

many harvest storms, although, sometimes, long continued spells of wet weather will cause the inside of the sheaves to take water, but this is the exception.

In stacking when the dew lies on the sheaves, it is well to place the cap sheaves near outside of the stack. Commence the stack by setting up sheaves around a central one. Continue this until the bottom is large enough, being careful that it is not so large as to prevent the stack being properly laid out. When finished, the stack should present a true egg shape, the end down. A little observation and practice will enable you to do this. One course having been laid, commence the next on the outside layer, about even with the outside butts; lay the next row with the butts about six inches over the bands of the preceding layer, and so proceed, circle within circle until you get to the centre. Keep the stack well crowned to the middle, also, when the stack commences to settle, the sheaves point downward to the centre, and let it in the water. Place each sheaf firmly and compactly next its neighbor, and when the stack has reached a height of two or three feet, according to the size of the stack, commence laying out, placing each succeeding outside course from two to four inches over the edge until you reach the proper height when it may be carried up square to the point whence it becomes necessary to commence drawing it.

From the point where the stack is to be drawn increase in size, keeping the middle very full; and the sharper the top, the fuller the middle requires to be kept. An important point to be observed is that the sheaves be not all pitched to the stack from one side, since this will cause the stack to settle unevenly; and in passing over the stack, if soft places be observed, keep them filled to correspond with the other portions of the stack; and in stacking do not walk further towards the outside of the sheaves than is necessary, since this is apt to cause the outer bundles to slide. If the middle of the stack from any cause becomes low, commence at the centre and lay out near the outside, and then work as before directed; for if the sheaves near the outside be not quite slanting the stack will, in settling, let in water, and this must be specially guarded against as the top is drawn to an apex.

To finish the stack, stand in the centre and place the bundles so the butts will always be lowest, and when you have the stack to as sharp a peak as possible, force a long, smooth, sharply-pointed stake down into the stack, leaving only about eight or ten inches projecting, which should be covered with a large long sheaf, butt upward, with the heads carefully spread over the stack, and the end of the butt of the sheaf tied tightly over the stake. If these directions are carefully followed, there is no reason why the stack should not preserve its contents intact, without thatching or further care.—Farmers' Union.

Overflooded Wheat Fields.

Spring has at it made its appearance, and our farmers are very busy just now in preparing their grounds for crops. The past has been a peculiar winter for this region—frequent thaws, high water, and all its attendant evils, much mud, wheat exposure, &c., &c. Yet our wheat looks quite as well as could be expected, fully an average with former years.

I noticed an article in this week's Telegraph, over the signature of S. J. Woolley, Franklin county, O., stating that the wheat crop in his section, on all lands that hold water, is badly frozen out. The land in Franklin county may not hold water, but I hardly think Mr. Woolley's will, for this reason:—I now have a field of fifteen acres of wheat on my farm that have been under water from one inch to six feet, within the past five months, five or six times, and I never saw finer prospects for a crop. There is not a rod on the whole piece but bids fair to be unusually heavy. I might farther state that I have fifteen acres of wheat on other land, a portion of which has frequently been submerged, and at times for weeks together, still I fail to discover that it is frozen out any more than other portions that were not overflowed. Wheat will stand an unlimited amount of water during late fall, winter and early spring, without injury if sowed early; and I repeat what I have written before, that no one need fear to sow wheat on land subject to inundation, if it will not wash.

Last year I contested the right of possession with a patch of Canada thistles. The soil was a sandy loam, and rich. It was about an even thing for a long time. They held me level until late in the summer. My practice was to pull them once a week by shoving a stick down by the side of them and pulling them up. But a thing would do, for they came to time regularly. At last I struck on a new plan. I treated them with a small allowance of kerosene oil,

about a spoonful each, stuck a stick by them, and that was the last I saw of them. They were black in fifteen minutes. I afterwards dug up some of the roots and found them killed in sections. Will some one else try the experiment?—Cor. Germantown Telegraph.

Corn and Cut Worms.

A correspondent of the Country Gentleman says:—Your valuable preventive—one and one-half pounds of copperas to one bushel of corn—I tried as follows, with great ease, cheapness and certainty, and most marked and astonishing results to all my hands:—I pulverized two pounds copperas at night, and the next morning put in soak, and I put one and a half bushels of corn in soak in a separate vessel at night. After soaking twelve hours I poured off the water from the corn into a tub; I then added as much water as covered the corn, and added to it the copperas water, and thoroughly mixed and poured over the corn, and let it remain in copperas water twelve hours; I then poured off the copperas water from the corn and rolled the seed corn in plaster. I early for planting I open deep furrows, say four or five inches, and cover light with corn coverer, but I late I cover deeper. I tried this experiment on a soil rich of three years standing, ploughed in March and April of 1873. I ploughed with a three-horse plough seven inches deep on the average; the ground was nicely pulverized. Planted on the 1st of May, three and a half by three and a half each way. Two days planting (ten acres.) I dampened the corn and rolled it in the plaster.

The third day I had the corn prepared with copperas and ready to plant. I planted the corn across a forty-four acre field, by the side of the second day's planting, and there were between two and four days planting; all treated alike, except the application of copperas on the two bushels of seed corn. To the surprise and satisfaction of myself and hands, it came up regular, green and vigorous, and grew rapidly. I soon found it necessary to replant. I found on examination not a mill cut nor a worm to be found where the copperas was used, and the entire field, except the two bushels of seed thus treated, was cut from two to three hills out of five, and I often found from one to fifteen cut worms in a hill. I was so worried I could not determine which plan was the best—replant, plough and wait over, or check off between rows. I made a note of such being done, but never tried it. I have ordered 150 pounds, and I am urging all my friends to give it a trial. One bushel of corn will plant five acres, and one and one-half pounds of copperas will prepare the bushel of corn. Copperas can be bought in quantities to suit farmers at six or seven cents per pound. It would cost 12 cents per acre. It is cheap, simple and certain with me and others who tried it last year, and I regard this a valuable preventive.

Improving Wheat for Seed.

Sow none but the largest and most perfect kernels. It has been my practice for the last sixteen or eighteen years to run my wheat for seed over a very coarse seed screen, so as to sow none but the very largest kernels. By so doing I have improved my wheat so that I have sold nearly all my wheat at home for seed. But in 1871 I hit upon a new plan. I had a piece of Treadwell wheat that was injured by insects in the previous fall, and killed by freezing in the winter, so that there were spots not worth cutting. After harvest I observed a few scattering heads of unusual size. It occurred to me that there was wheat that had withstood the ravages of insects and the rigor of the winter. I gathered enough to sow one rod square, from which I realized twenty pounds of wheat, of unusually large, even berry, which was at the ratio of over fifty bushels per acre; last harvest had twenty bushels, which weighed sixty-six pounds per bushel. It is my opinion that we realize the best crops from the best and most perfect seed in the vegetable as well as the animal kingdom.—Cor. Rural New Yorker.

SALTS VS BEETS.—Do they agree to join hands harmoniously and jog on together, in all soils, toward a full bin in the fall, as desirable, or do they not? I sowed my main crop of mangolds and sugar beets last year with salt sowed in the winter, 1 1/2 bushels only to the acre, or with stable manure cut up in March with the salt and lime mixture, and ploughed in 30 tons to the acre, in May. The foliage was blackened and crop crippled for the season—I shall not do this again on clay loam soil. Some rows that grew between currant rows, without salt or any manure at all, but in good ground, gave me 30 tons to the acre. If you try salt, friends, try it easy, say a quart to the acre for beets.—Cor. Maine Farmer.

Grasses and Forage Plants.

Questions about Lucerne.

S P M., of Holloway, sends the following queries about lucerne:—

- 1. Is lucerne liable to winter-kill, like clover?
2. Can it be cured and stored like other hay?
3. Where can the seed be procured, and what is the price per bushel?

1. We do not think it is so liable to winter-kill as ordinary clover, but it cannot be said to be wholly free from the tendency. It is less likely to suffer in light sandy soil than it is in stiff tenacious land. We could answer this question better a week or two hence, when we see how an experimental field turns out. If lucerne will stand such a winter as that just over, it will do.

2. Yes. In order to the best success in growing it for hay, the seed must be sown thickly, so that the plants may be forced to grow thin and spindling. The greatest care must also be taken in curing, lest it become too dry and strawy. It is a good plan to sprinkle it with salt pretty liberally when stacked or put in the barn mow.

3. At any good seedsmen's. The price is variable according to the market, like all the grasses. The present spring it is quoted at thirty cents per pound.

Couch versus Squitch.

BY PROFESSOR J. DUCKMAN.

Going over a new farm which has just been taken by a friend, we found the case much as it usually is when the old tenant is going off, namely, wedding had not been so carefully attended to as it ought to have been, and Couch had run its long arms in every direction. Our friend, however, consoled himself with the idea contained in the following words—"There," said he, "that's the right sort of Couch; I can easily manage that!" Now, on carefully examining our friend's new acquisition, and pondering over his remark, I found that he was practically right; but as there should be, as there always will be when sought after, some principles leading to practical results, what are the principles in this case? They are as follows:—

- 1st. Couch grasses are of different species and habits.
2nd. As different species affect different soils, our farming results will also differ.
1. What, then, is the "right sort of Couch?" The Triticum repens, common Couch, with its two-rowed spike or "ear" of wheat-like flowers and seeds, with long, but strong, jointed, underground, creeping stems. This is the Couch of strong, generous soils. The wrong sort is the one with very diffuse racemose, not spicate, flowers, and underground stems thinner in bulk, but more tufted. This, then, is not the "strong, healthy Couch," but the "wiry Squitch." If we place the differences in parallel columns they will be all the more distinguishable.

THE TWO COMMON SORTS OF COUCH AND SQUITCH, OR CREEPING GRASSES.

Table with 2 columns: Triticum repens and Agrostis stolonifera. Rows describe characteristics like spike, flowers, stems, and growth habits.

Our friend, then, can the more readily get rid of the first-named pest—the right sort—as its underground wires are longer and stronger, and therefore they hold together more pertinaciously, and when its "creeps" are done away with there is usually an end of the matter, as the seeds are very shy of perfecting themselves, and if so, the seeds of each stem are comparatively few.

Not so with the second—not the right sort of Couch, but the "Squitch." It more readily breaks up into little bits, each joint of which will grow; but it seeds readily and most abundantly, the difference being:—

Triticum repens seeds 20 x 3 = 60
Agrostis stolonifera " 300 x 2 = 600