

Canada Thistles.

SIR,—In the year 1875 I noticed an article in your paper on the method of killing Canada Thistles. It was in the fore part of the summer of that year that I noticed the article, and as near as I can remember, it read as follows (the exact dates I do not remember):—

"Cut the thistles down to the ground the first of August, and do so again the first of September, and this simple method or process would undoubtedly kill the thistles."

Out of curiosity, I went into a piece of standing oats on the first of August and cut two large patches of thistles, and I repeated the process on the first of September (not the first day of September, but nearly so—not later than the 10th). I looked at the thistles in the fall, late, and they were still growing; I then came to the conclusion that the remedy was a fraud.

The next spring we put turnips on the same land, and the thistles were not seen there that year or since. The twice cutting completely killed them. Now, if you will again publish the same article and particularly call the attention of your readers to it, I do not hesitate in stating that they will be greatly benefited by it. I think it must have been some particular of the moon. As the thistles are increasing so fast, I feel that it is the duty of us all to do what we can to keep them down, and I believe this method will surely kill them.

JOE, Richwood.

In compliance with the suggestion of our Richwood subscriber, we reprint the article on thistles. In some parts of the country this weed is on the increase, many farmers thinking they cannot be extirpated. It is to such subscribers as this, who will put into practice the advice given, that the ADVOCATE is really beneficial. The following is the article:—

"In our slight experience of Canada Thistles we have never had much difficulty in eradicating them, and we have no doubt that the method here recommended will, if carried out, be successful."

"A luxuriant crop of weeds, especially such as thistles, rag-worth, and others of the larger species, are symptoms of the fertility of the soil, and not only so, but, as the Country Gentleman well remarks, the thistle is a most efficient loosener of the soil. Deep down for many feet it strikes its tough roots, and they, when rotted, as they will be when its vegetation is killed, leave the places they occupied free passages for heat and moisture, and the mineral food they have drawn from the subsoil is a fertilizer of no little value."

"A farmer anxiously inquires of us how he can possibly kill a dense patch of several acres of Canada thistles. He will perhaps be startled if we should tell him that we would rather have a field filled with a dense growth of these thistles by the middle of June, on a strong soil, than to have a bare field or a badly seeded pasture."

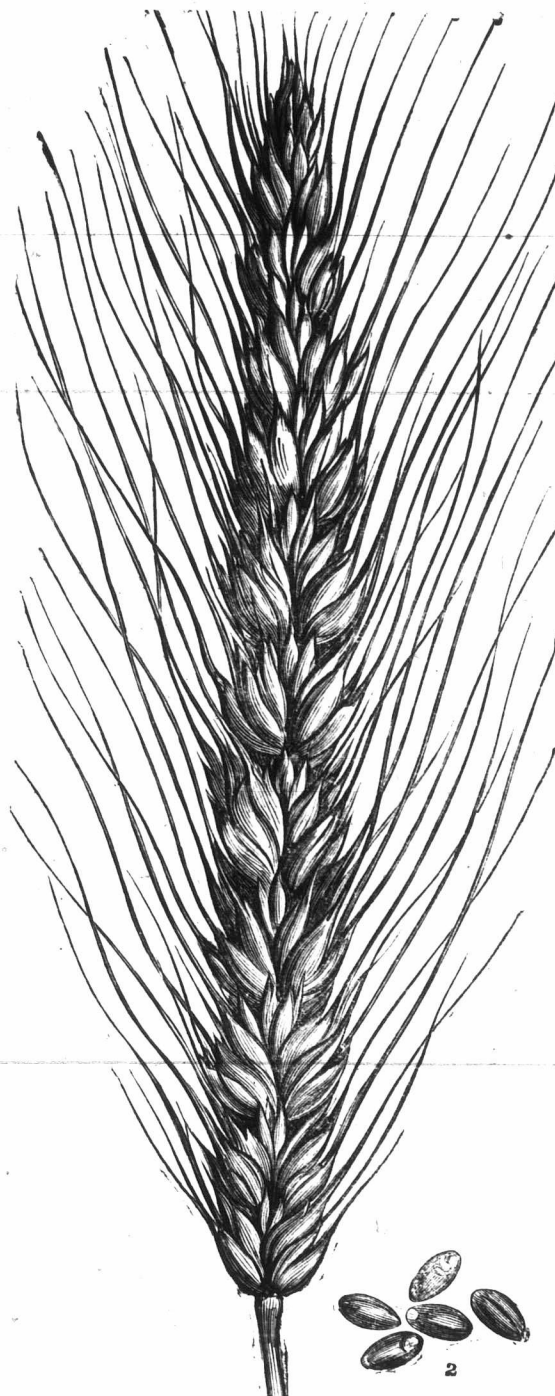
Next to red clover, the roots, stems and leaves of the Canada thistle are one of the best green crops to plow under. The roots are powerful looseners of the soil, and the tops, when well rotted, help to increase its fertility. Plow them under with a chain on the plow, when just coming into blossom, and they will soon rot in the soil. If left a little later, the plowing will be more destructive to the plants, but they will not rot quite so quickly. If the plowing is deeply and thoroughly done, they will not be seen above the surface for a month. But the very moment the first green point is seen peeping, plow the land again, and repeat it just often enough to keep them constantly smothered. By the 20th of September or 1st of October the thistles will be effectually killed, and will never again make their appearance, while the rotted

stems and leaves will have increased the fertility of the land. Usually about four plowings will have done the work effectually, at the same time that it will have rendered the field mellow like a garden, and destroyed most of the other weeds that may have been in the soil. All perennial rooted weeds, if kept under, will be destroyed, and all the seeds of annuals that have been thrown up near enough to the surface to germinate, will share the same fate.

"We have never found any difficulty in killing patches of Canada thistles in a single season by a few plowings, if the soil is of a heavy or clayey character, so as to rest compactly upon them when they are turned under. On lighter soil more care and more frequent plowing are necessary. If there are any large stones, stumps or other obstructions to free and perfect plowing, the thistles will not be



HEAD OF DEFIANCE WHEAT.



HEAD OF CHAMPLAIN WHEAT.

destroyed at those places; or if they line boundary fences, where the plow cannot reach them, they will of course escape, and other modes of clearing them out, or the removal of the fences, will be necessary."—*Ec.*

Corn loses one-fifth by drying, and wheat one-fourteenth. From this the estimate is made that it is more profitable for the farmer to sell unshelled corn in the fall at 75c. than at \$1 a bushel in the following summer, and that wheat at \$1.25 in December is equal to \$1.50 in the succeeding June. In the case of potatoes, take those that rot and are otherwise lost, together with the shrinkage, there is little doubt that between October and June, the loss to the owner who holds them is not less than thirty-three per cent.

The Horse.

Keeping the Stable Light.—Watering Your Horses.

From a writer in the Ohio Farmer.

Dark stables are an abomination and should not be tolerated. There is no necessity to sacrifice comfort, either in winter or summer, to secure enough light. A horse's eyes are enlarged—the pupil of the eye is—by being kept in a dark stable; he has the harness put on him and suddenly brought out into the bright, glaring sunlight, which contracts the pupil so suddenly as to cause extreme pain. By persevering in this very foolish and injudicious as well as cruel practice, the nerves of the eyes become impaired, and if continued long enough loss of sight will ensue.

To see how very painful it is to face a bright light after having been in the dark, take a walk some dark night for a short time, till the eye becomes accustomed to the darkness, then drop in, suddenly, some well-lighted room and you will be scarcely able to see for a few moments in the sudden light. You know how painful it is to yourself, then why have your horse repeatedly to bear such unnecessary pain?

A dark stable is invariably a damp one, and such stables we are not yet willing to put either a valuable working or driving horse in. Give good ventilation, let the sunshine and the air have a chance to effect an entrance, and your stables will be purer and more healthy than if you take such pains to exclude them and the good influence they bring with them invariably.

We must say a few words about watering your horses, for we think that in some quarters light is sorely needed in regard to it. Regularity should be as carefully observed in watering as it should be in feeding horses and all other kinds of stock. We have always made it a point to water our horses invariably before feeding, especially when feeding on dry food, such as corn, oats and hay. Some farmers, as well as other horse owners, water before every feed, except in the morning, at which time we think it more desirable than at any other meal time, for, having eaten their dry grain food and cleaned out the hay from their mangers, they are in need of water before commencing their morning meal, and they should have it. If watered after feeding, let it be done say half an hour afterwards, so as to give time for the grain food to settle. And right here let me say, in regard to feeding hay, that far too much is fed to both work and driving horses during work hours. Our plan is to give but little at morning and noon, and then give a generous supply at night. The horses will then eat what they want, after they have eaten their grain food in the evening, will then take their sleep, and consume in the early morning that part of the hay which they left in

the evening. By feeding this way, you will have your horses do their work far easier and look much better than they would if kept stuffed with hay. A driving horse, especially, should not have much hay during work hours—some horsemen say give none till evening, but we always have ours given a small bunch at the morning and the noon feeds.

The Illustrations

On this page represent two new varieties of wheat, lately introduced. A description of them will be found on page 52.

Prof. Arnold's able address to the Dairymen at Ingersoll will appear in our next issue.