

BARLEY.

We condense the following remarks on the culture of Barley from late numbers of the *Rochester New Yorker*.

Soils and their Adaptation.

The best soil for barley is a warm, rich, and mellow loam. In England, says Johnston, the terms barley-land and wheat-land are the usual designation of light and heavy soils adapted especially to the growth of these several crops. On clay lands the produce of barley is greater, but is of a coarse quality and does not malt as well—on loams it is plump and full of meal—and on light calcareous soils the crop is light, the grain thin in the skin, of a rich color, and well adapted to malting. Mucky soils will occasionally produce good barley, though rather light in weight, but they are far from sure for this crop. It may appear favorably until near heading, and then turn yellow and produce nothing, particularly if dry weather occur. A deep gravelly loam, in the best condition to promote vigorous vegetation—one which will bear drought and produce a full growth of straw—if fertile and properly moist and favored by a warm season, will produce a large crop of barley. It should not follow wheat or oats, nor should a second crop come immediately after the first, without the application of a liberal dressing of well decomposed manure—and it is the best course to seed to clover, which succeeds well with barley, growing that for two years and then some manured corn or root crop, before re-cropping with barley.

Preparation and Culture.

The preparation of the soil for barley, as already hinted at, should be of a thorough character. A deep mellow tilth is most favorable to productiveness. It is the practice of many of our most successful farmers to sow barley after a hoed crop—when the earth is left light and free from weeds. Barley suffers much from a foul state of the soil. After a good crop of corn, well-manured, and thoroughly cultivated, of course, a good yield generally follows, larger than if the manure had been applied directly to the barley. These corn stubbles are generally plowed in the fall, especially if not of a rapidly drying or well drained character; and care should always be taken to provide ready surface drainage that no water may stagnate upon the soil. A fall-plowed clover ley properly prepared is generally productive. We should recommend in spring first harrowing lengthwise the furrow, and then working with the gang plow or wheat cultivator before sowing. When green sward is to be sown, the use of the Double or Michigan Plow, would ensure a better prepared seed bed. Some plow as deeply as possible with the common plow, and then cover the seed with the gang plow, harrowing and rolling afterward. It is important to roll after seeding in any case, as a better growth will be insured.

It should ever be borne in mind by those who grow barley, that fine tilth—a deep, well pulverized soil is very important. Clays will produce fair crops, if well worked with harrow and roller, and the season be favorable. Maturing quickly, it requires good culture and the soil fitted to give it immediate and abundant support.

Time of Sowing—Amount of Seed.

Barley should be sown as early as the season will allow of adequate preparation. The crop stands about three months on the ground, and it is important that it gets a fair start before the summer drouth comes on. Of late years we find few successful crops which were sown later than May-day, and one advantage of fall plowing our corn stubbles is that it facilitates the early sowing of the barley crop following in rotation.

The amount of seed usually given to an acre, varies from two to three and one-half bushel; poor, early sown, and mellow soils requiring least. If drilled in also a less quantity is required; and rolling when the young plants are a few inches in height, if the ground is dry and porous, is said to be serviceable in giving support to the roots, causing the plants to tiller and increasing their vigor. We question the utility of sowing over two and one-half bushels per acre, though some of the best crops reported have received three bushels, and three and one-half. Others, however, equally as good, have been produced from two bushels seeding.

Harvesting—Value of the Straw.

In harvesting barley it is important to cut it at the right stage, when neither too green or too ripe. If rather green, the grain shrinks, and is of light weight—if fully ripe it shells easily and the straw is of less value. It is said that when the head begins to