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How to Convert a Swamp into a Meadow.

"Farmer" writes to know how to make a good meadow of a swamp lately drained, the soil a deep muck or peat. He says: "I saw in a former number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE directions for reclaiming muck soil that has been under water till lately and has been drained. Would it not make a good meadow if treated right? If so, what variety of grass would be most suitable?" A reclaimed swamp, when laid down in good condition, is the productive meadow on the farm. We have known such meadows to produce five imperial tons of hay to the acre. Such lowland, or bottom meadows, as they are generally called, are very rich in plant food, that only needs proper cultivation to yield abundantly any crops suited to the soil. Their chief constituents are decayed vegetable matter. As this has become too sour to be of much benefit in its present state, it needs, more than any other soil, exposure to the atmosphere; this can be best effected by a year's fallowing. Any matter different from itself will, if applied, improve it. We have applied clay, gravel, sand, anything most readily available. After the acidity has been removed by the process of fallowing, draining and manuring, there are some crops that it is especially adapted to, as potatoes, Belgian carrots, turnips—red or white, and rye. There is no other soil in which the benefits of a slight application of lime are so immediately apparent. The lime counteracts the acidity of the long immersed vegetable matter, and hastens its thorough decomposition. Timothy is a very good grass for such soils. The quality of its hay is well known to feeders, and highly appreciated. If the soil has been brought into good tilth and is rich enough for orchard grass, we would sow it in preference to timothy or any other grass we know. It is the grass for such a soil and in such a condition, if it be rich enough, and it will make ample returns for the expenses incurred.

Hay Making.

SIR,—As the hay season is fast approaching, I would like to bring to the notice of our Ontario farmers a simple mode of saving hay which was formerly practiced by a person of my acquaintance in the Province of Quebec. He used first to spread a layer of straw on the barn floor, and then a layer of hay of equal thickness, sprinkling both layers with salt pickle; so he proceeded with alternate layers of hay and straw until the bay was filled. In winter the hay and straw were cut down with a hay knife and passed through a straw cutter, and he assured me the cattle thus fed thrived as well as if they had been fed on hay alone. One great advantage of this mode of saving hay is that very little time is required to save it, as hay cut and thrown into winrows in the forenoon may be carried to the barn in the afternoon, if the weather is fine, as any moisture in the hay is absorbed by the straw. Of course this mode will not answer when hay is intended for the market, but for home use I know of no better mode, when good, well-saved straw is at hand. A very common mistake in hay making is in drying the hay too much. I have, when farming in the Province of Quebec, thrown hay cut by hand into winrows close after the scythe, then turned the winrows the first thing in the afternoon, and brought it into the barn the same day, sprinkling salt over every load as it was brought in at the rate of from four to six quarts per ton. The hay was timothy and clover. Some of my neighbors thought the hay was too green, and predicted that it would be spoiled, but no one could say that who saw it the winter following. I do not mean to say that I could do this every day, as the hay dries faster some days than others, according to the weather and the stage of maturity

at which it is cut. When the hay is in full bloom is the best time to cut, but when the scythe is used it is not always easy to get the whole crop cut just in the right time. Both timothy and clover having been injured by the May frost, the crop is likely to be rather late and not very heavy in this part of the country. SARAWAK.

Destroying Burdocks.

SIR,—Would you be kind enough to let me know what is the best method to adopt for destroying the Burdocks. By so doing you will oblige very much. A. A. L., New Carlisle, P. Q.

[The Burdock is one of that class of weeds that is generally an indication of a strong, rich soil. Pull or dig it out before seeding. It is an annual, and we never found any trouble in keeping our land free from it. Were there many of them in the land, they would, by plowing them under before the seeding, serve as a fertilizer.]

Sheep Raising.

SIR,—I would like to ask you a few questions about sheep raising and the best kind of sheep for me to keep. There are very few sheep kept by the farmers of this Province yet; you will hardly find one that keeps more than from two or three up to twenty, and nine-tenths of them not any at all. Feeling certain this is the best part of Canada for raising sheep, I got together a flock of twenty-five last year, and they have done splendidly; the ewes before lambing this spring were fat enough for the market, and not a tick to be found on them. We have no end of splendid pasture on the prairies for any number of sheep, and also hay for the cutting. A man can keep five thousand sheep here if he can only get the stock. The kind I can get to buy is a miserable breed, which is brought in from the State of Minnesota; they will weigh about ninety pounds, live weight. What I would like to know is—What would be the best kind of a ram to cross them with? I want large sheep for mutton, as it brings a high price in the Winnipeg market; also a kind that is hardy. If you will give me the desired information, with the probable cost of a first-class ram, and who to buy from, you will greatly oblige.

I will try and send you a few notes on farming out here, or answer any questions you may desire. Is the Southdown sheep harder than the larger size? If they are they would be a better kind. Crops are looking splendid, but we are afraid to raise too much grain for want of a market. We are in great need of a railroad. The old farmers could double their crops, and not be at any additional expense for machinery.

S. H. C., Ossowa, Manitoba.

[We have not practical knowledge of the suitability of any particular breed of sheep to the prairie, but from our knowledge of the Southdown, we would advise our esteemed correspondent to try it in preference to others.—It is hardy, and a superior breed in every respect.]

Cinerarias.

SIR,—I have a fine collection of these, or rather have had. The seeds were bought from a good firm, and the plants were carefully grown, all winter watered with manure water until they showed flower, so that they were really fine plants, with leaves like cabbages, almost hiding the pots. The blooms were good, though a little coarse; but during the bright days about the middle of April the plants suddenly gave way. The fine leaves became withered up and fell over the sides of the pots, and several of the younger ones had large spaces scorched or scalded out of them. Will you oblige me by stating the probable cause or causes of this break down of my finest plants, and oblige, yours truly,

A FARMER'S DAUGHTER, York, near Toronto.

[The probable cause was the heat and strength of the sun coming on to the plants that were more than usually succulent and full of sap through your liberal treatment. Cinerarias do not like direct and strong sunshine on their leaves. Possibly, too, you may have done what many amateur cultivators are apt to do under the circumstances, sprinkle the fine leaves overhead while the sun is shining upon them. This would lead to the upper leaves being scalded as described. In the future shade your Cinerarias a few hours on either side of noon after the middle of March. The sun up to that period has not strength enough to injure them much.]

Vegetable Marrows.

SIR,—When should I plant these, where, and what sorts? H. W., Saltfleet, Ont.

[Our fair correspondent was born a wit, if brevity is the soul of it. Her questions are model ones for general imitation; lucid and brief. It is impossible to go astray over them. Plant vegetable marrows at the end of May. They are tender and are not safe sooner. Place them in the richest, warmest part of your garden—the top of a compost heap or a dunghill is about the most suitable place. The Long, the Long Green, Custard & Moore's Vegetable Cream, are as good varieties as any others. No vegetable is more useful, rich and pleasant than delicate vegetable marrows about the size of ostrich eggs, nicely cooked and properly served.]

Radishes and Lettuces in Succession.

SIR,—How often should I sow the former and plant the latter to have a supply of both crops, and tender throughout the summer months? C. C., Askin, Ont.

[Sow radishes every week, and plant out or sow lettuces every fortnight. Few and often must be the rule in regard to both crops, if either are to be enjoyed in perfection.]

Celery.

SIR,—When should the first crop be planted out so as to be fit for cheese by the end of August; and is there any early variety that would come in sooner? ENQUIRER, Truro, N. S.

[There is not a moment to lose in planting out of celery, if it is to be fit for cheese in August. There is no early variety. Earliness is a matter of culture, not sort. It is hardly safe to try to force celery to come in before August. It is very apt to bolt into seed-bearing if forced too sharply; but if well watered and otherwise liberally treated, it may be had in great perfection in August. September, however, is considered time enough by most celery growers and eaters.]

Pathmasters' Duties.

SIR,—Please inform me in your July issue if a Pathmaster can be compelled by law to do statute labor, notwithstanding the by-laws of the municipal council of the township to the effect that it is his duty to do so. E. Y. A., Chatham.

[It is the duty of Pathmasters to see that all liable to perform statute labor do so, and to superintend the work and see that it is properly done. In this instance, as well as others, one head is worth more than many hands.]

Crop Prospects in Bruce County.

SIR,—Crops look good. Early sown spring grain appears to be a good crop at the present time; fall wheat is the heaviest looking crop I have seen in this part of Ontario, taking it as a whole, since I came here. The Silver Chaff I got from the Agricultural Emporium, and the Seneca, are the best looking crops I ever had on my farm. Frosty mornings here are keeping pasture down, but I do not think the grain has been injured as yet. Potatoes are kept back. Hay will be a light crop here if the frost keeps on. G. L., Greenock.

Potomac Fruit Growers — June Meeting.

Thanks to Mr. Newman, Secretary of the Potomac Fruit Growers' Association, for the following communication:

On the tables were several varieties of strawberries—President Wilder, Fillmore, &c.; but the Highland Beauty took the palm for (among its other qualities) its perfect shape, even at this late period of the season.

THE SUBJECT OF GRAPES

was under consideration. Prof. Taylor, Microscopist of the Department of Agriculture (who, by the way, is a *scientist*) was asked to lead in the discussion, and give his views upon grape blight.

"This is a very important topic. The cause is excessive moisture about the time of the coloring of the fruit. The superabundance of rain causes a new growth of the wood, and thus, as the fruit is deprived of its proper nourishment, it rots. To this theory it is objected, because all varieties do not suffer alike. The reason that some escape is