



The Month.



JUNE is indeed a charming month in this climate. It is a delightful compound of spring and summer. The uncomfortable wintry chilliness is gone, and the scorching July heat has not yet come. Bright sunshine glorifies all nature; innumerable flowers display their loveliness; the fields are decked in their freshest green; the forests are bursting into leaf; while the air is vocal with the chirp of insects, the song of birds, and the gentle music of the zephyr and the breeze. Activity and beauty are to be seen on every hand.

The mean temperature for June, at leading points in our Dominion, are as follows:—

Stratford.....	61° 32
Hamilton.....	63° 50
Barrie.....	62° 27
Toronto.....	60° 20
Bellefille.....	63° 17
Montreal.....	63° 66
Quebec.....	62° 20
St. John. N. B.....	54° 53
Halifax.....	56° 00

As observed in our last article on "The Month," Quebec has now gained upon Ontario in the matter of heat, a somewhat singular fact in Canadian climatology. We believe also that our sister province is never in terror of a June frost. Spring is tardy and late, but when once it sets in, there are no unpleasant reminders of winter.

The present season retains its character as a model one. After a most propitious time for seeding, a remarkably copious rainfall came, not in deluging torrents, but in steady, abundant showers, thoroughly filling the soil with moisture, and yet not making it too wet for tillage. Along with the plentiful rain we have had fine growing weather, so that grass and

grain have come on with great rapidity, and present a most promising appearance. An unusually large breadth of land has been sown, owing to the favourable character of the season, and should no unpropitious circumstances intervene, the prospect is fair for most abundant crops. There is, so far, a fine promise of fruit. The orchards are ablaze with blossom. The plum and cherry trees have outdone themselves this year, in abundance of bloom, so much so that everybody has felt that they were worth the ground they occupy for the transient show made in flowering, even though they yielded no fruit. Strawberries, currants, and gooseberries are also full of blossom. There is the same profusion of bloom in the woods, furnishing a considerable honey yield, of which "the little busy bee" is taking all possible advantage. Apianists as well as agriculturists have hope of a remarkably good season. The indications are for early and strong swarms.

Nothing can exceed the splendour of the woods and the lovely "garniture of the fields," at the present time. There are more tints of green in nature's great show-room than the most skilful painter could compound to order, were he put upon his mettle for the credit of his art. Go where you will, "there is beauty all around," except where man has constructed some unsightly structure of which all surrounding objects appear to be ashamed. How strange it is that people do not catch the contagion of loveliness from nature. It is possible to throw an air of taste and refinement over the simplest and cheapest buildings, and surely we should aim to do this, for what right have we to disfigure a world which the Creator has made so beautiful?

It has been observed with much truth that "in no month of the year are the prose and poetry of farm life more mingled than in June." The nice poetry of pleasant views amid the fields and forests, does not relieve us of the stern prose of planting potatoes and hoeing weeds. As a natural result of the features of the season above-noted, there is a prodigious array of weeds bristling up with a sort of instinctive ubiquity. It will be a tough battle to keep them down, judging from present appearances. Many a vegetable bed, potato patch, and corn-field will succumb before them. There is no way to succeed in the strife with weeds but to take time by the forelock. Like evil habits, they are easily subdued before they have obtained strength, but when once they have secured a foothold, it is not easy to uproot them. The cultivator, horse-hoe, hand-hoe, and garden-rake, must be kept in motion early in the season, if these pests are to be overcome.

June is the month for putting in corn, turnips, and buckwheat. All these crops ought to be grown more extensively. For some reason or other many Canadian farmers have a prejudice against Indian corn, which is a most useful grain, and gives a good yield if a suitable variety is planted. It is useless to

attempt the large Western corn in this country, but the eight-rowed yellow and similar kinds will ripen and produce well. It is not the least advantage of a corn crop that, requiring as it does clean culture, it leaves the land in such excellent condition for future use. For green forage there is nothing equal to a piece of corn sown broadcast. It will give a greater weight of forage than any other vegetable, and from its juicy nature it forms a most excellent article of diet for milch cows. Every dairyman should have a patch as a reserve for the times when pasture is scant. We would reiterate the advice given a month ago about turnip-growing. The farmer who fails to have a field of turnips doesn't know what is good for himself, for his stock, or for his land. Buckwheat should be grown for the flour, and also as a green manure crop, than which there is no better.

All through the summer-time, there should be the most rigid economy and care exercised in regard to all manurial substances. The compost heap ought to be growing and ripening along with the grain crops. Keep scraping up and mixing together cattle droppings, poultry dung, kitchen refuse, fence corner sods, garden weeds, swamp muck, and ordinary soil. No fertilizing material should be suffered to waste.

Barns, hay mows, and sheds, must now be put in order to receive hay and grain. Mowing and reaping tools should be provided and put in working trim, that there may be no time lost when the grass and grain are ready to cut.

Dairy operations are now in full blast. Be it remembered that cleanliness is the first law respecting these operations. Aim to make butter and cheese of the first quality, and so secure the highest market price. Sheep-washing and shearing now claim attention. They should be done in settled warm weather, and the newly shorn animals ought to be housed at night and during storms until they become used to the loss of wool. By the end of June the first crop of clover will be ready to cut for seed. All and sundry who have Alsike clover are hereby counselled to save the seed. It yields liberally, threshes easily, and the hay is but little the worse for thoroughly ripening. The valuable qualities of this clover are beginning to be appreciated, so that the seed is likely to be in demand at a remunerative price.

Orchards will repay extra trouble and attention in the way of stirring the soil, harrowing in a liberal supply of well-rotted manure, and exterminating insects. This is a busy month in the garden, and more than our whole page would be required to give even a brief calendar of seasonable operations. June is also an important month with bees. There are many improved methods in connection with swarming, securing surplus honey, Italianizing an apiary, and keeping stocks in good order, to understand which, bee-keepers should provide themselves with such a manual as Thomas's "Bee-Keeper's Guide."