

from place to place. Thus they are able to obtain all the exercise they need through the day. In this manner they keep accustomed to the atmosphere, and can endure a considerable degree of cold. Only the combed varieties suffer in our climate when the mercury drops down nearly or quite to zero, and even they are hardened, if exposed by degrees, and soon become accustomed to severe cold. When laying hens (which require vegetable food) cannot find what they need, they will eat hay, selecting the fine blades from well-cured meadow grass. Treated in this manner, Brahmas do admirably well, and return a good profit in eggs. Laying hens require and must have, fresh water. They find this at the place where the cattle drink. Farmers, if they only knew it, with a small expense and trouble, are well situated to become, not only poultry raisers, but breeders of choice stock, for they have conveniences at hand, the expense is not so much. They certainly can be large egg raisers.

Fowls, and especially laying hens that are confined, require great attention to keep them profitable and in good health, and without possessing the latter, they cannot be of profit to the owner. It is useless to confine pullets or hens and stuff them with grain alone, and expect any great amount of eggs. They must be provided with freshly broken clam or oyster shells each day or two, and either chopped cabbage or onions for greens. The value of these two vegetables for poultry is not properly esteemed. They are even better than potatoes. When the tax devolves on us to supply the demand for green food, or its equivalent, we are simply astonished at the amount they will consume in order to satisfy their demands. Besides this, they must have grain. Those unused to the feeding of poultry for eggs, when confined, must possess a good store of patience and perseverance to wait for the returns, which will surely follow, if the age and condition of the birds be right. *Country Gentleman.*

Correspondence.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—1. Please write on one side of the paper only. 2. Give full name, Post-Office and Province, not necessarily for publication, but as guarantee of good faith and to enable us to answer by mail when, for any reason, that course seems desirable. 3. Do not expect anonymous communications to be noticed. 4. Mark letters "Printer's Manuscript," leave open, and postage will be only 1c. per ½ ounce.

How to Prepare a Lawn.

SIR,—Please inform me as to the best manner of seeding down a lawn, the quantity of seed required to the acre, the kind of seed, time to sow, &c. D. J., Thornhill.

[The first thing needed in improving the ground is to obtain good drainage. These can be made of stone laid in any way that will leave a space for the water to pass through; if drain tiles are to be had, they are just as good and generally cheaper. The drains should be from three to four feet deep. The next thing is to prepare the soil. If the lot is small, a spade is the best implement to use, sending the spade well down and completely inverting the soil. A good rich loam is best to constitute a good lawn. Be sure and throw out all stones found in digging, and have your ground as clean as possible. The seed may be sown either spring or fall. Lawn seed sown about the 1st of September receives the benefit of the autumn rains, which is very essential, and it will be in excellent condition by the spring; but should the ground be in fine order, it is just as well sown in spring, and should the weather be dry, be sure and keep it well watered. All being done as advised above, sow the grass seed on the well-prepared surface, raking it in, and roll well after sowing. As lawn grasses are of small growth, it is necessary that they should be sown thickly. Seedsmen generally keep grasses suited especially for lawns, parks, &c., but blue grass is very desirable, and also sweet vernal grass, on account of its delightful fragrance. For forming new lawns three to four bushels are required per acre. If the seed is sown early in spring, and the weather favorable, by the middle of July it will need cutting, and after that must be cut as often as possible, the oftener the better for the lawn.]

SIR,—I want to make an inquiry, and would like if you could give me some information on it. I have three six-acre fields, the soil in which is the same. I sow one-half with oats and the other half

with wheat. I take two crops; the second crop I seed down. Where the wheat was I have a third more hay than where the oats were. What is the reason that hay will not grow after oats? What chemical process do the wheat and oats take out of the ground? J. S., Trout River, P. Q.

[Grass will grow well after oats, and the practice in many places is to seed with oats. The difference in the yield of grass in the two cases stated undoubtedly depends on some condition not mentioned. If winter wheat is grown, the land would not be so long unoccupied as with the oat crop, which would have a greater tendency to promote the growth of weeds. A difference in the time of seeding to grass, or in the tillage practiced with the two crops, would also have an influence. The time of harvesting may present conditions in the exposure of the young grass that should also be considered. A full statement of all details of management may furnish an explanation of the difference observed in the yield of grass, without resorting to the application of chemical theories.]

A Record of the Weather.

SIR,—For some years past my mind has been impressed with the idea that we had about the same number of rainy days, cloudy days and days of sunshine in each and every year, and in order to test the truth or falsity of the same I set to work to keep a correct record of the weather, commencing with the first day of January, 1870, and the result has been pretty nearly as I anticipated. With regard to the actual amount of rain fall in each year I am not prepared to speak, not having the necessary apparatus to measure the volume thereof. But still it is my conviction that it is also about the same, though greatly diversified; for instance, when we had a wet March and April, May and June (our growing months) were generally dry; this, with July and August (our summer months), which are generally dry, would give the balance of the year's rain to October and November. The reverse would naturally be the case if March and April were dry, and thus, for my own satisfaction, I have carried the record in the subjoined tables up through a period of eight years as nearly correct as circumstances would permit. That some useful inferences might be drawn from them I have neither time nor space to discuss. I will, therefore, leave them to the more intelligent. But knowing that there were others equally curious with myself in these matters, I thought it but right to gratify them if acceptable to you, sir; if not, you know where the waste basket is. It will also be noticed that in the term "rainy days" everything is included from a light shower to a soaking wet day, and the same with regard to rain at night.

In 1870.	
Fine days .....	257
Cloudy days .....	22
Rainy days .....	50
Snow .....	36
Rainy nights .....	15
In 1871.	
Fine days .....	239
Cloudy days .....	59
Rainy days .....	46
Snow .....	21
Rainy nights .....	10
In 1872.	
Fine days .....	239
Cloudy days .....	50
Rainy days .....	49
Snow .....	27
Rainy nights .....	11
In 1873.	
Fine days .....	228
Cloudy days .....	54
Rainy days .....	55
Snow .....	28
Rainy nights .....	15
In 1874.	
Fine days .....	233
Cloudy days .....	57
Rainy days .....	49
Snow .....	26
Rainy nights .....	11
In 1875.	
Fine days .....	218
Cloudy days .....	68
Rainy days .....	44
Snow .....	35
Rainy nights .....	19

In 1876.	
Fine days .....	228
Cloudy days .....	71
Rainy days .....	45
Snow .....	21
Rainy nights .....	12
In 1877.	
Fine days .....	238
Cloudy days .....	69
Rainy days .....	44
Snow .....	14
Rainy nights .....	10

Now, May and June being our growing months, I have noted the wet days in each for each year, as follows: 1870—May, 4 rainy days; June, 6. In 1871—May, 3; June, 7. In 1872—May, 8; June, 6. In 1873—May, 4; June, 5. In 1874—May, 6; June, 7. In 1875—May, 8; June, 4. In 1876—May, 7; June, 3. In 1877—May, 3; June, 5. I find, also, that in 1870 I commenced to sow on the 2nd of May; 1871, April 18th; 1872, April 27th; 1873, April 30th; 1874, May 9th; 1875, April 27th; 1876, May 11th; 1877, April 16th, which were the earliest periods that I could sow, my land being low; on higher and lighter lands sowing was something earlier. My best crops were in 1872, '74 and '75, which years, it will be noted, had the greatest number of rainy days in May and June; my lightest in '76 and '77. This summer has been remarkably dry, and for the breadth sown the straw has been very light; yet the yield from the quantity of straw, especially wheat, cannot be said to be very light. Roots of all kinds have been a poor crop; hay scarcely average. We have had a great quantity of rain through October and November, which, with the complete absence of snow and the remarkable soft weather up to New Years, will, I fear, have a prejudicial effect upon the fall plowed land. We have had but ten days of clear weather during this month, yet neither rain nor snow. As circumstances vary in different localities, the above is given for the township of Landsdowne and surrounding country; and, if acceptable, I may at some future time give you a brief description thereof. R. V. K., Warburton.

Redfern Spring Wheat.

SIR,—As I notice you are doing a good work in trying all you can to improve our system of farming particularly, especially by the introduction of pure, clean seed grains, and those best adapted to our climate and soil, I have to notice more particularly the introduction of the Redfern Spring Wheat, which has within the last three years been introduced in our vicinity with great success; this last season it has done remarkably well, yielding from 30 to 50 bushels per acre, and that weighing generally 65 and 66 lbs. to the Winchester bushel, and from 60 lbs. wheat we got 43 to 45 lbs. of strong baker's flour, making the best description of bread. And this yield has been from ordinary cultivated ground—in no case from the summer fallow. Any soil capable of producing a good crop of oats or barley will produce (or, at least, has produced) the yield above spoken of, and I am satisfied that if any extra pains are taken in preparing the soil for wheat, it would yield 50 bushels to the acre. It has a good, strong straw, and a very large head, and there is not near the danger from lodging or falling down that many other kinds of wheat are subject to, especially the Black Sea, which invariably gets all tangled and twisted in every shape before fit for harvesting. I think all that has been raised in this and the adjoining township will meet with ready sale for the next season; indeed, I should recommend every farmer in Ontario to give it a fair trial. S. A., Aultville.

DISEASE-RESISTING POTATOES.—In your August issue I noticed a paragraph headed, "Are there disease-resisting potatoes?" Some years ago a society in London, Eng., had the same question brought to their notice, and resolved to send one of their number to South America to procure the wild potato, which they believed would most likely be free from disease. I never heard the result of their investigations, but, being in the Andes at that time myself, it occurred to me to dig some of the wild potatoes to see if there was no disease in them. I found the potatoes very small and a large percentage of them rotten. The disease seemed to be the same as among the potatoes here. As I have not noticed any answer to your question, I thought, perhaps these facts might be of interest to your readers. D. M., Pictou, N. S., Jan. 7, 1878.