

AGRICULTURAL.

HOW TO RAISE EARLY POTATOES.—About six weeks previous to the usual time of planting in the open ground, mark out a piece, say five or six feet wide, and as long as required, on a dry and sheltered piece of land; dig out the surface to a depth of five or six inches; place boards around, to keep up the loam or sand; then fill to the depth of six inches, with horse or some manure which has been thrown over to produce heat; tread it down lightly, as for a hot-bed, and cover the manure with four inches of loam. I keep some in my barn cellar through the winter, to be ready at any time. It is also well to keep the ground covered through the winter, where the bed is to be made, with straw or something to keep out the frost. Then pack your potatoes as close as you can, over the surface, a single thickness; cover with four inches of loam, or what is better, sand, as the sprouts are tougher and do not separate so easily from the potato in lifting. I cut my potatoes a day or even weeks before, and place them cut side down. At night cover with straw or coarse hay; in the morning, if mild, and no rain, rake off the covering and replace at night. In case of continued dry weather a slight watering may be of service, though seldom necessary. When the time for planting arrives, land manured and furrowed, take up the front board, and with a dung-fork lift as many as it will hold; give them a shake, and separate each plant carefully by hand, placing them in a basket or box; then drop them, either for hills or in rows, and have a person follow to cover as fast as possible, placing an inch or two of earth over the tops, through which they will break in a few hours.

If planting has been delayed from any cause, and the plants should have attained considerable growth, (I have planted them when a foot high and had them do well,) lay them down and cover as above. If your field is not too far from your dwelling, make the bed there, as it saves exposure in carrying the plants to a distance. With a few boards and stakes a shelter can be made to keep off the cold winds.

By sprouting potatoes in this way you can have them ready to dig at least three weeks earlier.

ECONOMY OF FODDER—"MANAGING IT RIGHT."—What strange ideas of economy are often entertained, and by farmers as frequently as by other people. The true economy of wintering stock, for instance—wintering in the best order and at the least expense of fodder—needs a good deal more thought than it gets from a large class of those closely interested in the subject. Let us try an illustration:

"Do you want to buy any young stock? I believe I must sell off some. I'm afraid I shall be short of fodder before spring," says one farmer to another.

"Hardly think I do; though I have a good supply of hay, etc. If I have much over, I can sell at good prices in the spring. Have as much stock now as my pastures will carry—don't care about increasing the number."