

I find about the 20th of May a very good time, in this neighborhood, to sow.

In 1855 we sowed very early, when the crop was nearly all destroyed.

In 1856 we sowed our wheat the 12th of May,—a good deal was destroyed by the midge.

In 1857 we sowed the 20th of May,—not very much affected. And last year we sowed on the 21st of May, when it was still less affected; but one reason, I think, why it withstood the attack last year, was owing to the extreme lateness of the season, and by the time the wheat was in blossom, and which is the only time the midge can deposit its eggs, the season had passed with the fly for the propagation of its species.

Early sown oats are always the best in quality and most in quantity; but later sowing gives more straw. Last year late sown oats were rusted, and those elements of nutrition, which should have formed the grain, were absorbed by the rust, and instead of producing developed grain, produced nothing but straw and the parasitic plant. We might as well expect perfect fruit from an apple tree girdled in August, as expect good grain from straw whose nutriment has been absorbed by rust.

I think if more attention were paid to the cultivation of peas, it would be a great benefit to our land as well as our pockets, because a crop of peas taken from the land does not rob it of its mineral constituents, essential to the growth of grain, as some other crops do. It is a law of the vegetable kingdom, "that all broad or large-leaved grains, plants, or trees, require less food from the earth, than the smaller leaved ones; because the large leaf has a greater surface exposed to the atmosphere, and consequently absorbs more carbonic acid and ammonia, the principal food of the vegetable kingdom; hence the advantage of sowing peas.

Formerly, I believe, early sown peas were more liable to be worm eaten, than later ones; this last year or so, there has not been much complaint, and I think early sowing might be resumed with profit, as they generally are a better sample, and therefore command a higher price in market.

To conclude, I would recommend a high cultivation and thick sowing. Aim at the cultivation of a less number of acres of wheat, and a larger yield. Above all, if your soils are deficient in lime, phosphoric acid, or magnesia, do not attempt to cultivate wheat until it is supplied in the shape of a manure, for however rich your land may be in other ingredients, if it is lacking in any of these, your crop will be deficient, and what is produced will be of little benefit as food, which is our aim in the cultivation of wheat.

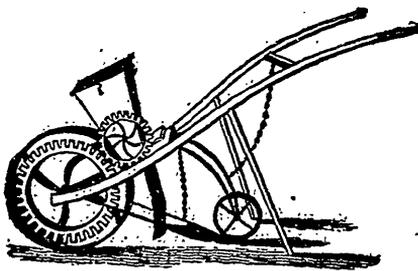
HOPE, March 21st, 1859.

JAS. E. CHAMPION.

SEED DRILL.

To the Editor of the Canadian Agriculturist.

SIR,—I beg through your excellent paper to call the attention of your readers, and the farmers of Canada generally, to the Seed Drill, of which I send the cut for insertion.



Having noted the increasing attention given of late years to the growth of roots, it has been my study to produce a drill which would be generally adapted to the sowing of every description of seeds. I finally decided on the one, of which the annexed cut is a representation, as the most universally applicable.

The drill is not unknown to practical farmers here and in the United States, although I have made some important additions, and I believe the first attempt at domestic manufacture of it.

I need not enter into a minute description of the machine. Suffice it to say that the large wheel in front rolls the ground, and gives motion to the smaller cog wheel, which, turning a brush inside the box, ejects the seed. The seed box is provided with a set