

fifteen days earlier in spring than those which want draining, and the crops are much less liable to be injured by heavy rains.

CLOVER

Will grow on pretty much all soils that have been laid dry by good drains. It is the basis of good farming, on all lands susceptible of alternate husbandry. Its benefits are threefold: it breaks, pulverizes and ameliorates the soil by its tap roots, and it furnishes a cheap food for plants as well as animals. A good clover lay is worth to a crop, by the food which it affords, as much as five tons of manure to the acre. To ensure a good lay, at least ten pounds of seed should be sown to the acre, and the ground well rolled. Its value, as food for plants, depends more upon the quantity of roots than upon the luxuriance of the stems, though the abundance of the latter will depend in a great measure upon the number of the former. To obtain the full value of this plant, we must cultivate it as food for our crops, as well as our cattle; and in this case we should use it as such the first or second year, before it has run out. There is economy in always sowing clover with small grains, though it is to be ploughed in the same or the next season. Ten pounds of seed costs upon an average one dollar—labour of sowing is comparatively nothing. Its value to the next crop cannot be less than quadruple that sum, to say nothing of the feed it may afford, or its mechanical amelioration of the soil. We cannot avoid urging a trial of the method of making clover hay in cocks. We have followed the practice twelve or fifteen years, and hence speak from experience, and with confidence, of its manifold advantages over the common method of spreading from the swath. Put it into small cocks, with a fork, from the swath, as soon as it is freed from external moisture, or well wilted, and then leave it to cure. An hour or two exposure to the sun, previous to its being carted from the field, is all the further care it will require. This mode saves labour, prevents injury from rain, and secures the hay in the best possible condition.

INDIAN CORN.

There is no crop which habit has rendered more indispensable to the wants of our families and our farms than this. It is, therefore, a subject of moment to adopt the best mode of culture. As many districts are shy in producing wheat, and as this crop is seriously threatened by the wheat insect, it becomes more a matter of solicitude to render our corn crops productive. But as this grain demands more labour in its culture than other grain crops, so it is more important on the score of profit, that it should be well managed: for if thirty bushels an acre, be considered only a remuneration for the labour bestowed on the crop—all that the product falls short of this must be a loss—and all that it exceeds, a net gain to the cultivator. The first consideration in regard to the corn crop, is to give it a dry mellow soil; the second, that this soil be rich, fat or fertile; and the third, that the seed be timely put in and the crop well taken care of. Neither wet grounds, nor stiff clays, nor poor grounds, will repay, by their product, the labour required on a crop of corn. He who has no other lands but these, should not attempt to raise it as a field crop. He had better bestow his labour upon other objects, and buy his corn. We think the best preparation for corn is a clover lay, well covered with long manure from the barn yard, well ploughed—and well harrowed. It is better to give sixty loads of dung to three acres than to ten, upon the ordinary lands of our neighbourhood. The difference in product will not make up for the difference in labour. Corn can hardly be danged too high. What we have to recommend, that is not common in the culture of this crop, is,—that double the usual quantity of seed be applied,—the number of plants to be reduced at the weeding—in order to ensure three or four stalks in each hill;—that the roots be not broken, nor the manure thrown to the surface, by the plough, but that the barrow and cultivator be substituted for it, which will sufficiently mellow the surface and destroy weeds; and that the hills be but slightly earthed. By ploughing and hilling we conceive the manure is wasted, the roots broken and bruised, and limited in their range for food, the crop more exposed to injury from drought, and the labour increased.

If the fodder which the stalks and sheaves afford is an object to the farmer, as they certainly will be when their advantages are appreciated, the securing these in good condition is a matter of importance. To effect this, as well as to secure the crop from the

effects of early autumnal frosts, we recommend the practice we have long and satisfactorily followed, of cutting the crop at the ground as soon as the corn is glazed, or the surface of the kernels has become hard, and of immediately setting it up in stooks to ripen and cure. This we have always been enabled to do early in September, and once in the last week in August. The quality of the grain is not impaired, nor the quantity, in our opinion, diminished, by this mode of management, while the fodder is greatly increased, and its quality much improved.

ROOT CULTURE

Presents many advantages to the stock farmer. Roots are less exhausting to the soil than grain; they are admirably fitted to form a part of a course of crops; are very beneficial in pulverizing the soil; afford abundance of food for farm stock; may be substituted for grain; and serve to augment and improve the valuable product of the cattle yard. An acre of ground, under good culture, will produce, on a fair average, twenty tons of Swedish turnips, mangel wurzel, carrots, parsnips or potatoes. Supposing a lean animal to consume one bushel a day, and a fattening animal two bushels, the produce of an acre will then subsist three lean bullocks 110 days, nearly the period of our winter, and three fattening ones 55 days. We merely assume these as reasonable data, and ask, if the result does not prove the profitableness of their culture? But we are not permitted to doubt upon this subject, if we credit the testimony of those who have tried them, and whose continuance in the culture is the best proof of their value. Roots enter largely into the system of Flemish husbandry, which has been extolled as inferior to none other, and in many parts of Great Britain, turnips are considered the basis of profitable farming. In our country, root culture is winning its way to notice and to favour. Few who have managed it judiciously have been willing to relinquish it; while others are annually commencing it. The great obstacles to the more rapid extension of the culture among us, is the want of experience, the want of proper implements, as drill barrows, cultivators, &c., and the labour of securing the crop in winter. The apparent magnitude of these obstacles is daily diminishing, and we shall ere long discover, that root crops may be cultivated, and secured for winter use, as easily as other farm crops. We have had very little experience in cultivating carrots, parsnips, or mangel wurzel as field crops; but the Swedish turnip has been a favorite crop for some years; and we can truly say; it has been one of the most sure and profitable that we have taken from our grounds.

From the Genesee Farmer.

THINGS A FARMER SHOULD NOT DO.

A farmer should never undertake to cultivate more land than he can do thoroughly.—half tilled land is growing poorer—well tilled land is constantly improving.

A farmer should never keep more cattle, horses, sheep or hogs, than he can keep in good order; an animal in high order the first of December, is already half wintered.

A farmer should never depend on his neighbour for what he can, by care and good management, produce on his own farm; he should never beg fruit while he can plant trees, nor borrow tools while he can make or buy; a high authority has said, the borrower is a servant to the lender.

A farmer should never be so immersed in other matters, as to forget to sow his wheat, dig his potatoes, and bank up his cellar.

A farmer should never be ashamed of his calling; we know that no man can be entirely independent, yet the farmer should remember, that if any one can be said to possess that enviable distinction, he is the man.

No farmer should allow the reproach of neglected education to lie against himself or family; if knowledge is power, the beginning of it should be early and deeply laid in the district school.

A farmer should never use intoxicating drinks; if, while undergoing severe fatigue, and the hard labours of the summer, he would enjoy robust health, let him be temperate in all things.

A farmer should never allow his windows to be filled with red cloaks, tattered coats, and old hats; if he does, he will most assuredly acquire the reputation of a man who carries long at the whiskey, leaving his wife and children to freeze or starve at home.