

THE CANADIAN FARMER

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The Month.



JULY brings the indubitable summer, and is chiefly remarkable in this climate for a degree of heat that, with occasional most welcome relentings, keeps us almost constantly in a sweltering condition, and makes our anticipations and memories of the month rather painful than otherwise. We hail June, but dread July. "Ike Marvel" says: "I picture July as a stout woman perspiring fearfully; yet she wears a cheery, honest face, and if she have none of the bridal freshness of May and June she wears the honours of maternity, and leads in a great brood of flowers and fruits in her train."

The mean temperatures for this month at various leading points in Canada are as follows:—

Stratford	66° 64'
Hamilton	72° 47'
Barré	71 88
Toronto	70° 40'
Belleville	71° 57'
Montreal	69° 35'
Quebec	71° 00'
St. John, N.B.	61° 75'
Halifax	61° 00'

The above table shows nearly four degrees difference between Toronto and Stratford, makes Toronto and Montreal nearly alike, and, strange to say, gives Quebec a slight superiority in point of heat over both Toronto and Montreal.

We are still having a splendid season. The June frost put in a very feeble appearance, just enough to be identified, but doing no mischief. Copious rains have fallen from time to time. Nature seldom wears robes of such gorgeous green as the present summer. It has been a most favourable time for transplanting, and nurserymen, who are usually treated to many unjust execrations on account of dead trees, will this year have immunity from censure. Evergreens never wore a richer or more varied foliage than now. Grain and grass are most luxuriant. The face of the earth is radiant with smiles, and bewitching with beauty. There is promise of abundance of fruit, and

crop prospects generally are all that could be desired. Will farmers find any cause for grumbling this year? As a class, they are so given to complaining, and so fearful it should be thought they are doing well, that we have our misgivings lest even the present season may not escape without some fault being found with it. The grain stalks will be so heavy that there will be lodging the midge will commit a world of havoc some of the best trees in the orchard will break down under the load of fruit, produce will be so plentiful that the prices will be low. Yes, not a doubt of it, but in the song of the year there will be a low. Bass (base?) note of dissatisfaction with something or other. But if ever heaven rebuked this disposition surely it is now.

Thorough cultivation of the soil, unrelenting slaughter of weeds, turnip hoeing, hay-making, and wheat harvesting are the chief labours of the month. All crops that admit of it are greatly benefited by frequent stirring of the soil about them. July is a most favorable time for the extirpation of weeds. Only scratch them out of the ground, and the scorching sun will do for them very quickly. In a damp, cool time it often seems of but little use to hoe among weeds, they take root again so quickly, but the July heat finishes them in no time. Even the Canada thistle will "cave in" if hoed up or mowed down in July. The latter process is highly recommended by many farmers. It is especially likely to be effectual if rain come shortly after the mowing, as the wet filling the stalks and settling into the roots, induces quick decay. Almost the only bit of advice necessary about haying is to be sure and cut at the proper time; not too soon, or the fodder will be deficient in substance and nutritious properties; nor too late, or it will be tough, woody, and sapless. Grass ought to be mowed between blossoming and seeding. Very much the same advice may be given about harvesting wheat. The *Illustrated Annual Register of Rural Affairs* says:—"Cut wheat a week before full ripe. The grain will weigh more and be better. The straw will be brighter and richer." Early cutting of grass not only improves the hay, but secures a better after-growth for a second mowing, or for pasturage.

A word about the turnips. Early in July is the time to secure a good plant, and attend to proper thinning in the rows. Re-sow if there be extensive failure, through fault in the seed, or depredations of the fly. Caps in the rows may be filled up either by transplanting or sowing again. When too late for Swedes, Yellow Aberdeens and White Globes may be sown. One great essential to success in turnip-growing is to cut the plants thinned at the proper time. If left too long it is almost impossible to retrieve the error. A sharp hoe, about eight inches wide in the blade, is the tool to thin with, and a skilful hand will go over the ground very fast. This well done, and all

danger of the fly past, they will grow very fast quickly shade the ground, and form bulbs.

Though the end of June is the usual time for sowing buckwheat, it does well most seasons if sown early in July. We recommended this crop last month for cakes and green manure, but forgot to speak of its value to bee-keepers. Buckwheat honey is not a choice table article, but it is good enough winter feed for the bees themselves, and it is easy to rob them of their white clover stores, and compel them to stock up again from buckwheat blossoms. The great drawback to bee-keeping in this country is the want of late summer and early autumn forage. This is removed in localities where buckwheat is largely grown.

Happy is the farmer who has green corn, vetches, or other soiling crops, wherewith to cke out the pasturage so apt to fail under the fervid heats of July. His milk pails shall still be full to overflowing, his butter and cheese rich as in June, his young stock shall grow without check, and his teams continue fat, sleek, and strong to labour. Ho that has no patch of green fodder for a time of need in July, may yet have one for a similar time in September. A rich bit of ground near the barn should be chosen for this purpose, and sown forthwith.

Orchards will be grateful for a stirring of the soil this month. Over-production of fruit should also be guarded against, and care taken that the trees are not broken down through being over-loaded. Now is the time for thumb-pruning of young fruit-trees, and thereby giving beauty of shape, vigour and fruitfulness to them. Budding may be done so soon as the terminal buds are well formed. Grape vines may be layered this month, and well-rooted plants obtained by winter. The duties of the garden in July are more than can be well enumerated. In fact their name is "legion" at all times when work is practicable. Extermination of weeds is the chief thing to be done this month. This must be thoroughly accomplished year by year. "Eternal vigilance is the price of" a garden, as well as "the price of liberty."

July is the Apirian's harvest. Now, if at all, the surplus honey boxes are to be filled, and such arrangements made as will maintain stocks in full number and strength. Put on boxes forthwith, if they have not yet been supplied. Prevent late swarming, or unite two or three to make vigorous colonies. There is nothing more conducive to successful bee-keeping than to see to it that colonies are strong. Weak stocks are liable to many evils that never trouble strong ones. Some bee-keepers imagine that strong stocks consume far more honey in proportion than weak ones, and are therefore harder to winter. This, however, is a mistake, as is every other argument in favour of weak rather than strong colonies. The value of an apiary is to be estimated, not by the number, but by the weight of the hives composing it.