

We scarcely ever wait for a rain, in order to transplant cabbages, tomatoes, sweet potato draws, or any similar plant, our practice being simply this: We take a bucket of rain water or soap suds from the washing tub, and stir into it enough leaf or woods mould and scrapings from the cow-pen to make it as thick as batter or thin mortar. Into this batter, we dip the roots of sweet potato draws or any other plant, and when they are well coated with the grouting mixture, we set them where they are intended to stand, in a hole made with a dibble or pointed stick, and having pressed the earth firmly around all parts of the root, the work is done.—*Michigan Farmer.*

#### THE USE OF LEAVES.

The office and utility of leaves are becoming better understood by cultivators than formerly; yet we find a good many still adhering to the old belief that the sun's rays, directly shining on fruit, are what perfect it in dependently of other influences.

On this subject, theory and practice have been invariably found in perfect accordance with each other. The principles of physiology teach us that the sap of a tree, when it passes in at the roots, remains nearly unchanged in its upward progress through stem and branches, until it reaches the leaves, where, being spread out in those thin organs, to light and air, it undergoes a complete change, and thus becomes suited to the formation of new wood and new fruit. Strip a newly growing tree of its leaves at midsummer, and from that moment the supply of new wood ceases, and it will grow no more till new leaves are formed; and if it have young fruit, the growth and maturity of the latter will cease in the same way. A few years since, a Yellow Gage plum tree lost all its foliage from leaf-blight, when the plants were not fully grown, and while yet destitute of flavor. The fruit remained stationary and unaltered, until, in a few weeks, a second crop of leaves came out. They then swelled to full size, received their crimson dyes, and assumed their honied sweetness of flavor.

The object of pruning should be, therefore, to allow the leaves to grow to full size without being injured from crowding.

**FLEMISH HUSBANDRY.**—We have to thank Mr. Hutton for a copy of a pamphlet lately published by the Bureau of Agriculture,—"Outlines of Flemish Husbandry as applicable to the improvement of Agriculture in Canada." Mr. Hutton, in the preface states, that the work was originally compiled by an eminent Agriculturist, at the request of the Society in England for the diffusion of useful knowledge. It was strongly recommended to the consideration of the Bureau by Robert S. Atcheson, Esq., one of the Commissioners of the Trust and Loan Company of Upper Canada, and upon this recommendation was printed. It treats of the division of land into polders, and upland;

the variety of soils; implements of husbandry; modes of ploughing; manure, and its application; the succession, rotation, and cultivation of crops; the cultivation of flax and hemp, and other plants valuable for their oily seeds, or used for their colour in dyeing; the management of grass lands—of cattle and horses, of gardens, orchards, and woods; and of spade husbandry practised in the small farms in Flanders. This portion of the Kingdom of Belgium, is perhaps the most prosperous agricultural country in the world, and our own people, being similar in their habits, character, and circumstances to the natives of Flanders, with no great disparity in the soil, this publication cannot fail to be perused with interest, and effect much good. The chapter on select farms is a most useful one, and those parts of the work which relate to increasing the depth and fertility of the soil by deep ploughing and trefeling, the collection and application of manures, and the succession and rotation of crops, are worthy of special notice. "They will not only convince the farmer," says Mr. Hutton, "that the average produce of the poorest soils in Canada, those even which have been exhausted by over-cropping and years of neglect, may be at least doubled; but will also point out to him, in the plainest manner, the simple means by which that result may be effected."—*Transcript.*

#### ON AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENTS IN IRELAND.

In the "Farmer's Herald," a very useful and well conducted agricultural work, there appears a long and able article under the title prefixed to this note, signed "An admirer of all kinds of improvements." We recommend the article to perusal, and meantime append an extract from it, illustrative of the writer's notion or knowledge of the rapid progress and extraordinary, because surpassing, development of agricultural excellence going on in Ireland, through the agency of the National Board of Education. This extract is certainly a startling one, and calculated to make English and Scotch agriculturists prick up their ears:—

"The greatest, most rapid, and successful stride lately made in agricultural improvement in Ireland, is the introduction of Model Farms, which must do more for the proper grounding of the young Agriculturist, than all the lecturing upon Chemistry, agricultural discussions, and publications united; as a proof of which, it is said, that one of his pupils has lately been appointed manager and practical instructor of the youths attending the Albert Model Farm, Glashnevin. And what adds to the éclat of the rapid progress of these institutions is, the gentleman who proved to be the successful candidate for the situation alluded to, obtained it in the face of about 70 candidates from Ireland, England, and Scotland, many of whom, it is understood, were men of long and extensive experience—in short, agriculturists of the

first class. And should such a marked selection have been judiciously made, of which there is no doubt, such a circumstance must speak volumes for the rapid agricultural education in Ireland, and tend greatly to remove that old and still existing idea, that Ireland is far behind England and Scotland in agricultural improvement, &c."

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**YELLOW BIRDS vs. WEEVIL.**—Mr. D. H. Roberts, residing on the farm of Orson Marsh, in Colesville, communicates the following; A neighboring farmer wished he would get a gun and kill some yellow-birds, which farmers generally suppose destroy the wheat. Mr. R. declined, as he does not like to kill birds of any kind. Out of curiosity, however, he killed one of the birds and opened its crop, when he found that the bird, instead of eating the wheat, eat the weevil—the great destroyer of the wheat. He found as many as two hundred weevils in the bird's crop and but four grains of wheat, which had the weevil in them. This is a very important discovery, and should be generally known. The bird resembles the canary, and sings beautifully.—*Binghamton Republican.*

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#### TALLEST CORN OF THE SEASON.

There was shown in our office, on Saturday, a stalk of corn over thirteen feet in height—actual measurement. It was grown at Terre Haute, Ia., by Capt. Van Brunt, Assistant Superintendent of the Alton and Terre Haute Railroad. Had it remained in the ground, it would undoubtedly have attained an altitude several feet higher. We have seen corn, the growth of the Wabash Valley, over eighteen feet high. And upon the Illinois Bottom, and in various other localities in this State, corn attains a height which would astonish people down East, who are accustomed to see corn about as tall as our wheat.

The same gentleman had also a specimen of spring wheat, which was some of the finest we ever saw. The berry was large, plump, and white—equal in appearance to most of the winter wheat of ordinary seasons.—*Chicago Democrat.*

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#### TRIMMING TREES.

As soon as haying is over, fruit trees of all kinds may be trimmed. Now is the time to expect the wounds to heal rapidly as the trees make wood fast at this season.

Never cut off large limbs from fruit trees unless you choose to induce premature decay. You cannot do worse than to cut off large limbs. If there are too many of them, let them remain while you thin out the twigs that are not too large to bear fruit.

Let no man with heavy boots climb your trees. Pliable shoes are much better than boots. Nails in boots may do to go on ice, but they are quite too hard for the limbs and bark of fruit trees.