

to buckwheat, or any other vegetable with such rapid growth. I sowed five acres on the 11th of July last, on rather inferior land, of a light gravelly soil, with chalk subsoil, where early turnips for wheat had failed. It should be drilled five inches apart, with twelve pounds of seed per acre. On the 25th of August I had measured portions cut in different parts of the field, and weighed, which on a fair calculation yielded six tons per acre—it was in full bloom—and the next day I ploughed it in; which I consider, being full of vegetable matter, must be an excellent dressing for a wheat crop. I would invite any friend to make trial of mustard on better land than mine; the expence being so trifling, compared with buckwheat, which is 5s. per bushel, and requiring 2½ bushels per acre, would be 12s. 6d., whereas 12lbs. of mustard seed, at 2d. per pound, the price it is now selling at, would be 2s. per acre.

**CULTIVATION OF FLOWERS.**—There are a class of men who would pare down every thing to the mere grade of utility,—who think it the height of wisdom to ask, when one manifests an enthusiasm in the culture of flowers, “of what use are they?” With such we have no sympathy, and are always inclined, in such cases, to thank God that our tastes do not correspond with theirs. Better—(say these ultra utilitarians)—better devote our time to the culture of things useful, and needed to sustain life, than to employ it on things which, like flowers, are intended only to look at and please the eye. But why should not the eye be pleased? What pleasures more pure, more warming to the heart, more improving to the mind, more chastening to the affections than those which come through the eye? Where shall we read more luminously displayed the perfections of the Creator, than in the star-spangled heavens above and the flower-spangled earth beneath?—

“Each cup a pulpit, and each leaf a book”.

Nonsense—sheer nonsense—to tell us it is useless to cultivate flowers. They add to the charms of our homes. Rendering them more attractive and beautiful, we multiply and strengthen the domestic ties which bind us to them. We would not advocate the cultivation of flowers to the neglect of more necessary objects; attention to the one does not involve neglect of the other. Every man engaged in the culture of the earth can find time to embellish his premises, who has the will to do it, and we pity those who have not. Rob earth of its flowers—the wondrous mechanism of the Almighty—and we should lose the choicest mementos left to remind us that it was once a paradise.

### SPRING WHEAT.

There is a very large part of this country not suitable to the production of winter wheat, or where it at best is but an uncertain crop, in which spring wheat is a very certain, and in most cases a productive one. This arises in a great degree from the severity of our winters, the frosts of which alternating with the thaws of spring, lift the fall sown wheat from the ground, and cause the death of the plant. This is particularly the case, where from the abundance of clay in the soil, it is disposed to be retentive of moisture as well as heavy in working. There can be little doubt that in all parts of the country favorable to winter wheat, it will continue to be grown in preference to spring wheat; it is more productive, and makes a finer flour, two causes sufficient to insure a preference; but spring wheat makes excellent bread, and be-

sides the plant escapes the hazards of our winter which is enough to insure an extensive culture.

Spring wheat requires a soil rich and in good condition, not so much from the recent application of manures, as from a series of good treatment. Like all the other grain crops, if recent or fresh manure is applied liberally to the soil as a preparative for the crop, it is most likely to prove injurious, giving a greater growth to the straw than to the ear, and rendering it so weak as almost to insure an attack of the rust, or its lodging in the field. It is a good plan to apply manures to a crop of corn or roots, and let spring wheat follow these. Thoroughly rotted manures, or compost, may be applied directly to the wheat crop.

Spring wheat should be sown early. We have hardly ever known a good or even an ordinary crop produced, where this was neglected. Early sowing favors early maturity, and thus avoids the danger of mildew or rust, to which this grain, if sown late, is very liable. It also enables the plant to throw up its ears, and prepare the juices necessary for the perfection of the berry, before the extreme heats of summer deprive the plants of the moisture necessary for this purpose.

It is from this necessity of having the soil early prepared for spring wheat, that it becomes desirable, very frequently, to have the fields on which it is to be sown plowed in the fall. If the soil is freed from surface water, (and no soil on which water stands is fit for a crop,) fall plowed lands are seen in the early spring, to present a surface finely pulverised by the action of frost, and fit for the reception of seed much earlier than they could otherwise be. We have seen beautiful crops of spring wheat grown after corn or potatoes that had been well manured, and after the crops were gathered late in the fall, well and deeply plowed for the spring crop.

It is as necessary to secure good seed for spring as for winter or fall sowing, and the preparation of it by brining and liming, should never in any instance be omitted.

**SALERATUS A SUBSTITUTE FOR SALTPETRE IN CURING MEAT.**—Saltpetre has long been considered by physicians as a bad article to be used in curing meat, being extremely injurious to digestion. It is of so cold a nature that only a small quantity is sufficient to destroy life. In the article of saleratus we have an excellent, convenient, and harmless substitute, and should be used in the same manner as saltpetre has been. Meat has a stronger affinity for saltpetre than for common salt. Saleratus has the same power in that respect, and thereby prevents the meat from becoming too salt; and the same quantity should be used as of saltpetre. There is this difference in them, that saltpetre dissolves readily in cold water, whereas saleratus does not; it should be pounded and dissolved before it is put into the brine. Saleratus is composed of sulphate of potash and pearlash, and if any person is disposed to procure the sulphate of potash at the shops, and use it instead of saleratus, they will find its effects substantially the same.

**TO KEEP POTATOES FROM SPROUTING.**—Fill a basket with potatoes, dip them into a large cauldron of boiling water for the space of two minutes—take them out—spread and dry them in the sun—then pack them away in barrels or hogsheds, and cover them over with sand. They will remain in excellent preservation for a long time. This method is particularly recommended to masters of vessels and others preparing for sea.