

while young, a man following with the hand hoe as in the case of Indian Corn. As soon as possible thereafter the one horse subsoil plough should be passed twice between each contiguous pair of rows, going up alongside one row and down by the other. This operation should be repeated at least once in the course of the season.

In about eight or ten days after sowing (unless rains intervene) the plants will become visible. The Sorgho is a very slow grower in its earlier stages, and for this reason will be very apt to discourage persons experimenting with it for the first time. In about a month, however, it will begin to shoot upwards with great rapidity, throwing out suckers which should be removed when the plants are about eighteen inches high, and developing long and graceful drooping leaves at each of the internodes on alternate sides of the stalks. About the middle of September the panicle, or seed-head, will be formed, and in about a month or five weeks thereafter, the crop will have reached maturity, as indicated by the color and hardness of the seeds, already adverted to. Neither leaves nor seeds should be removed from the stalks until ripe. Frosts do not appear to affect injuriously the yield of sugar, but rather the reverse; but warm Indian Summer weather coming after frost has a very marked injurious effect, both as respects quantity and quality. Consequently the period of cutting may be deferred until the middle of October, the usual period of Indian Summer, or it may take place at any convenient season between the time of ripening and the reaction of the weather, should any occur. I mention this to shew that a little latitude may be allowed in the time of cutting in order to suit the convenience of individuals in regard to the subsequent process, but it should be borne in mind that there is a culminating point in the development of the sugar which experience alone can determine. But even if it should be inconvenient to proceed with extraction of the juice immediately after the plants reach maturity, they may, *if fully ripe*, be cut and housed or stacked in the field for a considerable time without sustaining any damage, provided rainy weather does not ensue. On no account should the crop, if destined either for the production of sugar or syrup, be cut down before it is perfectly ripe, nor should the juice be extracted until the subsequent processes can be carried on continuously and without delay, as in either case fermentation will immediately ensue, and the crop will be utterly ruined.

HARVESTING.

When the proper time arrives the leaves are first stripped as far as the joints extend, the seed-heads, with from eighteen inches to two feet of the top of the stalks, are then detached, and finally, the canes are cut off close to the roots with a corn-cutter, a large carving knife, or small sharp hatchet; then cut each cane into two parts, separating the eight lower joints from the upper ones, which