

## CULTURE OF THE TURNIP.

The following remarks on the varieties of the turnip, and the best modes of cultivating, are from an American exchange, and may be useful to those who are not fully acquainted with the subject:—

"It is scarcely practicable to carry on a correct and profitable system of husbandry, without the introduction of green and root crops; among which turnips and potatoes deserve special attention, as being among the most valuable products of the farm: not only as a suitable change in the rotation, but also highly esteemed for their usefulness, in cattle feeding, and for domestic purposes.

Turnips are a most important root for the fattening of cattle; although by some, the turnip crop is considered merely as a catch crop, (the meaning of which is, that the crop is produced upon land that would otherwise have remained a naked fallow through the season, in order that the soil might be properly tilled by repeated ploughings, freed from root weeds, manured, and prepared for the succeeding grain crop,) it therefore may be considered an economical crop, as the land during the cultivation and growth of the turnips, receives the requisite preparation for the grain crop which is to follow, with the exception of a single ploughing after the turnips are removed from the land.

Turnips may be divided into three general classes; the round or globe shaped, the depressed or Norfolk, and the fusiform or oblong. They are likewise sometimes distinguished by their colour, as the white, the yellow, and the purple-topped: but these classes have, however, many intermediate varieties that have been obtained by crossing the sorts. The white, with the green and purple-topped, are early kinds, and grow well on a lightish soil, and produce a crop with a less quantity of manure than the others. These kinds, do not, however, last so long as the others, as they are more apt to run to seed, or to be injured by the frosts. The Aberdeen yellow is a kind between the globe and the ruta бага or Swedish turnip, and is much hardier than the globe; it is also later in coming to maturity, is better able to withstand the frost, and generally yields a good crop. The Swedish turnip is however, much the hardiest, and will resist the frost to a far greater extent than any other variety, and will retain its juices to a much later period in the spring. The Swedish turnip, however, requires a full dressing of manure to produce a good crop. This species of turnip will, while the plants are young, bear transplanting much better than the others, consequently any blank spaces in the crop can be filled up, provided they are transplanted as early in the hoeing season as practicable.

The time of sowing the different varieties varies; much depending on the season and climate; those that are most solid and nutritive require the longest time to grow, and should therefore be sown soonest; and on this account the Swedish should be sown pretty early.

The quantity of seed should always be liberal, for by sowing too little the crop sometimes fails; for when the plants are attacked by insects, and are thin on the ground the crop will be destroyed; whereas if the plants are numerous, they grow quicker, and are more likely to withstand the ravages of insects, or a droughty season.

Turnips being looked upon as a complete fallow crop, they are on this account introduced into that part of the rotation which closes one course, and commences another.—The land for turnips ought to be well cultivated, with sufficient ploughings and harrowings to bring it to a fine tilth, and made perfectly free from root weeds. For drill sowing, the ground is then formed into ridgelets by the plough, and the manure spread evenly along in the rows. Well rotted dung is of the greatest importance, and in quantity from ten to twenty tons per acre, as the state of the land and the variety of the turnip may require. No crop is better adapted than turnips, for any other description of manure than farm-yard dung; as ashes, rape dust, oil cake, bone dust, and numerous other manures, are calculated to produce crops of this vegetable. The seed should be drill sown, and be deposited as near the manure as possible, and it is only by drill sowing that this can be attained. It is highly important in dry weather, that the preparing the land, applying the manure, earthing it in, and sowing the seed should follow each