

adapted for various purposes, but will have some special articles to be placed at the disposal of the Exhibition Commissioners for use during the Exhibition, and many other manufacturers will, no doubt, be equally ready to send contributions. It is hoped that our own mechanics will send in timely notice, so that space may be secured for the effective display of their handiwork.

WORK FOR THE SEASON.

At this busy season of the year it is well for an Agricultural Journal to exhibit a practical turn. It is time for work. We have therefore selected from the *American Agriculturist*, the *Gardeners' Monthly*, the *American Stock Journal* and other sources, their hints for farming and gardening operations for the present time:—

FIELD CROPS.

July and August are months of hard work; haying presses upon hoeing, and this has to be neglected too often for the grain harvest. Then turnip and buckwheat sowing, cabbage setting, and a score of other necessary or desirable things fill every moment of the long days, and may cause sore perplexity if the plans are not well thought over for each day and for several days ahead.

Weather.—We expect hot weather, with some two or three weeks very hot and dry. We must be prepared to take advantage of a few rainy days early in the month to transplant cabbages, fill out tobacco, or vacant spots in the rows of ruta-bagas. Thunder storms must be looked out for, and hay and grain shielded from damage as well as possible.

Hay.—Cut, cure, and mow away by horse power if possible. Steady and rapid drying of the hay, as when the hay tedder tosses it up every few minutes until it is cured, is best; curing in the cock after having been twice turned, and cocked up while hot, next best, and makes better hay than that sunned and dried, and raked up after the dew falls, in the usual way. Cotton stuffs are cheap enough to make hay caps now, and they often pay for themselves in one rainy week. Upon shocks of

Grain, caps of cloth are often very useful, as it takes no longer to put them on than to put on the cap sheaves. Cut when nearly ripe, and if the straw is short or dry, it saves time and labor to take to the field dampened, long rye straw for bands.

Pastures must be well looked to, and if they begin to get short, the cattle should be fed daily with green corn fodder, or

other green feed. Top-dress with guano, ashes, plaster, or any fine compost.

Root Crops.—Ruta-bagas sown last month should be well hoed and thinned. Hoe other roots. So turnips any time during July. A full crop of Ruta-Bagas cannot be expected, but a very good one may be, excellent for the table. Sow Strap-leaf or Cowhorn turnips only, after the 25th. They will do well sown among corn at the last hoeing

Potatoes.—Keep weeds pulled; scatter turnip seed or set cabbage plants, when hills are wanting.

Corn.—Keep down the weeds with the plow and cultivator until the corn is too large; do as little hand-hoeing as possible, but pull the weeds close in by the hills, and work the rest of the ground by horse power. Sweet corn will mature "roasting ears," if sown as late as the 4th of July, and corn may be sown for green or dry fodder up to 20th.

Stacks for hay, grain, and corn fodder, are best made long and narrow. For such, the horse-fork attached to a pair of large shears may be used.

Cabbages.—Set on rich land, where early potatoes, peas, etc., were taken off. Top-dress with lime, and water freely when first put out; when well established and beginning to grow, a few waterings at evening with liquid manure, (barn yard lye) will give them a grand start, and do much towards securing a large crop. Hoe very frequently.

Buckwheat may be sown any time during the month. It is one of the most profitable crops we raise, occupying the ground but a very short time, doing fairly on land not in the best heart, and well on any land not enriched with rank manure and not too wet. It makes so dense a covering as to choke down all common weeds, and yields a very good return for the labor it requires, in grain and straw, which latter is a valuable addition to the manure heap. An old practice, rarely followed of late years, so far as we know, yet not to be overlooked, is the sowing of buckwheat as late as the last of this month or first week of August with wheat. This crop matures before frost, or not at all, and being removed the wheat has the ground the rest of the season and is not perceptibly injured.

Orchards.—It is often a problem what crops to put in an orchard, which should be tilled for the benefit of the trees. Potatoes seldom do well on a sod, and weeds will grow badly under the trees. Corn or grain should be out of the question, because they make their strong growth just when the trees do theirs, and are a serious damage. "No white crop in an orchard," is the old English rule. Potatoes, roots, cabbages, and clover, are beneficial. On rather light loams, the sward turned over flat, rolled, and harrowed so as not to tear the sod, buckwheat

will make a fair crop. The sod will rot, the grass be kept under, and if the stubble be manured and plowed after the crop is off, the land will be in good condition for potatoes or root crops the next year if not too much shaded.

Manure Making.—If the weather be dry, employ every spare hour in ditching and draining swamp holes and mucky places, to get out a good supply of material for composts. All peaty matter, bog grasses, ferns and rushes, sods, wherever found, and in the absence of these, good surface soil, or even sand, ought to be freely used to compost with stable and yard manure. This is more important during the warm weather than at any other time. It is best to lay up the materials in compact rectangular heaps, having drainage secured under the whole bottom. The hog pens should be well supplied with weeds and green vegetable matters of all kinds, which they rapidly convert into manure. It is the saying of an old farmer: "Anything that grows in the summer will rot in the winter." This may not be exactly true, but sufficiently well indicates the kind of material to put into hog pens.

Animals.—All kinds of animals do better for being well fed. Young stock grow much more rapidly for a little meal; oil-cake porridge is grand feed for hogs, and they need but little to keep them well growing. Bees ought to get grain in addition to the best grass; they do much better for it, and it costs less to fit them for market. Be sure that there is no lack of water, and it is best to keep salt where all the stock can always get at it.

Weeds.—Maintain constant warfare; cut those in blossom, whenever seen, and throw them into the hog pen. Any that go to seed should be burned.

Irrigation.—This subject is constantly exciting more interest. It is especially valuable for the production of grass, though its application is by no means limited to forage plants. The great value of the hay crop naturally leads us to wish to double it. Wherever an opportunity occurs, turn a gentle stream of water upon fresh-mown grass land, and so distribute it that it shall trickle over as wide a surface as possible. Let it stay on a day or two at a time, and report the result.

Drainage.—The importance of drainage is only imperfectly understood. It is the best agency we can employ as a protection against protracted droughts. Those especially interested should read *Draining for Profit*, or that epitome of the subject in the *American Agricultural Annual* for 1867.

LIVE STOCK.

We all find the intense heat of the Summer oppressive, and so do the farm animals. Give them some shelter from the sun. We have seen arguments designed to