous and perfect a point, and hence deterioration must be the consequence.

N. WILD.

[From the New England Farmer.]

FARMERS' WORK.

It is an injury to pastures to turn in cattle too early in the spring; and most hurtful to those lots in which the grass springs earliest, as in those which are low and wet, in which the grass comes forward soonest. The feet of the cattle early in spring destroy the young grass and cut up the sward in such a manner as to produce a great amount of injury, without any benefit to the cattle; as the little food they can obtain from the grass just sprouting, serves scarcely any other purpose than to cause them to scour. The grass in pas-

tures should be so far grown before cattle are admitted, that they can fill themselves without rambling over the whole ground. The 20th of May is quite early enough in common seasons to turn cattle into almost any of our New England pastures. Out of some, they should be kept still later. The driest pastures should be used first, though in them the grass is shortest, that the breaking of the sward by the cattle's feet may not take place to any great extent.

It is recommended not to turn all sorts of cattle into pastures at once. Milch cows, working oxen and fattening beasts should be indulged with the first feeding of a pasture; afterwards sheep and horses may take their turn. When a lot is thus fed off, it should be shut up, and the dung which has been dropped should be beaten to pieces, and well scattered. Afterwards, a second lot may be opened and treated in the same manner, and so on in rotation from one enclosure to another, giving each inclosure some time to recruit; taking care as far as possible, to feed the driest pastures first, so that the sward may be the less injured by the treading of the cattle.

Something considerable is saved by letting different sorts of grazing animals take their turn in a pasture.—By this means, nearly all herbage will be eaten; much of which would otherwise be lost. Horses will eat the leavings of horned cattle; and sheep will eat some things which both the others leave.

If swine are turned into a pasture, they should have rings on their noses, unless it is an object to employ those animals in rooting out brakens and other weeds which they consume for food. If they are allowed the first of the feed, they will defile the grass, so that the horses and cattle will reject it.

Let the stock of a farmer be greater or less, he should have at least four inclosures of pasture land.—One inclosure may be fed two weeks, and then shut up to grow, and then another. Each one will recruit well in six weeks, and each will have that time to recruit.—But in the latter part of October, the cattle may range through all the lots, unless some one may become too wet and soft. In this case it ought to be shut up, and kept till feeding time the next year.

So different is the appetite of different animals, that there is scarcely any plant which is not eaten by some, and rejected by others. The following are said to be facts, which have been ascertained in Holland.—When eight cows have been in a pasture, and can no longer obtain nourishment, two horses will do very well there for some days, and when nothing is left for the horses, four sheep will live upon it; this not only proceeds from their differing in the choice of plants, but from the formation of their mouths which are not equally adapted to lay hold of the grass.

Although small pastures are recommended for pasturing neat cattle and horses, yet Mr Loudon observes that "large inclosures are in general best adapted for sheep. These animals are not only impatient of heat, and liable to be much injured by flies, in small pastures often surrounded by trees and high hedges, but they are naturally, with the exception, perhaps, of the Leicester variety, much more restless and easily disturbed, than any other species of live stock. 'Sheep,' says Lord Kaimos, 'love a wider range, and ought to have it, because they delight in short grass; give them eighty or ninety acres, and any fence will keep them in; confine them to a field of seven or eight acres, and it must be a very strong fence that keeps them in.' Though fields so large as 80 or 90 acres, can be available only in hilly districts, yet the general rule is nevertheless consistent with experience."

From the Baltimore Farmer.

CULTURE OF RUTA BAGA.

Mr James M. Lawton, in a communication in the Cultivator, gives the following rules for the preparation of the soil, and the cultivation of the Ruta Baga. The conclusions at which he arrives, are the result of many years experience and close observation.

1. The land he says, properly adapted to the nature of the plant, is a strong loam.

2. The land should be ploughed early in the spring in order that the sward, if it have one, may rot by the 10th of June.

3. The land should be made perfectly mellow and smooth, and a good coat of manure that is fine, say sheep or barn manure, should be put on.

4. Throw the land into ridges 24 inches apart, with a small horse plough.

5. Roll down the ridges by a light roller, or other instrument; make a light furrow, say an inch deep, drill in the seed on or about the 15th June: the seed should be 10 inches apart in the drill, and when the plants come up all but one plant should be pulled up.

6. Dress the plants three times in a season, that is, keep the weeds out and the earth stirred about the plants; as they are first breaking the ground, they must be powdered with plaster of Paris,—and twice afterwards also—when they receive the two last hoeings.

Mr Lawton further adds, that he has found the above rules, when closely followed, never to fail in producing a good crop; this last year he raised from 90 rods, that is from half an acre and ten perches of land, 605 bushels of sound, close grained ruta baga turnips, on land a distance from the house and barn, on which, never to his knowledge, a spoonful of manure had been placed until within a few days of the time he put the seed in the ground. This product was equal to 1075 5-9 bushels per acre. The success of Mr Lawton should surely serve to stimulate every farmer and planter to appropriate at least an acre or two to the culture of this excellent and hardy root. Unlike the other members of the turnip family, it will preserve through the hardest winter in the field, if the precaution be taken to throw a furrow up against the rows, just as the hard frosts set in, and may be drawn thence for use, as occasion may suit. They are also more firm in meat, and more nutritious than any other turnip. Horses and cows that feed upon them do not scour as when kept on the other varieties.

From the Novascotian.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Brig Addington, which arrived on Sunday from Liverpool, brought English files to 11th April. American Papers to the 23d inst. have likewise been received—their English dates are also to the 11th. In the United States the Money Market has not yet recovered its tone—the accounts are deplorable in the extreme. Government had ordered an exaction of specie payments at all the public departments, a measure which had added to the embarrassment of trade. In England and France the American failure had begun to act with tremendous energy. The following Memorial of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, drawn up in conjunction with similar movements, on the part of the Merchants, Brokers and other Inhabitants, of Liverpool speaks a language that cannot be misunderstood:

"To the Right Hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer:—

"The Memorial of the undersigned Merchants, Brokers, and other Inhabitants, connected with the trade of Liverpool,

"Respectfully sheweth—That the distress