

ROOT CROPS—TURNIPS.

As the period for turnip sowing is now at hand, we subjoin a few sensible observations on the subject, which we find in the *Rural New Yorker* of 3rd May:—

There are many varieties of turnips cultivated by our agriculturists, of which, two species, the Swedish or ruta-baga and English or flat, receive the most attention. Of their utility as provender for stock, it is not our purpose to speak, but rather to give a few practical hints relative to culture &c.

In the selection of seed for this crop, certain questions arise which should have the careful consideration of the farmer. Which variety will give the largest yield, and at the same time furnish the greatest proportion of nutriment for the amount of soil under cultivation? Which, for the uses intended, will be most economical?

The Swedish turnip is the most valuable to the stock raiser for late feeding, and has this great advantage over all others—the easiness with which it can be preserved. In a rotation of crops, the best time to sow would be after wheat or corn—in a new soil or newly turned pasture the largest yield might be obtained.—The Swede is a rank feeder and delights in a rich, deep soil. To attain perfection, the land must be in this condition. If the ground be heavy, ridge slightly where sown, and deposit the seed in drills about two feet apart. Thin successively, as may be deemed requisite, and let the space between each be from six to eight inches. Should vacancies occur, transplant and fill up during damp weather. The seed should be sown early, say from middle of May to same period in June, as in case of failure there would be time to “try again.” Many farmers sow as late as the first of August—between rows of corn—but the roots do not mature, and as a consequence are small. They will answer, however, for early feeding, and should any be too diminutive to store, turn in the sheep, so that nothing may be lost. Preparations for soaking the seed are abundant, where there is a desire to force germination, among which urine, soot water and liquid guano are recommended.

The English turnip is much esteemed as a table vegetable. The period for sowing is about one month later than for the Swede. When raised as a field crop, from two to three pounds of seed is requisite to the acre. The ground should be freshly broken and harrowed immediately before sowing. Put in the seed when the ground and atmosphere are damp, as moisture promotes germination, and places the young plants early beyond the reach of insect depredators. A top-dressing of ashes and plaster will enhance the prospects for a good crop. When they make appearance the hoe or cultivator should be used freely, and the ground kept loose and free from weeds.

Where this root is stored for the purpose of feeding stock, the process is similar to that used for potatoes, with the exception, that they do not require to be kept from frost so exclusively as the former. Too much warmth injures them. Should they be stored in heaps in the field, it is best to leave an opening, covered lightly with straw through which the gases generated may pass off. When intended for the table, one of the best modes, is to pack in barrels with alternate layers of leaves or straw—giving the leaves the preference provided you can obtain them.

The turnip is subject to visits from numerous species of insects, and remedies almost equally countless are offered and advised. Recipes compounded of nitrates and sulphates, urine, soot water, curriers’ and fish oil, diluted sulphuric acid, etc., to the end of the catalogue, are stamped with the seal of perfection—by those introducing them—and yet all fail. The *very best remedy* is to get the earth in the *right* condition for the growing plant, sow liberally and give to the crop, from seed-time to harvest, the attention it so richly deserves.

THE CROPS.—From personal observation, and from enquiry, we are glad to be able to say that the crops in this county are looking exceedingly well, especially wheat. The hay crop is very promising, the growth of which will be materially advanced by the late rains.—*Kent Advertiser*.

The London *Prototype*, in alluding to the crops, says:—“We learn from correspondence from Elgin, Huron and Middlesex, that the grain crops in those counties look exceedingly well. The hay crop in the same district, is also good, and has not suffered so much from the rain, as it has been subject to in a more easterly direction.”

CONVENIENT WRITING INK.—Dissolve half a pound of the extract of logwood in five gallons of hot water, add half an ounce of the bi-chromate of potash. Stir for a few hours, and bottle for use. The cost for five gallons of ink is about twenty-five cents.