

LARGE AND SMALL POTATOES.

MR. EDITOR:—Seeing in one of the former numbers of the FARMER a request for an experiment in regard to large and small potatoes for planting, and not seeing as yet any satisfactory answer, I will give your readers the result of an experiment tried in 1825, when I commenced farming for myself.

I selected a long square piece of ground, and prepared it by plowing and harrowing, and carrying on manure, which I put in heaps so as to be convenient for manuring six rows of potatoes—each load of manure reaching across the piece. I then drew furrows with a plow lengthwise, and put in the two first rows large whole potatoes; in the second, two large potatoes, cut in three pieces and the three pieces put in a hill; in the third row, I put small whole potatoes; and thus alternately through the piece, putting the manure on the potatoes, and then covering with dirt. I was careful that each kind should have its share of attention through the season, doing the work myself. Now for the result. Of the first, I had forty-four baskets full, nearly all large and good potatoes; of the second, I had thirty-six baskets full, of middling size and quality; of the third, I had twenty baskets full, of inferior size and quality.

I have practiced planting large whole potatoes since that time, taking care, also, that they are sound and healthy; and I have had but very few rotten potatoes, although some of my neighbors have lost nearly the whole of their crops during the prevalence of the rot.

GEORGE R. PALMER.

WILLETT, Cortland Co., N. Y.

ORCHARD GRASS.

MR. EDITOR:—Your favor of the 12th is at hand, and in reply I would say that my father (Z. COX, late deceased) has had in cultivation the orchard grass for at least fifty years; and always considered it the most profitable of any kind of grass where the soil was adapted for its growth, and superior to all others for the orchard, growing nearly as well in the shade as when exposed to the sun; and for pasture-land it stands pre-eminent,—starting earlier, holding out later, and affording a more nutritious growth than any other of all the different kinds of grass with which I am acquainted. It is also better to sow with clover than any of the other kinds, as it matures at the same time with clover in cutting for hay, and is fit to cut for seed from the 1st to the 5th of July in this latitude. I have seen the orchard grass growing

finely in the upper portion of South Carolina, in Pennsylvania, in this State, and in Connecticut; and I have no doubt but that it can be cultivated and grown finely in the upper part of the States of Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and all the Western States. The western part of this State, and the southern part of Michigan, is admirably adapted for its growth; and, in short, it can be grown on all lands that will produce corn or wheat.

In traveling through Michigan and this State, I have often wondered why, on their wheat soils, they did not sow orchard grass with their clover. The time for sowing is in the spring with spring crops, or in the fall with wheat—say half a bushel of orchard grass seed, well mixed with from three to four quarts of clover, and harrowed in with the crop of grain sown.

Herds grass is considered a better kind of hay by some for horses, but orchard grass is better adapted for all other kinds of stock than herds grass, when cut in season.

Truly yours,

BATAVIA, N. Y.

N. K. CONE.

AGRICULTURAL LECTURES.

MR. EDITOR:—H. W. VAIL, of Newark, N. J., commenced on Thursday evening, February 15th, a course of lectures on Agriculture and Horticulture, at Phillipsburg, N. J., nearly opposite Easton, Pa. His subjects are highly suggestive. Among them are "Fruits and Fruit Trees," "Use of Guano, Superphosphate of Lime, and care of Manures," "Theory of Vegetable Growth," "High or thorough Farming," and "Vegetable Garden."

Mr. VAIL's lectures are such as an enthusiastic lover of scientific practical farming delights to hear. He is evidently full of his subject, and has had experience which enforces what he says upon practical men. He uses no high-flown or technical language, but handles his subject as though he was not afraid that his hearers should understand all he said. Still, as yet, we fear he is too much in advance of our farmers to elicit that support which he so richly deserves. Book farming is only beginning to receive attention, but the prospects for the future are bright. Our Agricultural Society, though in its third year, is as large and vigorous as many who number their age by scores. The "Northampton County Poultry Association" has not been organized a year, yet its first Annual Exhibition, in January, was by far the best we have ever seen.

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EASTON, Pa.