

Q. There was very little snow and a very severe winter, and the Fall wheat was killed last year in our locality, which may have affected this Ox-eye Daisy.

A. That is the only thing I can suggest, because it is a perennial plant, which usually lives many years.

By Mr. Rogers :

Q. Close cropping with sheep is the best thing ?

A. It is, for most weeds.

Q. I have seen farms cleaned in that way.

A. Sheep will keep down many weeds, but I doubt if they will this one.

By Mr. McNeill :

Q. Is there any season when you can cut undergrowth when it is less likely to grow than at another season ?

A. No; I do not think so.

Q. I had at my own place two cases of the undergrowth being cut on two occasions; some of this undergrowth which was cut I did not wish to have cut at all, and I thought it would grow up again, but on neither occasion did it grow, although it generally grows very freely ?

THE CANADA THISTLE.

A. The question of cutting at a certain season has been very much spoken of in regard to the Canada Thistle, and the statement is often made that Canada Thistles, cut at a certain season, will rot or bleed to death. I have cut thistles at different seasons and find it is not a fact. The reason is, that, if a plant is living on something else laid up for it, it will feed on that all the time it lasts. The life history of the Canada Thistle is well known. It makes a small growth the first year; the stem dies down in the winter right to the ground, but is not killed by the winter. It is merely the stems; the underground stems are very much alive. Next season these underground stems or root-stocks throw up many flowering stems, which live at the expense of the food laid up in the underground stems. At any time you cut the plant that season, you will only cut away so much of the growth which has been living on the supply of food in the root-stocks. If the plants were cut two or three times during the season, it would have much more effect than one cutting. As to bleeding to death, there is absolutely nothing in it. The stem will never rot until it is dead. If you can cut it down right to the surface of the ground it will only make the plant throw up one or two more stems from the root. No water is going to get into that stump and rot the root; besides, if you cut late in the month of June, the time usually advised, there is that that is the time of the year when the thistle has drawn off the largest amount of the prepared food laid up last year, and it has not yet had time to ripen any further growth produced later, it is quite possible to do more harm than good. The cutting simply prunes it and if it is a strong plant with plenty of roots it will simply throw up more shoots than the one you have cut off. There may be four or five stems for each one you cut down, and these will produce enough leaf growth in a short time to go on with their business of feeding to lay up food in the root-stalks to supply ample nourishment for the flowering stems of the following season. This is one of the general principles of plant life which we must remember in fighting perennial weeds. If perennial plants root near the surface of the ground, these roots should be turned over and exposed to the air and sun, which will destroy them. If they are deep rooted, we can only destroy them by cutting them off at the top and destroying the leaves that feed on the air, and follow this up by keeping on cutting