

SORGHUM—TIME OF PLANTING.

Recollect that this sugar-cane should be planted about the same time that Indian corn is planted in the different degrees of latitude. From 40° to 43° , it will range through all of May. The kind of soil that will produce a good crop of corn will produce a good crop of cane; and of that you can easily make good syrup, if not sugar. If planted on hills, observe the same distance you do with corn; if in drills—which we prefer—run them north and south, four to five feet apart, according to the strength of soil, with single stalks a foot apart in the rows.

SEASONABLE IMPROVEMENTS—CLEARING SWAMP HOLES

As recently stated, the leisure period between the early and later harvest, in a part of August and September, affords the farmer an opportunity to accomplish improvements which cannot be effected as easily and well at any other season; and the clearing and draining of bogs and marshes is among those of superior importance. We have already given several articles on this subject—but the vast amount of waste land yet to be reclaimed, and the great profit arising from bringing it into fitness for cultivation, warrant repeated presentations of the question to our readers.

The wettest bogs and marshes generally contain the least water at this season, and hence allow to a greater extent, the cutting of drains and the clearing off of bushes than at any other period. The water once removed, and the drains so constructed as to carry readily away all surplus moisture, we have land of superior quality and productiveness, especially for oats and grass, and for some root crops in favorable seasons. Instead of "plague-spots" disfiguring the surface of the farms, producing only worthless plants and disgusting reptiles, and filling the atmosphere with malaria, we have handsome fields, producing luxuriant crops, and smiling with plenty—repaying at once a considerable expense of reclamation. We have so recently spoken of methods of clearing etc., that we will now only touch upon another branch of the subject.

Muck or peat bogs, which have been drained, usually produce well for a time, and then seem to "run out"—wild grass taking the place of those first sown upon the soil. This is usually caused by their settling as the land becomes dry—becoming more compact, and finding a level so much lower as to make the drains partially useless. Or the drains may become filled up, with the same result. Or it may be that the surface soil, above the water line becomes exhausted and needs renewal. There is something in the nature of muck or peat, which renders exposure to the sun and air necessary before it will produce the tame grasses (or cultivated crops of most kinds) to perfection—before it loses this tendency to run them out. It needs ploughing up every five or six years, so that the muck may be further aerated and decomposed—its sourness passing off in the process—and if then re-seeded and re-manured, will become as productive as before.

The present is a favorable time for clearing and deepening and clearing the drains, and ploughing up such old meadows—which may then lie until another spring, and then be seeded lightly with oats, and heavily with grass seed; and if during the winter, an inch or so of loamy soil were added, the improvement would be more permanent and effectual.—*Country Gentleman*.