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JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE**

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**The Farm.**

**FARM-WORK FOR JUNE.**

**TURNIP AND SWEDE SOWING** may, as a rule, be said to begin on the 1st of this month, though sometimes swedes are sown in May, to the increase in weight, doubtless, of the crop, though the quality of the roots is seldom improved by too early sowing, as the hot sun of the latter part of June, and all through July, is mighty apt to cause mildew. This is one of the reasons why swedes, sown under the damp, cloudy skies of the north of England and Scotland, in mid-May, are so much superior to swedes grown in the S. E. countries of England, were we dare not sow before June 10th to 20th. Here, in June, we have seen really monstrous swedes, sown with carrots to mark out the lines for horse hoeing; many of them weighed from 12 lbs. to 15 lbs. without the tops! It is a very good plan, this of adding, say, a quarter of a pound of swede seed to the 5 lbs. of carrot seed required for an arpent. Even well steeped carrot seed takes a long time to come up—parsnip seed we have known to lie five, and even six weeks in the ground—and as swede seed is generally visible the sixth or seventh day at latest, if it is sown as shallow as it ought to be, the horse-hoe can go to work a week after the seed is sown.

Swedes, in fact all the "cruciferae," or plants of the cabbages kind, should be sown not deeper than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch, and invariably rolled in after being deposited in the ground. On very light soils, though most turnip-drills have a tiny roller attached behind the hopper, it is quite worth while passing a fairly heavy roller after it.

When the drills are set up, or split over the dung, sow at once. All the best turnip-growers in Scotland make it a rule, not to leave one drill that the ploughs have finished unsown when the field is left at night.

The same rule should be followed

when flat culture is pursued. Will any one tell us whether it is or is not beneficial to a plant, in a hot, dry climate, to be perched up on a raised drill? In Southern England, we always drill in swedes and turnips on the flat, and find it far better suited to our climate than the other plan.

If you want swedes for your own table, or for market, do not sow them till the last week of this month. They will not come to a large size, so they can be singled at, say, eight inches apart, and their texture, and therefore flavour, will be much more delicate than the earlier sown ones.

If you want to grow the yellow Aberdeens, a turnip that is hardier than the white, the best time, in this country, is the 20th June, or thereabouts. For ourselves, we must say we would rather have one pound of swedes to one and a quarter pound of yellow turnips, and we found that it is easier to grow 20 tons of swedes to the acre than 15 tons of yellows.

The best white turnips we ever grew were sown about the middle of July, on very poor land—sand—and without anything but common village dung. They were fit to pull for the table in less than seven weeks from the day of sowing, and a more delicious vegetable we never ate. It is strange, but true, that, whereas, twelve years ago, it was almost impossible to get a decent dish of white turnips on the Montreal market—Quebec and Sorel swedes are always to be had there—last year we could find any quantity of them. If kept in sand, as carrots should always be, the white turnip will keep sound up to the middle of January; but they must be grown quickly, and sown thickly, so as to be retained within bounds: a turnip more than 4 inches in diameter is seldom worth eating.

When you begin horse-hoeing, go gently; the second time of working it, you may let the knives cut deeper and wider, and when the plants are ready to single, let them in a good depth, and do not be afraid of disturbing the plants on the drills by cutting the earth away from them: two inches, at most, is enough space to leave for them to grow in. This will, of course, make the work of singling all the easier, and if the singler could only be convinced that the proper stroke for the hoe is a stroke at right-angles to the row of plants, we should not hear so much complaint about the trouble that work gives. One good man, and two children to single the bunches, after the man has chopped them out, will easily get over an acre a day. As we have often asked in this journal: If a Scotch woman can single one half of a Scotch acre—5 roods—a day, why cannot singling be done here at a lighter expense of labour, that is commonly the case. Monsieur Séraphin Guévremont grows never less than ten acres of roots, besides potatoes, a year, and he gets his singling done for \$2.60 an arpent, at most; and it pays him: for, now, instead of being obliged to send his roots up to Montreal market, he is keeping them at home for his cows, and finds that root-growing and cow-keeping are decidedly profitable things. How well we recollect his cousin, M. Pierre Guévremont, telling us that it could not pay to grow roots, since a-half acre of carrots, that he had tried on his father's farm, cost ten dollars to single! Allowing 800 bushels,—18 tons, to be a fair crop of swedes; and Mr. Guévremont has often grown 1200 and, once, at least 1500

bushels to the acre; at the above rate, each bushel would cost rather more than one-third of a cent to single!

As to sowing RAPE, that can be done at any time, but we must again strongly insist that the proper way to sow it, in a country where labour is scarce, is broadcast, at the rate of 6 or 7 lbs. to the acre—rather less to the arpent.

The land should be thoroughly worked, after the ploughing, with grubber and harrow, and chain-harrowed or dish harrowed after the seed is sown. The roller finishes the job. No hoeing is required; only, if the land is a little crusted, after a heavy rain followed by a hot sun, when the plants are well up, a couple of times with the harrow will break the crust and start the rape into fresh growth. Every farmer who has a score of sheep should have two or three acres of this most fattening plant. Nothing equal to it, with a few oats and pease mixed, to finish off the late lambs, and to prepare the ewes for the ram, if twins are desired; to say nothing of the benefits the land derives from the solidification it receives from the treading of the sheep, and their droppings. Very little, too, does this plant require in the form of manure. Four or five cwt. of East India bone-meal is sufficient for an arpent, at a cost of about \$5.00, and broadcasting that, by hand, is not a costly job. Only think; you, at least most of you, have, at the end of your farms, farthest from the cattle-sheds, a few acres that never see the dung-cart, and with this system of rape and sheep they hardly need see it; for a treatment such as this will assuredly, if anything like certainty can be predicated in agriculture, bring a crop of grain and two of hay, after which, a top-dressing of a little dung composted with lots of ditch-scraps, etc., should give another crop of hay, followed by a couple of seasons' pasture, and oats after the grazing is done with: an eight year rotation at a very trifling expense.

**CARROTS.**—We are still old-fashioned enough to prefer the white Belgian to any other sort of carrot for stock. It is, in our opinion, by far the most productive of all the sorts, as for the quality, a man must be possessed of very penetrative discrimination who can see any difference between the feeding effects of this when compared with any other carrot. Another thing: there is no trouble about digging it: if the horse-hoeing has been properly done; i. e., up to the very edge of the lines of roots: the Belgians come out of the ground at harvest with a very slight pull.

**HORSE-HOEING ROOTS.**—The shallow horse-hoeing of corn is constantly being insisted upon by American writers on this crop, and with perfect propriety. The main thing to be attended to with this plant is its ripening; consequently, anything that delays that most desirable disposition must be avoided: cutting the roots of a plant does delay its maturity, therefore horse-hoe corn shallow.

But with roots it is perfectly immaterial whether they mature or not. The land is certainly improved by deep-stirring; therefore, horse-hoe roots as deeply as possible.

The reason why cutting the roots of a plant delays maturity is simply this: