

SMUT IN WHEAT.

The greatest care should be exercised with regard to the kind, quality, and preparation of seed wheat. There are many varieties; but winter wheat, in the United States, is generally distinguished by only two appellations, red and white wheat, of which the latter is held in highest estimation.

In preparing your seed wheat, the first thing to be attended to is, to clear it perfectly from every injurious foreign substance. "One error may mar our whole system, and render our skill productive of as much evil as good. On poor and worn-out land, the evil of sowing a mixture of impure seed with grain or grass seed would be great; but where the ground is in high order the crop is more injured; the noxious plants take firmer hold, and are more difficult to be eradicated." Indeed, it would be better for a farmer to pick over his seed wheat by single handfuls, and make a riddle of his fingers, than to sow cockle, darnel, tares, wild turnip seeds, and other vegetable nuisances, which are as intrusive as unwelcome, as tenacious of life as they are unworthy of existence. The first preparation therefore should be to screen, winnow, and riddle the grain till perfectly freed from these, and other improper ingredients. When this is thoroughly accomplished, washing and steeping, for the smut, should meet attention. The first step in the process to be instituted against smut, as recommended by Sir John Sinclair, is "to run the grain very gently through a riddle, when not only the smut balls, but the imperfect grains, and the seeds of weeds, will float, and may be skimmed off at pleasure." The same author enumerates, as modes by which smut may be prevented,—1. The use of pure cold water and lime. 2. Boiling water and lime. 3. Water impregnated with salt. 4. Brine-pickle. 5. Lye of wood ashes. 6. A solution of arsenic. 7. A solution of blue vitriol. It seems that almost any acrid corrosive, or poisonous application will secure a clean crop, if properly used for that purpose.

Mr. Arthur Young sowed fourteen beds with the same wheat seed, which was black with smut. The first bed was sown with this wheat without washing, and had three hundred and seventy-seven smutty kernels. A bed sowed with seed washed in clean water produced three hundred and twenty-five smutty kernels; washed in lime-water, forty-three do.; washed in lye of wood ashes, thirty-one do.; washed in arsenic and salt mixture, twenty-eight do.; steeped in lime-water four hours, two do.; steeped in lye four hours, three do.; steeped in arsenic four hours, one do. Again, that which was steeped in lye, as before mentioned, twelve hours, had none; and that which was steeped twenty-four hours in lime-water had none; that steeped in arsenic twenty-four hours had five.

A correspondent of "The New England Farmer," (who is, we believe, a practical and scientific agriculturist, and whose statements are worthy of implicit confidence), with the signature *Berkshire*, in giving directions for preparing seed wheat, observes: "The only successful course is to prepare the seed about ten days before sowing-time. This is done by selecting clean and plump seed, putting it through water in a tub, about half a bushel at a time, and washing it and skimming off the matter that floats, then empty it into a basket to drain, then lay it on a clean floor and take in two quarts of slacked lime and one quart of plaster to the wheel, and if too dry sprinkle on water, and continue to stir it till all is covered with the lime and plaster. In this way you may proceed until you have prepared your whole seed. Let it remain in a heap one day, then spread it and move it daily, until become perfectly dry; it is then fit to sow, and you may sow if the land should happen to be quite wet."—*The Complete Farmer*.

MAPLE SUGAR.—A correspondent of the *New England Farmer*, writes that a little Indian meal thrown into the sap, is of a great advantage in clarifying it and producing a white sugar. As this is the season of sugar-making, it would be well to try the experiment. The receipt is as follows:—To the sap required for 40 or 50 lbs. of sugar, add about a pint of corn meal, to be put in while the sap and boiled together. For some time the process was a secret, having been accidentally discovered by a farmer, whose sugar in consequence always commanded a higher price and readier sale than that of his neighbors, and who, for a long time would not let the method he used be known.

POTATO PLANTING.—"In my memorandum book I find these entries,—29th March, planted fifty lbs. weight of the tops of potatoes, which had been preserved, while preparing the bulbs for cooking for the use of the household; by merely cutting off a thin slice and throwing it by in a basket, during the winter, which was placed out of the reach of the frost. 24th September, dug up the potatoes which were raised from the cuttings from the tops of the roots while preparing them for the house; they are uniformly large and fine, particularly clean from scabs (as the land was spread with lime as soon as the crop was planted) and, without exception, the best crop I ever grew: the quantity planted was just 50 lbs. and from them I have this day taken up one ton.

"A correspondent has requested us to insert the following. The first year, he says, I cut the potatoes in three pieces, the top, the middle, and the bottom parts, and planted them in three rows.—The top plant was ten days earlier than the middle plant, and a much greater crop; the middle plant was earlier than the bottom, and a better crop, the bottom producing but a very indifferent crop.

For some seasons past, I have only planted the top eyes, and I may safely say I have the best crop and the dryest potatoes in the country. None need be deterred from this plan on the ground of waste, for after the top is cut off the remainder keeps better and longer fit for use than if the potato were preserved entire; and as a proof of this, lay a whole potato on the ground, or in an exposed place, and it will show that the top plants grow and are many inches in length, before there is any growth from the bottom.—*American Farmer*.

INCOMBUSTIBLE WASH.—Slack stone lime in a large tub or barrel with boiling water, covering the tub or barrel to keep in all steam. When thus slacked pass six quarts of it through a fine sieve.—It will then be in a state of fine flour. Now to six quarts of this lime, add one quart of rock or Turk's Island salt, and one gallon of water, then boil the mixture and skim it clean. To every five gallons of this skimmed mixture, add one pound of allum, half pound of copperas, by slow degrees add three fourths of a pound of potash, and four quarts of fine sand or hickory ashes sifted. We suppose any kind of good hard wood ashes will answer as well as hickory. This mixture will now admit of any coloring matter you please, and may be applied with a brush. It looks better than paint, and is as durable as slate. It will stop small leaks in the roof, prevent the moss from growing over and rotting the wood, and render it incombustible from sparks falling upon it. When laid upon brick work it renders the brick impervious to rain or wet.

EDUCATION.

Letter from a Lady to a Young Friend.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—A distinguished writer of our own sex, in a work addressed to young girls from ten to fourteen years of age, gives the following definition: "Whatever trains your mental powers, your affections, manners, and habits is *Education*." "Your education is not limited to any period of your life, but is going on as long as you live." To these ideas I most heartily subscribe. I do not then consider a school as a place for intellectual culture merely, but I believe the faithful teacher must watch over the manners, the morals, the religious welfare of those committed to her care. The constant effort must be to teach each pupil, not a mere collection of facts, but how to use her mind, how to train herself. Never must she forget that "the fear of the Lord, is wisdom," and that unsanctified talent is more frequently a curse than a blessing.

The motives for exertion presented to the pupil must be those only which can be justified by the word of God. Unhallowed ambition must be repressed. The comparison of one's progress with that of another should rarely be used as an incitement to duty, but each should feel satisfied, where and *when only*, she feels that she merits the commendation, "she hath done what she could." Perfection should be the goal towards which each should press.

The pupil should be taught also to govern herself. She should be clearly shown that trials must be met and overcome, and that by each contest, moral strength is acquired.