

# THE COLONIAL FARMER,

DEVOTED TO THE AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS OF NOVA-SCOTIA, NEW-BRUNSWICK,  
AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

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### GRASS LAND MAKES A GOOD SOIL FOR A GARDEN.

The best soil for a garden is sand, the worst, clay. Slate gravel nearly as warm a soil as sand, but is greatly affected by drought. It will, by long cultivation and manuring, finally become clayey, the slate being decomposed by the manure. A soil that is too stiff and clayey will be greatly helped by limestone gravel or broken oyster shells. Sand will have little effect upon clay except very great quantities are used, but a very little clay will improve a soil that is too sandy. Land that was lately in grass always gives the best crops of vegetables, as the turf that is partly decayed keeps the soil loose and enables it to resist the effects, both of too much and too little rain. The insects also which injure the crops in an old garden, will be much diminished by laying down the land to grass. If a piece of ground so situated that it could be conveniently ploughed, were divided into two equal parts, one of which could be sowed with clover and grass-seed, and the other occupied with garden vegetables, the grass might, after mowing it for three years, be ploughed, and a crop of potatoes raised in its place, and the following season, this might be the garden, and the old garden might in its turn be sowed with grass. That part of a garden occupied with fruit trees and bushes, flower roots, &c., as it cannot conveniently be improved by sowing it with grass, should occasionally be manured with a compost made by mixing a little stable manure with a large quantity of sods from an old pasture, or the sides of roads. Where it is cheap, unslacked lime may be substituted for dung in forming the compost heap.

While there is a considerable quantity of grass roots partly decayed in the soil it will not become close and hard, but remain in a mellow state, and while it allows a free passage to superfluous water, it also allows roots to strike deep, and is capable of resisting the effects of drought for a long time. It is partly for this reason that Mr. Buckmaster's method of renewing grass land by mowing, rolling, and harrowing, and sowing grass seed as the hay is taken off, has proved so successful.

Hard, dry, gravelly soil, generally, should not be mowed more than three years, before it is ploughed again, for it can rarely be expected to bear a good crop in dry seasons after all the decaying turf is exhausted; but some moist soils appear to succeed very well for a long time by top dressing the grass frequently. Visible insects, which are called blights, affect our crops most when in an

unhealthy state, and one frequent cause of their being in such a state is the hardness of the soil about the roots, which often causes plants to suffer, when those that are in mellow ground are thriving, having received no injury from the heavy rain or drought which had checked the growth of those on the hard compact soil.

### SOWING GRASS SEED.

Grass seed is generally covered too deep. If sowed with grain and harrowed in, the greater part is lost. A light harrow which has the teeth driven fully up to the head, will cover it tolerably by drawing it over the ground with the teeth uppermost. Should the ground contain many clods, go over it before sowing the grass seed, with the harrow, (teeth uppermost,) which will smooth the surface; then sow and go over it again. Should the ground adjoin grassland, sow clover pretty thick for the breadth of a rod from the grass, for it may be expected that the Timothy will there be mostly cut off by the Froghoppers, unless it should be sowed very early.

Experience alone can determine the quantity of seed necessary in different soils and situations. We have found that two quarts of Timothy seed was fully sufficient for an acre on land when first cleared of wood, in a situation remote from all cultivated ground; but after a number of acres had been laid down to grass, the insects bred in the mowing ground always destroyed a part of the young grass sowed upon the adjoining pieces that were cleared. Of these insects the green Froghopper is the most destructive, but it does not attack the young clover, nor does it do great injury to Timothy that is sowed very early so that it may have formed three leaves before the insect appears, as it will if bitten off, in that case, sprout again, but if the first leaf be cut off before others are formed, the plant perishes.

### LOCK JAW IN A HORSE.

"A spirited mare had been worked in the forenoon, and much abused by a thoughtless driver. The marks of several severe strokes appeared, and it was believed that some nerves had been injured. A lock jaw ensued in the afternoon, attended with stiffness in her limbs, unnatural distension of her nostrils, and spasmodic affections of her cheeks, neck, sides and flanks, which produced a powerful commotion in those parts. Her jaws were firmly clinched—she was very restless, often laying down and rising, and incapable of swallowing though very desirous to drink. Every assistance that could be devised was carefully administered till the forenoon of the ensuing day, when she became incapable of rising, and appeared to be in the agonies of death. However, to get rid of what I then thought, the useless importunity of one of my family, Dr. Dewees was consulted. He observed, Dr. Rush had informed him that he had cured a horse of lock jaw by dashing cold water plentifully over him, and he advised that this should be done. With the assistance of several men the mare was set on her feet, and conducted to a well near at hand, and thirty or forty buckets full of cold water dashed over her head and body with all possible dispatch. But little if any good effect appeared. In about two hours, or perhaps less, the bathing was repeated, and it was thought that the clinching of the jaws was a little relaxed.