

tried the above for the last three successive years, and have not found one rotten potatoe where the lime was applied, although my neighbours lost great quantities by the rot the same years, and not only so, but two of the crops I tried on part of the same field with lime, and another part without it, and lost the greater part of my crop by the rot for want of lime, though the unlimed part of the field was as productive as that part which was limed, yet at the last of November three fourths the produce was lost by rot.

It is but a trifling additional expense, and the crop will amply repay all the expense, and future crops will be improved for five or six years afterwards. A farmer writes in the *New York Evangelist* that the addition of half a pint of lime to each hill, increased his crop of potatoes at the rate of 10 bushels to the acre over those that had been planted in a similar soil, and in all other respects managed in the same manner, except the application of lime. The writer knows of only two farmers who have applied lime to their potatoes since the rot made its appearance, and they have positively ascertained that they had not one rotten potatoe, though most of their neighbours lost heavily.

Mr. Evans, whose opinion in agricultural concerns is entitled to much weight, recommends the use of old mortar, and his authority is sufficient where the mortar can be obtained; but lime can be obtained every where, and ought to be universally applied.

N. B. All newspapers, magazines, &c., throughout the Province, friendly to agriculture, are requested to publish the above, and those who publish in French should translate into that language. Let editors in all cases consider that while they are thus pointing out a remedy for this disease of an extensively used esculent root, they are but contributing their part towards furnishing their own tables as well as those of their fellow mortals with a wholesome nutritious vegetable.

JOHN MERLIN.

Hemmingford, May 1st, 1848.

TIME FOR PLANTING INDIAN CORN.

The time of planting Indian corn varies, according to the locality or season in which it is intended to grow. In the southern portions of the United States, it is generally planted in January or February, whereas, at the extreme north, or east, it is not usually done before the latter part of May, or early in June.

It is a rule with many, to make the flowering or unfolding of the leaves of vegetation, and the appearance, or pairing, of certain birds, as natural guides. For instance, some plant when the apple tree is bursting its blossom buds or when the June-berry or shad fish is in full blow; others adhere to the old Indian rule, in planting as soon as the leaf of the white oak is of the size of a squirrel's ear; while not a few listen to the notes of the whip-poor-will and cuckoo, as unerring guides. But we have ever found, from experience, that a period somewhat later than those just named, when the ground has become sufficiently warmed by vernal heat to cause a speedy germination of the seed, is far more favorable and safer from late frosts and the depredations of blackbirds and crows. Corn, planted in the middle and northern states, from the 20th of May to the 1st of June, with proper management, can be made to vegetate in four or five days, and in a week more, will be large enough to weed. If planted too early, it will often lie in the ground two or three weeks before it will come up, and by the middle of June, it will not be near so large nor vigorous as that planted towards the end of May.

Previous to planting, the germination of the corn may be hastened by steeping it, and the kernel may be completely protected against the ravages of grubs, wire worms, birds, squirrels, &c., by smearing it over with tar, dissolved in boiling water, and then rolling it in powdered plaster until it is dry. Thus treated, it has been known to come up in 24 hours.—*Am. Agriculturist*.

DEPTH OF MANURE.

Considerable discussion is going on in the papers, relative to the proper depth to bury manure. Some assert that its best parts descend, and therefore it should be but slightly covered; while others maintain that nearly the whole strength becoming gaseous, rises, and it must therefore be buried deep. A

this difference of opinion results from the attempt to make a rule that will apply to all circumstances.

One farmer applies manure to the surface of a newly plowed field late in the spring, and harrows it in. Hot and dry weather follows, and being only partially covered, much of it escapes in vapor and is wasted; the few light rains which occur are insufficient to wash much of the soluble portions into the soil, it never reaches the roots of the crop, and consequently produces little or no effect. Again, he plows it deeply into the soil, and the reverse in every respect takes place. Hence he becomes thoroughly satisfied that manure should *always*, under all circumstances, be buried deep.

Another farmer applies his manure late in autumn, to the surface. Cold weather prevents fermentation, and the enriching portion which otherwise would escape in vapor, is washed by the abundant rains, in the form of liquid manure, into the soil; and by the usual time of plowing in spring, the surface of the soil for a few inches, is saturated with the most fertilized parts, the plow turning under the rest. All is thus saved, and the farmer is convinced that surface application is *invariably* the best.

They "both are right and both are wrong." They should act according to circumstances. Every farmer is aware, by the smell, that but little manure escapes from his yard in winter, but much in summer. Hence in winter and in late autumn and early spring, manure may safely lie at or near the surface, and its soluble parts will descend deep enough into the earth. But in dry soil, and during a dry warm season, it can scarcely be plowed too deep, for benefitting the roots of plants. Indeed, by a shallow covering, it will be likely to do no good at all, the moisture of the earth being sufficient to dissolve it, and hence the reason that manure in dry seasons sometimes does more harm than good. And hence, too, why a thorough harrowing, to break it fine and mix it with the soil, after it is spread, and before plowing in, is found so useful.—*Alb. Cult.*

DIRECTIONS FOR SACKING WOOL.—Wool, intended to be sent to a distant market, may be put up and pressed in bales after the manner of cotton, or it may be crowded into sacks holding from 200 to 250 lbs. If designed to be shipped on a long voyage, it would be more economical to press it into square bales, as it would then occupy less bulk, and consequently effect a saving of freight. But in the interior of a country, where conveniences for baling are not always on hand, sacks may be employed, made of 40-inch "burlaps," or 45-inch "gunny cloth," 7½ feet long. Each of these sacks may be made of a piece of cloth 5 yards in length, by doubling the ends until they meet and sewing up the sides with twine.

The mouth of a sack may next be sewed to a strong hoop of iron (diameter 25 inches for the burlaps, and 28 inches for the gunny cloth); then let down its body through a circular hole, two inches less in diameter than the hoop, cut in an upper floor of a building, or a temporary scaffold erected for the purpose, where it can swing clear beneath. One man may then get into the sack, while another hands him the fleeces, which he should place in regular layers, pressing them down in the mean time, with his feet, until it is filled. After this, the sack may be slightly raised, the hoop disengaged, the mouth of the sack sewed up with twine, and the operation is complete.—*Am. Ag.*

INFLUENCE OF FORESTS ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF RAIN AND HAIL.—In every instance, and in every country of the globe, where the forests have been cleared, a diminution of the fall of rain or snow has been the result; and these regions annually suffer, more or less, from tempests or storms of hail. In some parts of Europe, it is well known that insurance companies against hail demand, for certain districts, a higher premium than in others on this account.

The evidence of Humboldt, Von Buch, Daniell, and others, is so powerful on this subject, that it should be particularly impressed upon the attention of the reader how important the existence of wooded spots become to the agriculturist. "By felling the trees that cover the tops and sides of the mountains," says Humboldt, "men, in every climate, prepare at once for two calamities for future generations—the want of fuel and the scarcity of water. Trees, by the nature of their perspiration, and the radiation from their leaves, in a cloudless sky, surround themselves with an atmosphere constantly cool and moist." Hence all large forests tend to attract the clouds formed by the condensation of the moisture which rises from the earth, and thereby produce an abundance of rain.