

AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION.



Culture of Potatoes.—From the earliest period of the history of the Province, it appears the usual custom has been to cut the potatoes previous to planting them, and in general, it must be admitted, the plan has succeeded tolerably well. Of late years, however, a new disorder has arisen amongst potatoes, generally known by the name of the *dry rot*, a disease which seems to call for a change in the established mode of planting. So long as this disorder continues, the husbandman, to secure himself from the risk of an entire failure, *must plant his potatoes whole*. The necessity for this alteration in the mode of planting is as follows:—the dry rot is a disease which eats away the moisture of the potatoe, and at length causes it to crumble into dust; when therefore a potatoe is cut and put into the ground, each cut has to contend with the disorder tending to affect the moisture, and also with the *air and soil*, having the same influence. With these powers to oppose, the piece of potatoe is planted whole, the *strong rhind* preserves it in a great measure from the injurious effect of the atmosphere and ground, and it has but the disorder itself to overcome, and which it is generally enabled to do; and to shoot forth its stems before the dry rot can have advanced sufficiently to kill it. It is true that sometimes even the *whole potatoe will fail*, but in that case the former may console himself with the certain belief that if he had planted it in cuts, they would inevitably have failed likewise. We may not be right in our view of the necessity of planting potatoes whole, but whether or not, we think it can be demonstrated that nothing is ever lost by following this method. That many who have commenced on this system, may not, for a while, make it answer as well as planting their seed in cuts, is quite natural to suppose. The plan is new to them, but when a farther practice shall have given them experience, there can be little doubt but they will find it satisfy their most enlarged expectations. The two great things to be observed in planting potatoes whole, are, to have **THE ROWS VERY WIDE APART**, and the potatoes planted **VERY CLOSE TOGETHER**, the greatest distance not more than *seven inches apart*.

On all these points however we subjoin two documents, the first from the "*British Farmer's Magazine*," by the late T. A. Knight,

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