

LIME AS MANURE.—Much labour has been exhausted in trying to ascertain the best method to enrich and prepare the ground so as to produce the best crop. After using various kinds of dressing, none have proved better than lime, for land on which corn is planted.

Lime has in itself many valuable properties. It gives a suitable degree of heat to cause immediate vegetation; it guards it from worms and insects that often destroy one-half of the first planting; it causes an early and rapid growth, that ripens the grain before the frost appears. When lime is used for other kinds of grain, it has the same effect as on corn; it has also the valuable quality of guarding it against mildew. No grain sown on land so prepared, will suffer from this great evil, by which so many valuable fields have been destroyed.

The best method of using lime is, to mix one eighth part with old barn manure, then to be placed in the hole with the corn. When used for other kinds of grain, it should be spread on the top of the ground after it is ploughed, and harrowed in with the grain. No one can fully estimate the value of lime for this purpose, unless they try the experiment. The average difference in a crop is from one-third to one half more by using the lime.

It is also almost the only sure preventative of vermin on fruit trees in this section of the country. Lime placed about the body of trees early in the spring, will prevent their increase. Slacked lime mixed with soap and water, used as a wash on the parts of the tree where insects have deposited their eggs will destroy them entirely. This has been proved by the writer.

In many parts of England, they estimate the value of their land, in some proportion, to its nearness to lime kilns, on account of the valuable properties of lime for dressing. Our farmers should turn their attention to the subject.

SOWING AND PLANTING.—In most cases we obtain as good crops without early planting. Corn, potatoes, beets, carrots, parsnips, pumpkins, squashes, melons, cucumbers, beans, and most vegetable crops, do better by delaying planting till the ground is warm and dry, and the weather is generally warm, as cold weather and severe storms, check, and in some cases destroy tender plants. Most of these crops succeed better if they be planted from the middle to the last of May, though it is generally best to get corn in by the 20th of May, as it requires the whole of a common season to become well ripened. In cases of early planting the ground becomes heavy and hard from severe storms, and the plants become stunted while the weeds which are hardy, are getting possession of the land, and can be expelled only with much cost and trouble.

But some things require early attention. Spring wheat, rye, oats and barley should be sown as soon as the ground becomes dry enough to work; as in this case there is a much better chance for a good crop. Warm, muggy weather is more likely to cause a failure in late sown grains, than that which is sown early. Last season the drought cut off late sown oats and barley, and those sown late are generally more liable to injury from this cause.

Peas do best when planted early; and they are so hardy that cold will not injure them. When sown late they are liable to injury from rust and mildew. Onions should be sown quite early, else they will not ripen well unless the season be favorable. The tomato and some other vegetables should be sown early, else they will not generally ripen well in our climate; and for early use many kinds should be planted as soon as the ground is dry.

SOWING TURNIPS AMONG CORN.—By scattering a small quantity of turnip seed among corn at the last hoeing, the last of June or first of July, a considerable quantity of turnips may frequently be obtained with very little expense, and without injury to the corn. If the corn grows very rank, and completely shades the ground, the turnips will be small until the corn is ripe, or the stalks cut, or the corn cut up, then the turnips will grow, if the season be favorable.

It may be so late before the ground is exposed to the sun, that the turnips will be small. But when the sun is admitted, from the smallness of the corn, or it ripens early, or is cut up or topped in good season, the turnips generally attain a large size, and if they are rather thin, they will yield well for an extra crop. Sometimes 50 or 75 bushels of turnips are raised in this way at an expense not exceeding so many cents, excepting the harvesting.

Turnips of a rapid growth may be sown among corn as late as the middle or 20th July, and if the fall be warm, they get a good growth, after the usual season for corn to ripen, or for cutting it up, or topping the stalks. The early garden stone is an excellent turnip for late sowing. The quality is fine, and it grows more rapid than the common flat.

It is good for feeding out early, but does not keep so well as other kinds. We sowed some of this variety on the 30th of July, as mentioned in an experiment in the last number, and the largest measured seven inches in diameter, and three inches in depth. Many were nearly of this size.—*Yankee Farmer.*

CABBAGE HEADS FROM STUMPS.—James Bates of Norridgewock, Me., writing to the *Farmers' Journal*, says:—

“I do not know what all your Boston gardeners are up to, but I do know that, if cabbage stumps of any variety are set out in the spring, in good order, one, two, three, or even four good sound heads will grow on them; and this they will do year after year, until they die by accident. They are managed in the following manner: The upper, narrow leaved sprouts, which would bear seed, are carefully rubbed off, and likewise all the lower, round leaved ones, which latter will form heads, leaving only so many of these as the strength of the stump and the soil are capable of bringing to perfection. At our cattle show, Mr. John Drew presented several such stumps, with one to four heads of Low Dutch cabbage on each, which have borne for three years. He sets them out in earth in the cellar in autumn, cuts off the heads when required for use, and places the stumps pretty thick in the garden in spring. The labour is trifling, the cut-worm gives no trouble, and the crop is sure and abundant.”

EWES AND LAMBS.—A difficulty is sometimes experienced in making ewes own their lambs, and oftener perhaps, when cases of twin lambs occur than at any other time. Those who desire to rear all their lambs, may find a benefit in sprinkling a little fine salt over the disowned ones. This will usually attract the mother, and when once the operation of licking has been performed, there is seldom any danger of desertion. A friend assures us he has practiced this method with decided success, and no injury to the lambs may be apprehended from the application. Sheep, when about to lamb, should be moved and disturbed as little as possible, as all such disturbances, especially with young or wild ewes, greatly increase the probability of their forsaking their young.—*Ayrshire (Eng.) Agr. culturist.*