

grow under flax after the fibrous parts have been thoroughly separated and the earth remains fresh and loose.—Old trees, treated in the same manner when languishing in an orchard, will recover and push out vigorous shoots. In place of flax stalks, the leaves which fall from trees in autumn may be substituted; but these must be covered with waste twigs, or other more weighty materials to prevent the wind from blowing them away.

Mr. Macdonald, of Scalps, in the Hebrides, having had his corn, &c. considerably injured by mice, put at the top of each stack or mow as it was raised, a handful of sprigs of wild mint, gathered near a brook in a neighbouring field; he never afterwards had his grain consumed. He tried the same experiment with his cheese, and other articles kept in his dairy, viz., by laying a few leaves green or dry on the articles to be preserved from their attacks, and with equal success.

To prevent hares, rabbits, and rats from barking young trees and plantations, take any quantity of tar, and six or seven times as much grease, stirring and mixing them well together; with this composition brush the young trees, as high as hares &c. can reach. This will so effectually prevent them from being barked, that if an ash plantation were made in a rabbit warren, the same would remain untouched.—*Gardeners' Gazette.*

SPRING SOWING AND PLANTING.—The month of May should afford the farmers ample opportunity to finish the spring sowing and planting. Early sowing and planting, provided the soil is in a suitable state to receive the seed, will generally be found the most profitable. In Eastern Canada, farmers have been in the habit for the last few years to put off sowing wheat to the latter end of May, in order that it should not come into ear before the middle or latter end of July, when the danger of the wheat-fly would be nearly over, as they seldom continue in the fields after the 15th or 21st of July. The risk, however, of sowing wheat so late is considerable, as it will be subject to rust and mildew, that are nearly as fatal to the crop if attacked by these diseases when in a green state as it would be by the ravages of the fly. In favorable years, such as last year, late sown wheat may succeed, but it is a practice we cannot take upon us to recommend, as the uncertainty attending it is too great to be incurred, unless upon a small scale by way of experiment.

Peas, oats, barley and potatoes should all be in the ground this month, as well as carrots, parsnips, and any other green crop, except turnips. Indeed carrots and parsnips should have been sown in April, where the land is suitable.—We have always recommended farmers not to sell their wood-ashes, as it will be found one of the best manures upon the farm, particularly for turnips, when sown, or as a top-dressing on meadows, or mixed in a compost heap.

We would suggest the propriety of mixing some fresh lime with potatoes immediately after they are cut for seed, and allow it to dry upon the cut part previous to planting. We would also recommend planting and covering in the morning, or when the day is not too hot. It is a bad plan to leave the cut seed for any length of time exposed uncovered in the drills, to a hot sun. The seed should be covered the moment they are planted.

TO DESTROY INSECTS ON VINE.—Soft soap, two pounds; flour of brimstone, two pound; powdered tobacco, two pounds. Boil for half an hour in 6 gallons of water. Apply luke-warm.

SMUT.

Various opinions are entertained regarding this disease, so common to the wheat crop. Some suppose it to be a fungous production; others that it is the work of an insect; and others, that it is propagated by inoculation, in a similar manner that infectious diseases are communicated to the animal creation; but the real nature, origin and habits of the disorder has hitherto eluded the researches of the most scientific inquirers of all nations; and therefore it would be presumptuous in us to be positive upon a matter in which there appears so much mystery involved. On one point, however, we feel certain, namely, that the remedy is most easy, and if it were generally adopted, a single smut-ball would not be raised where there are bushels grown under the old slovenly way of preparing the seed. In every neighbourhood there are more or less careful farmers, who seldom, if ever, have their wheat crops infected with this disease; from such farmers seed should be procured, and independent of its being good and free from disease, it should be steeped in a solution of stale urine and water, or a brine made of salt and water, sufficiently strong to buy up an egg. The liquid in the tub should be a few inches higher than the grain, so as to allow it to be stirred, in order to bring all the light grains to the surface, from whence they are to be skimmed off so long as they continue to rise. If baskets with handles were used to immerse the wheat in the tubs, it could be conveniently taken out and drained. The seed should be left in the steep about two hours, after which it should be drained, and spread thinly on the floor of the granary, which should be well sprinkled with sifted quick lime, fresh from the kiln, and which had been recently slaked with a small portion of the liquor. About half a peck or lime is sufficient for a bushel of wheat, and it should be carefully mixed in order that every grain may be completely coated. It may sometimes happen that seed entirely free from smut cannot be procured, but when instances of this kind occur, a solution of one pound of blue vitriol to eight quarts of water should be applied when quite hot, to three bushels of good wheat, and the whole should be frequently stirred and dried with lime. Sulphate of copper, in the proportion of five pounds to three bushels of wheat is frequently used with good success; it should be dissolved in a sufficient quantity of water to cover the seed. After being repeatedly stirred and cleared of light grains, it should be suffered to remain in the liquid about four hours and then dried in lime, as mentioned above.

Various other preparations of vitriol, nitre, sulphur, arsenic, &c., may be used with a probable certainty of success; but instead of trying needless preparations, it would be decidedly better to procure seed free from the disease, and steep it in stale urine or brine, and apply lime as previously directed.

By carefully preparing the seed, and by practicing almost absolute cleanliness in the operation, the disease of smut, so detrimental to the farmer's profits, may be wholly avoided.

SALT FOR PLUM TREES.—Mr. Benjamin Jacobs of Dorchester, had a small plum tree which never bore more than half a dozen plums that came to maturity; seeing salt recommended as a remedy, in an article from the Cultivator, he applied two quarts the first of March, in a space about two feet wide around the tree, and dug into the ground a little; the consequence has been a fine lot of fruit.