

ets. In a row next to them he planted the same number of sets, cut from the same weight of these potatoes, but all of small size, such as are usually used as seed. On digging the crop he found that the two large potatoes produced 9 pounds, 12 ounces, while the produce of the smaller seed was only 6 pounds. Among the produce of the large seed there was hardly a small potato, while in the produce of the smaller potatoes there were few large tubers and a great many small ones. Such results of the planting of large and small potatoes have been verified by the experience of many, and any farmer can prove it for himself. From the planting of small potatoes the present degeneracy of potatoes has in a great measure arisen.

**WHOLE OR CUT POTATOES FOR SEED.**—The potatoes grown from whole seed will not be so large as those from cut seed. From whole potatoes there are too many stalks, and consequently very many small potatoes. The cut seed should be so large as to nourish the young plant in its early growth. There should not be more than two eyes in each set. The theory that the stem end of the potato is preferable to the rose end is a novel one, and only needs more extended experiment to prove its fallacy. Potatoes were cut across each in two equal parts, the rose end parts being planted by themselves and so with the stem ends. Those from the stem end rapidly degenerate every year, showing a marked inferiority, thereby proving that the opinion of the better quality of the rose end confirmed by the practice of potato growers, has been correct. On the first experiment the difference is not so much in favor of the rose end, but it has been proved that stem end seed falls off continually in the quality and quantity of produce.

#### The Month.

April has been unprecedentedly mild. Vegetation is now fully two weeks further advanced than usual. The land has been in good working order, and the crops have been put in early and well. The winter wheat looks better on the average than ever before. There are no blank spots, and the plant is thick and luxuriant; in fact, so rank is it that we have heard of some farmers who have turned their cattle into it to eat it off. We never heard of this being done in the spring before; whether it will act beneficially or not we are not able to say. Time will tell, and we hope that those who have practised it may report the result, whether good or bad. The parties doing so desired to check it from heading so soon, as they had suffered before from late frosts.

There has not been as much of last year's crop marketed this month as was anticipated. There is yet a large quantity in the farmers' hands. The war rumors have caused farmers to withhold in anticipation of better prices.

#### Hints for May.

Protect your plums from the Curculio by smoking the trees with gass tar.

Compton's early field corn is highly spoken of by those that raised it in Canada last year. It will be found preferable to many of the varieties now in use, when ripe corn is required.

Superphosphate has been found very beneficial to root crops. Potatoes, turnips, &c., have been much benefited by it. It is no use putting on a half a coat, try a little and put it on as thick as it ought to be used, say 300 or 400 lbs. per acre at least. You can try it on a small scale at first, say 1 lb. The results have been astonishing.

**BONEDUST.**—Put all the old bones you can get at the root of some favorite trees or vines then your trees may grow and bear, if you can take time to make Superphosphate, which you might do by deluging them with Sulphuric Acid.

Graft immediately if the buds of the cions are not started too far; if they are, you may lose your work.

Wash your sheep, but let the grease raise again in the wool before shearing.

**HINTS FOR MAY.**—The grain sowing having been completed the roots claim the farmer's attention. This is the month for potato planting. Were it not for the dreaded June frosts, the earlier they are planted the better. Early potatoes are easier saved from the potato bug—another item in favor of early planting. The earlier varieties such as the Rose, Vermont, Ohio, Snow Flake, &c., are to be preferred now that there are such enemies to contend with in their culture.

Have the land in good tilth for other root crops. Good cultivation now will save much trouble with weeds and be a means of obtaining good crops. Plaster is very beneficial to the young clover crop. From 100 lbs. to 400 lbs. may be profitably used as a topdressing. The increase produced will more than pay for the expense.

Sow crops for soiling. Peas and oats sown mixed will give an excellent green fodder. The land should be in good tilth and free from weeds in order to ensure a heavy yield. Four bushels or more oats than peas may be sown.

For soiling and for saving for winter fodder, corn is a most important crop. For this purpose Western Corn is generally grown, as it yields more than any other; but smaller growing varieties are coming more into favor. The sweet corn is found to be more nutritious. Top-dressing the growing corn with plaster increases the crop and serves to improve the soil. Hungarian and Millet are both good for soiling and feed.

When corn is to be planted on sod the plowing may be done immediately before planting. The fresher the soil is when planting or sowing the better.

Swine for fall feeding will thrive well by getting a run of a grass-field, and still better on clover. The ground will be greatly enriched, and the cost of summer feeding will be little.

Tree planting if not completed should be done as early as possible; evergreens may be transplanted during the month.

Grafting even as late as this month is recommended by some. It has been sometimes successfully performed when the trees are in full bloom.

Mulching young trees should not be neglected. A good mulching prevents the evil effects of the drought, it serves to keep down ground-weeds and improves the soil.

Keep a sharp lookout for the insects. The tent-caterpillars are early at work weaving their webs, and preparing for the future. They are most ingenious, and many fruit and forest trees are killed by them. Remove the web with its inmates whenever seen, and crush them beneath your feet. Lye, potash, and other things are applied to kill them on the trees, but destroy them by any means.

Watch for the borers in the apple trees; wherever you see the wood-dust, there search them out, and cut them out of the tree with a knife or pound them out with a piece of wire. The curculio also must be guarded against if we are to have any plums. Jar the trees frequently as soon as the fruit is set. For the blight that affects our pear and apple trees no effectual remedy is known. Cut off the affected branch—if the blight proceeds further grub up the affected tree and burn it.

Gooseberries and currants need as much watchfulness as our large fruit trees; but they can with care be preserved from their insect enemies the more effectually if taken in time. The currant and gooseberry worms must be attended to in time. White hellebore dusted on the leaves is an effectual remedy; we have never known it to fail when ap-

plied in time. The currant especially is a valuable fruit, and well worth contending for. Mulching them is very beneficial.

Blackberries and raspberries are now growing the young canes for next year's fruit bearing. All should be cut away but the four or five strongest and healthiest.

#### Drain Tiles.

A correspondent from Donegal, Ont., wishes to be informed as to the parties who manufacture tiles for under drains, as he desires to get some.

Numerous applications are made to us for information of a similar nature, and many call at the office on similar errands. Strange to say, we cannot give them an answer, as there is no place in Canada that we know of where a supply can always be had. Those who make them in this country only work on such a small scale that a few wagon loads taken in the autumn leave the yards bare of tiles, and those who wish to draw them in the winter cannot procure them.

There is a good opening in this county and many others for persons to establish extensive drain tile factories; we wonder that some parties have not made a regular business of it ere this. Those who are merely working with hand or horse-power machines sell all they can make. What is wanted is a good steam-power and good machinery; take our word for it that there would be more money in such an establishment, if properly managed, than in half the enterprises and plans that people are putting their money into. If any one can supply drain tiles to meet the demand, we should like to know it.

#### Notice.

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**ANOTHER NEW WHEAT.**—We are in receipt of a package of seed from the Hon. Alex. Morris, ex-Governor of Manitoba, for which that gentleman will please accept our thanks. The package contains a good sample of spring wheat, clean and pure. The seed from which this wheat was raised was brought into our country by the Mennonites from Russia. It was grown in Manitoba, and is said to be yielding remarkably well there. We will have this wheat tested in different parts of Canada, and if it should prove to be of a different variety to what we have and yield well, no doubt some of our seedsmen will import some for next year's seeding in Ontario. The other seed is that of the Northern Ash. It is a large seed, and we will place it in the hands of one of our nurserymen to propagate.

At a late meeting of the Scientific Association of Ann Arbor, Mich., Miss Lou M. Reed, instructor in the microscopical laboratory, read a paper on the "Microscopic Structure of the Different Kinds of Wheat." The varieties of wheat examined were Clawson, Deihl, Egyptian, Gold Medal, Russian, Schaffer, Tappahanock, Treadwell and Wicks. In these she found that the Deihl wheat had the largest and thickest layer of nitrogenous or nutritious matter; that it contained more really nutritious matter than any other kind of wheat, although close to it and nearly identical with it was the Treadwell wheat. The others, however, were so far removed as to present a striking contrast. The popular Clawson wheat was found to contain the least nutritious matter of all.—*Michigan Farmer*. We should be pleased to hear what our Canadian millers say about this.