

## HOME AND FARM.

## THE CULTIVATION OF THE GARDEN.

In last week's issue appeared an article on how to lay out a garden. Assuming that the garden has been arranged in this way, its cultivation presents but few difficulties. Like every thing else that is worth having, it requires constant attention.

The best time to kill weeds is when they are small. This is the only time when they can be killed if they are growing with the more delicate garden vegetables. If they are allowed to get a start they cannot be pulled without bringing up the vegetables to the same extent. When allowed to grow, their ill effects upon these are readily seen.

If the garden is very weedy it is a good plan to devote a part of it to the sole purpose of killing the weeds, and only cultivate the vegetables on the other part. The part reserved for fallow should be plowed a dozen or more times during the season, every time in fact that the weeds make their appearance above the ground. They should not be allowed to grow before turning them under. The cultivator only kills those weeds and seeds of weeds that are near the surface, but by plowing, all those seeds that are deep in the ground are brought up and given a chance to sprout and may be killed. Of course the cultivator is to be used after each plowing as well as the harrow. The next season the other part of the garden should be treated in the same way.

It is a comparatively easy thing to cultivate the vegetables. The horse cultivator should be passed between the rows as often as weeds appear, or whenever the ground becomes hard or tends to dry. The small weeds next to the row may be removed with a hand cultivator. There are a number of different styles of hand cultivators. One of the best is so made that it straddles the row and removes the weeds from both sides at once. In the hands of a careful person no hoeing has to be done. It will do its work as fast as a man can walk. Later in the season the weeds in the rows of those plants that grow large and strong may be killed by throwing the dirt on them with the horse cultivator.

The ground should be cultivated often, especially while the plants are small, and the cultivator should be run deep, but, as the plants grow older, it should be run shallower. The stirring of the surface of the ground assists in the retention of moisture and should be done as often as possible throughout the season. If the ground is soft and mellow the plants can grow much better, as the roots have a better chance to grow.

It is not such a difficult job to find time to work in the garden if one wishes to, and give it proper attention at the required time. The trouble always arises on account of neglect and allowing the weeds to get a start. What is there more attractive than a well kept garden? It is always a reward in its appearance for all the labor put upon it.

## ENSILAGE.

## PART II.—HOW TO BUILD A SILO.

A few years ago, it was the custom in building a silo to make it of masonry, stone or brick laid up in water lime. Then the advocates of ensilage went to the other extreme, and made them of the crudest patterns, with great cracks and holes in them. As a consequence there was an abundance of poor ensilage for a season or two. The impression that anything will do for a silo is a mistake.

In selecting a situation for the silo, three important matters should be borne in mind. First—that it is so situated that the fodder can be easily put into it. Second—that the ensilage can be taken out at the bottom of the silo, and Third—that it is conveniently near the stock. If it is on a side hill the first and second are easily arranged. It may be set into the hillside so that the top can be reached from one side and the bottom be exposed at the other side. The third factor—that it is convenient to where the stock is fed—is also of great importance. This is evident when it is remembered that this heavy material has to be taken daily to the stock, and sometimes twice or three times a day. Of the three conditions, the first is the least essential and the last is the most, although it is a very disagreeable and tiresome job to take the ensilage out through the top of the silo.

The bottom, and the sides part way up from the bottom, must be made so that they will not leak. It must be covered so that rain can not get in. The most valuable part of the fodder is soluble and is in the juices of the plants; if this is allowed to escape by leakage it is a very serious loss, and it leaves the ensilage in a much poorer condition than hay ever attains. The silo must be comparatively air tight. Wherever air has access to the ensilage it spoils, so all leaks should be stopped up. The walls of the silo should be perpendicular, so that the ensilage will settle evenly and the weight of the ensilage above will rest on that below.

The silo may be made of almost any material. The farmer should use those which do the best for the least money. The most common materials are: stone, and brick and water lime, (these make the most expensive silos but will last for ever), matched plank for floor and the lower part of the sides, (these will suit most farmers best), or double boards will do but are unsatisfactory. The boards and plank must be well oiled and dried.

## HOW TO FILL A SILO.

It is the practice with some who make ensilage to put the fodder in without cutting it. This is objectionable as it is some trouble to get it out. As a rule it is found much cheaper to run it through a cutter before putting it in the silo than it is to have to cut it all with a knife as it is taken out. This depends upon the material used to fill the silo to some extent. It is also quite difficult to properly fill a silo with some fodders unless they are cut.

There are a number of good fodder-cutters manufactured as well as many

very poor ones. In purchasing one should remember the maxim that the cheapest is not always the best. A good fodder cutter is a necessity on every well regulated farm whether ensilage is used or not. A carrier and shafting should be attached in such a way that the whole can be run by horse power, and as fast as the cut fodder comes from the cutter it will be delivered into the silo.

The fodder should be packed as closely as possible in the silo, and this packing should be continued from the beginning till the close of the filling. Some claim that there is no necessity for filling the silo all at once, but that it may have some fodder added to it at any time; this is true, but it is better to complete the filling at once. Usually there is no occasion for filling piece-meal.

After the silo is filled there is a great diversity of opinion as to how it should be treated. It used to be the universal custom to put heavy weights upon the ensilage, but the large majority now see that it is useless, and they simply cover tightly with boards and tarred paper, or else with about two feet of straw or marsh hay. Some advocate one practice and some another.

## ENSILAGE STACKS.

There has lately come into use in England a method of preserving fodder called "silage stacks." The name is objectionable as there is apparently no excuse for the contraction. The method is patented there and probably is in Canada. It consists practically of this: The fodder is stacked out of doors, and by an ingenious arrangement, is put under a heavy pressure. Although it is claimed to work well it needs further trial before farmers invest very much in it.

## THE CART.

Throughout the province, the cart is used almost universally upon the farm. No other instrument is in such constant use. The question arises, is it the best instrument for the purposes to which it is applied? The presumption is naturally in favor of the practice unless some good reason can be assigned for a change.

The advantages which the cart presents are apparently considerable. It is so handy to get around with. A load can be driven anywhere with one and without having to back or run any risk of catching fast to anything. Again if the load is any substance that can be dumped out it is so easily unloaded. Perhaps the greatest claim that could be made for it is that it is adapted to so many uses. It is claimed by some that the horses can draw much heavier loads than when hitched to a waggon. Let us weigh these claims and if they are correct then continue in the practice, but if not, let us improve. No one can deny that it is handy, nor that any of these claims save the last are to be doubted. On the level, if the load is properly balanced and other things are right, a tremendous load can be drawn; but as soon as it commences to go up hill it tends to lift the horse from his feet and he cannot draw as much. To obviate this trouble the load is loaded farther forward but this necessitates the horse carrying part of it on his back on the level.

The disadvantages are quite as marked in this vehicle as its advantages. The first disadvantage is its height. This necessitates an enormous amount of useless labor in putting things into it. At first sight the importance of this is not realized, but it is only necessary to cite a few instances. Let us take for an instance drawing manure or marsh mud. The hardest part of the work, and that occupying most of the time as a rule, is the loading. Now if the material can be loaded by lifting it three feet into one vehicle, and it has to be lifted from four to five feet to get it into another, the advantage becomes evident of having the vehicle low.

But the chief objection is that it is a one horse affair. To illustrate this, in a certain town the authorities were hauling dirt to fix up the roads. They used carts of course, and had to haul some distance. There were four carts working six days. Each cart had to have a driver. If the dirt had been drawn in waggons it would have taken only one half as many drivers or a saving to the town of a cost of one man's labor for twelve days.

## NOTES.

Nothing adds more to the beauty of the landscape than nice rows of trees around the farm. No landscape in the world presents so many inducements in this respect as Nova Scotia. Our beautiful evergreens which grow so abundantly everywhere make a handsome background for the various deciduous trees.

In planting or transplanting trees it should always be borne in mind that a tree can live when its branches are cut off, but when its roots are severed its very source of life is taken away.

If a horse is kept simply to work on the farm and is not to be driven on the road, and has sound feet it is not necessary to shoe it. The feet will require to be made even once in a while.

The apple trees should be sprayed with paris-green in time to prevent injury from the canker worm. Too much vigilance cannot be displayed in watching the insect enemies of our fruits.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of Cutting Teeth? If so, send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," for Children Teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers, there is no mistake about it. It cures Dysentery and Diarrhoea, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, softens the Gums, reduces Inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething is pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price, 25 cents a bottle.