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## The Culture of the Vetch.

The vetch, or tare, (*Vicia Sativa*) constitutes in several European countries one of the most valuable and extensively cultivated of the guminous forage-plants. It is annual, indigestible and hardy, and comprises several varieties, all of which possess properties more or less adapted to the wants of the farmer. We have received several enquiries respecting this class of plants, and its adaptation to the climate and raising of Canada.

Several varieties are cultivated in Germany and other European countries, but in the British Islands, where this crop extensively prevails, the winter and spring varieties only are much sought after. These two are precisely of the same species, and do not even constitute botanical varieties; and their different habits have been acquired from the practice of sowing one in the fall and the other in the spring. From the different habits they have acquired, it is of the greatest importance, even in the moderate climate of England, that they should be sown at the periods to which they are respectively adapted; for if the spring variety be sown in the fall, the early winter frosts would injure or destroy it. Much caution is required in this respect, as it is impossible to distinguish between the two kinds of seed from external appearance. In this country the winter variety would have, in the fall, no chance whatever; for in case the farmer should protect it through the coldest

months of winter, the severe night frosts which always occur after the snow is gone, would be sure to destroy it. The spring variety, therefore, is the only one adapted to the climate of Canada.

We are not, perhaps, in possession of sufficient information to say absolutely that the cultivation of the spring vetch could be profitably carried on as a general crop, to any great extent, in this Province. The vetch naturally does best in a warm and moist spring, and the sooner it can be got to cover and shade the ground the better; and the crop will always more or less depend on the vigour of its early growth. A cold, dry spring is consequently very unsuitable. From the little we have seen and heard of the cultivation of the tare, when properly treated, we are inclined to form a favourable opinion; certainly the matter is well worth a fair trial, and we shall be happy to hear from such of our readers as have had practical experience in it. In the meanwhile, we offer the remarks that follow.

A rich clay loam is the best adapted to the culture of the vetch; although it will succeed either on lighter or heavier lands, if liberally treated. It is best to manure the ground in the fall, and plough it in a good depth, carefully furrowing the land to keep it dry, which will be found highly advantageous in spring; when it should receive another ploughing and harrowing, to obtain a good tilth for the seed bed. The spring ploughing may be dispensed with