

ing composts is by collecting weeds, the clearing of ditches, road-scrappings the high headlands of fields, and in short the refuse of all kinds of vegetable and animal matters. The proportion of farm-yard manure and lime to these various substances, should be regulated mainly by the character of the latter. It is necessary to induce decomposition, so as to reduce the decaying vegetable matter, and render the mineral constituents ready for absorption by the spongioles of the cultivated plants. The adding of common salt is generally advisable, the quantity regulated by the kind of crop to be grown. When the crop is to be potatoes, the quantity of salt should be limited, or it may be dispensed with altogether; for mangolds it should not exceed five or six cwt. to the acre.

Where other calcareous substances than lime can be obtained at cheap rates, these can be advantageously used in forming composts. The quantities necessary are, however, much greater to induce that decomposition in the inert vegetable and mineral matters contained in the vegetable and earthy substances. Lime rubbish and shell-sand, gas lime, &c., are all suitable for forming composts. It is of considerable importance, in making large compost heaps, to select a place in or near to the field to which the manure is to be applied; as the expense of carting these heavy and bulky substances great distances may render the application unprofitable. Economy of labour should be a ruling consideration in the forming and application of compost heaps, as in all other farm operations.

In carting the materials to form the compost it is common to spread alternate layers of them, to the depth of four, six, or eight inches, and afterwards to turn the heap by the spade. Sometimes a plough is used to mix the lime and earth, when the compost is formed of a high headland, the spade being afterwards employed to throw the heap into a more rounded form. Whatever method is adopted, it is important, while studying economy of labour, to thoroughly mix the substances together by several turnings of the heap, and so to form the heap as to render it as little liable to absorb rain water as possible. With this precaution compost heaps in this climate, do not require, as they do in wetter countries, covering over with turf, litter, or other material.

The horticulturist bestows great attention in forming composts,—these proving to him the most important fertilizers. In this country the farmer too much neglects this important means of restoring fertility to overcropped and exhausted soils, which with deeper and cleaner cultivation would, in most cases make a grateful and profitable return. The economical and mixing of manures in connection with more thorough system of cultivation, (including draining where necessary) must always form the basis of every successful system of husbandry.

### Oats given to Horses before or after Drinking.

It is well known, but not so generally practiced as it ought to be, that oats or other grain given to horses are more readily digested, and consequently more nutritious, when supplied in a bruised or reduced state; and we have now improved a very convenient machine for effecting this very desirable purpose. The health and durability of the Horse greatly depend on the mode of feeding and treatment during his hours of rest, as well as on the quality of his food, and the amount of labour which he is required to perform. The following abridged observations of a practical French writer in the *Journal d'Agriculture Pratique*, are deserving the attention of all who have horses under their care.

The same quantity of oats given to a horse produces different effects according to the time they are administered. I have made the experiment on my own horses, and have always observed there is in the dung a quantity of oats not digested, when I purposely gave them water immediately after a feed of oats. There is decidedly, then, a great advantage in giving horse water before grain is fed to them. This is another bad practice, I observe, that of giving grain and hay on their return to the stable immediately after hard work. Being very hungry they devour much food eagerly, and do not properly masticate it; the consequence is that it is not so well digested and not nearly so nutritious. When a horse returns from work, perspiring and out of breath, it should be allowed to rest for a time, then given a little hay; and