



AGRICULTURAL.

APPLYING LAND PLASTER.

Seeing an enquiry from E. E. Morse, when to sow land plaster on corn, wheat and clover, I will give my experience and observation for his and others' benefit. I presume he wishes to get the main benefit on this season's crop, and will briefly summarize:—

Corn.—Soak the seed 12 hours and roll in plaster; or plant dry and drop a tablespoonful in each hill. Then sow broadcast 100 pounds per acre when the corn is about three to four inches high.

Wheat.—Make brine as strong as you can, and sprinkle the wheat and stir till all is wet; then put on what plaster there is needed to dry it, say 75 pounds per bushel, and thoroughly mix. Or sow the plaster separately when wheat is sown, and work in together.

Clover.—Sow as soon as ground will admit of travelling on. If clover seed is sown with grain, and plaster is sown as above directed for wheat, no more will be needed till second or third year.

The above method of using plaster is based on the proposition that, with our short seasons and dry summers, it is of prime importance to give the young plant a vigorous start. Also, that the plaster is of no use to any plant except it is mixed with the soil. I know that this last proposition does not accord with the general notion existing among the non-observing class, but I think I can maintain my position both on scientific principles and practice. Many defer sowing till clover is four to six inches high, thinking the plaster must be in contact with the foliage to get the greatest benefit. I have sown it in the fall with the very best results, giving a very early crop. This is very important for pastures.

AGRICULTURAL.

I beg most respectfully to submit to my brother farmers a subject for their consideration, which I consider highly important, involving as it does the best interests of the entire agricultural community of this Province.

The subject of asking further aid from our Government and Legislature for the benefit and encouragement of a special branch of farm husbandry, namely, the purchasing for the use of the respective County and Riding Agricultural Societies through the Province, the best and most approved farm stock, has been frequently discussed by the members of the Agricultural Board of this County. In accordance with the instructions of that Board, I opened a correspondence with our representative in the Legislature, Dr. Clarke, setting forth briefly our views and wishes in this matter, as follows:—

That in our opinion it would give a new and most beneficial impetus to the general improvement of farm stock, if the Government and the Legislature of Ontario would, in their discretion, supplement the Legislative Grant of County and Riding Agricultural Societies, for the sole and only purpose of introducing into the respective counties and ridings the most valuable farm animals.

The reasons urged by us were—that farmers and breeders differ in opinion in regard to the merits of the different breeds of animals; that the different breeds of domestic animals are not equally well adapted to all localities; that it would be infinitely to the advantage of farmers if they had a sum granted for that special purpose at their own disposal.

It was also suggested that the stock purchased by the several County and Riding Agricultural Societies of Ontario should be sold to the members of these societies under restrictions the most beneficial to themselves, and that all moneys arriving from such sales should be added to the Annual Legislative Grant, which system, if judiciously pursued, would, in a few years, create quite a large fund.

I am most happy to inform my brother farmers that the foregoing reasons and suggestions embodied in my letter were forwarded by our esteemed representative, Dr. Clarke, to the Hon. the Commissioner of Agriculture, and were most favorably entertained, giving us the assurance that when the contemplated revision of the Act for the encouragement of Agriculture, &c., comes before the Legislature, that the appeal introduced by us will not be forgotten.

My object in bringing this matter before the public in this way, is to secure the cooperation of all concerned. I shall be greatly obliged to County or Riding Agricultural Societies, or to individuals, if they will give public expression to their views and opinions on this subject, as well as to suggest any amendment to the existing Agricultural Act, which they may deem advisable. It will be well to have this subject thoroughly ventilated, and a concerted scheme of action decided upon and fully matured before the next meeting of the Ontario Legislature.

I have no doubt that the scheme thus initiated will be carried to a successful issue, aided by the advice and instructions of those most interested.

D. W. FREEMAN.

Sec'y N. R. Co. of Norfolk A. S.
Simcoe, Ont., March 26, 1873.

[Would it not be well to allow Agricultural Societies the privilege of expending the money, that is, if granted, for seeds, as well as stock, or for agricultural information?—*ED. FARMER'S ADVOCATE.*]

POTATOES.

The Early Rose.—I speak of this potato because with all its justly accredited popularity, it is not, except by a very few, appreciated at its true value; for only a few know really what is needful to the highest success in growing it. This sort has this one peculiarity that distinguishes it from the old kinds, though it measurably characterizes its congenital varieties, so far as I know, such as all the varieties sent out by Mr. Breese, it makes its almost entire growth—the tubers—in about ten days. If during this ten days the conditions are favorable, if the plants have had previous good culture, have been hilled, and if during that time there should be drouth, they have constant culture so that that will not injure them, a full crop of most excellent tubers can be counted on. If, however, during this critical time the plants are overrun with weeds, and, in addition, perhaps they suffer from the dry weather, a poor crop and of indifferent quality is the result; and the grower says: "Well, I don't think much of the Early Rose after all; it don't do well for me." And so one of the real merits of the plant, through the negligence of the farmer, precipitates the failure.

The Peerless.—This, coming as it did from the same stock, has justly in common with the Early Rose, in spite of its later ripening, and in this variety it is very noticeable that after the plants have reached a certain stage, the tubers are made in a comparatively short time, short as contrasted with the Peach Blow, which grows about all the season.—Consequently it will be apparent that something of the same attention must be given to it, in relation to a special time of growth, as to the Early Rose.

And I will venture to say that whoever has tried this variety on suitable land and it has not given the best of satisfaction, the cause is to be looked for in the fact that during the time of not over ten days' duration, when the largest part of the growth of the tubers was made, the plants were suffered to be choked with weeds, or the ground for the lack of thorough culture was dried up, or the bugs had possession, that in some way the healthy functions of the plant were obstructed.

I have grown this potato for three seasons. The first season I planted but a few pounds. They did so well that I planted what seed I had, often thoroughly testing them on the table. These I planted round a seven acre field of corn. The hogs got in before they were ripe and took about half of the crop. I had at digging time between fifteen and twenty bushels—the quality altogether unexceptionable. I had that season a dozen sorts on trial, or more, and this was conceded to be the best.

Last year I raised about an acre. While the quality is not equal to what it was the year before, owing to the peculiarity of the season, long continued drouth and wet after it, this potato is so much better than the Peach Blow grown under the same circumstances, as to really entitle it to be called at least good; and while it cannot be claimed for it that it will grow as well under a system of utter neglect as some others, the time is so much shorter that must be given to its cultivation, that the balance is in its favor even on the score of labor.

I would not, however, as I said above, advise any man to plant it unless he can give it clear hill culture, or good land, not too rich—in other words, do his simple duty by a plant that is altogether worthy of it.

The Campbell's Late Rose.—As it may be of interest to some to know how I was enabled to grow so much as sixty bushels from one peck of seed, I will give my manner of procedure. In the first place I did not send for my potatoes as early as I should have done, consequently when they came they had sprouted to that extent that I lost a good many eyes, a handful at least. I carefully cut to single eyes and planted one eye in a hill, the hills three by three feet, on good land well prepared and dressed with manure and ashes. When the plants had reached the height of about six inches, where there were two or more, I dug down and took off all but one. These I planted out on ground prepared for the purpose.

This process, while it served to multiply the stock and to increase the yield, tended to retard the growth and consequently delayed the ripening, especially for the reset plants.

The drouth came on before the young plants had fairly got a good hold, as did also the bugs; and for some time I despaired of getting any crop at all. But after the rains came and I had had a most tremendous battle with the insect hosts of the Rocky Mountains, I took heart and gave the plants such care as the circumstances would permit.

I planted as above, three by three feet, and the one stalk to a hill had so grown before September came that the ground was as fully and entirely covered and matted with the vines as ever was seen in a field of Peach Blows, planted in the usual way.

With a usually favorable season and a peck of such seed as I now have, so I would lose none by loss of sprouts, and beginning early so as to make a hill of every shoot that the eyes from the peck of seed would make, I would run no risk in laying a wager, to raise one hundred bushels from the same seed from which I raised this sixty.

As to the quality, all of the crop did not, of course, fully ripen; but I have eaten today of this variety and so good a potato in all respects, flavor, fineness of texture and dryness, I have not eaten, or anything approaching it, except in the Peerless of the last season's harvest.

That it will fully equal for a late potato what the Early Rose is for an early in its best estate, I fully believe.

I will only say in closing that while I raised last year a dozen varieties of potatoes, and some that I shall continue to grow at least for a further trial, those mentioned are the three that, from present indications, I feel most safe to recommend.—*B. H. in Michigan Farmer.*

REPRODUCTIVENESS OF PLANTS.

Professor Beckman gives the following table, calculating the reproductive powers of some of our common weeds, which well enough illustrates a proverb, alas! too true:—"One year's seeding, seven year's weeding."

Seed Samples.	In a single plant.	Remarks.
Black mustard	8000	Common about farms.
Charlock	4000	
Shepherd's purse	4500	An agrarian weed.
Fool's parsley	6000	Everywhere too frequent.
Dens de lion	2040	
Stinking Chamomill	40650	About manure heaps, from thence it gets to turnip fields.
Maryweed	45000	An agrarian, mostly with garden culture.
Sow thistle	19000	
Groundsell	6500	In vetches, corn, &c.
Corncockle	2040	
Common dock	13000	In fields, meadows and by road sides.
Red poppy	50000	On sandy soils.

The facts just insisted upon apply with still greater force to seeds of our agricultural Papilionaceae, as these are so much smaller. The table I now append is the result of a careful examination of several packets of clover seeds from different seedsmen; it shows the number of weeds found in them:

Alsike clover, 7,700; cow-grass clover, 18,400; broad clover, 56,720; white Dutch clover, 96,900.

THOROUGHLY CULTIVATED FARMS MOST PROFITABLE.

Much has been written and said concerning which are the more profitable, large farms or small ones. One of the peculiar traits of the American character is that insatiable thirst, or hankering for more land, with little regard to its profit as an investment, and often without any hope for its decent cultivation.

What results from this too common course? Just what we might expect. The farmers and their families live in discomfort, have poor farms, and wear out their lives to little purpose. Here is a man with 100 acres of land, all he can well manage with his means. Adjoining him is another tract of 100 acres which he is desirous of adding to his domain. He adds it, and by that means runs in debt for one-half or three-fourths its cost, thus using up all, and more than all his working capital. This capital has enabled him to cultivate his 100 acres at a profit, giving him an income above all expenses, aside from value of land, of six or eight per cent. on that value. Adding the extra 100 acres just doubles the investment in land, and should also double the profits. But is this the case? In all our experience and observation it is not. The per cent. of profit is very much decreased, only a small sum being added to the income from the original farm. Say the farm is what may be termed a wheat farm. On the original farm were grown 800 bushels, and on the 200-acre farm there are grown only 1,000 or its equivalent, instead of being 1,600, as there ought to be.

A poor system and corresponding culture not only bears heavily upon those who practice it, but its influence is wide-spread, penetrating to every branch of industry. Cripple the agriculture of the country, and manufactures, trade, commerce and all business is affected or stagnates. High or thorough culture and management of the soil and special branches of Agriculture tend directly and strongly to advance the value of land in any special locality, benefiting not only the farmers, but all classes of society. Labor creates wealth, and nearly all labor is connected with the soil and its products. The too often failure of the cultivator of the soil observed in travelling through our country, arises from trying to farm too much land. More profit would be realized by judiciously employing the capital in a smaller number of acres.—Large farms of themselves are not objectionable, especially if they are thoroughly cultivated. But when only one-half or two-thirds of a full crop, the capital is poorly invested and much of it lying idle.

A farmer, on commencing operations, should sit down and count the cost, whether his capital is sufficient for his undertaking.—He should consider the requirements to success, such as drainage, culture of varied crops, proper selection of farm stock, providing suitable shelter and accommodation for the stock, husbanding and judicious application of manure, selection of best qualities and varieties of seed, and the most suitable time and season for planting, etc., and also the adoption of the most suitable tools, etc., for securing the culture and harvesting of his crops. If there be a deficiency in capital or agricultural knowledge, it would be far better to only attempt to cultivate so much as will best serve to educate, and conduce to skill in the cultivator. The old saying, "a little farm well tilled, a little till well filled," was never truer than at the present day. Thorough culture is the only culture that pays.—*W. H. W. in Western Rural.*

GEOGRAPHY OF THE FARM.

The *Rural Sun* in impressing upon its readers' minds the necessity of system in farming, as in everything else, urges the careful mapping out of the farm, with all its natural features and its artificial divisions, and adds:—

Nothing will so much conduce to the adoption of a system of working the farm as a prepared map, hung where the farmer can see it every day. It will be sure to set him thinking and planning how best to pitch his crops and how best to work to save work.—And once the farmer adopts a system of farming he starts on the road to success. It matters not that the system is not the best that could be devised, so long as it is a system it is infinitely to be preferred to the haphazard practice of many farmers. We, therefore, advise every reader who owns a farm to make at once, or have made, a map of it and hang it up where he can see it every day. And having made it, study it.

Report of

Winters

The following report of the Agricultural Board of Ontario, April:—

A considerable belt of the province with snow visible from winter to the middle of the year.

In the upper portion of the province, the conceded sylvan character of the country, and the area of the province, Michigan border in growth, wherever it, and O than last.

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