

Planting Sugar Beet.

Much controversy has existed with respect to the best mode of planting sugar beet seed. Some argue that the "gaps" produced in their rows were caused by not putting the seed deep enough; others that they are caused by being placed too deep. My own experiments show undoubtedly that when planted deeper than one inch, or over half an inch, great delay is experienced in the plants getting through the earth, and afterwards they never seem to do as well, but appear weak and injured by the resistance afforded in having to force their way to the surface. Some weeks since I planted some sugar beet seed, and two holes in a carefully tested parcel of land appropriated for the trial were deeper than two inches. In these the seed never came up at all, it being impossible for them to force their way out of the earth. Others that were deeper than one inch came up irregularly, and looked weak. I had about a teaspoonful of seed remaining when all the piece was planted, and to get rid of it I threw it against a board fence, beside which the land had been well prepared for a crop. I was quite pleased to find on examination afterwards that these seeds grew better, and the plants are finer, than those planted deeper in the earth, although the weather has been very hot and dry, there having been only two slight showers of rain in nearly three weeks. I am thus led to believe that if the seeds are put more than half an inch deep, vegetation will be retarded, and if more than two inches deep, the crop will be injured by "gaps" in the rows and weakly grown plants. C.

Burning Stumps.

Hot, dry weather is the time for burning out hardwood stumps. Do not, however, attempt to fire a stump until it is sufficiently rotten to ensure its catching well, and be sure before putting fire to it that it is dry enough to burn completely out, "root and branch." If the stump is only charred it will last much longer, and almost without further decay.

I have always followed this course, and carefully abstained from firing stumps until the above conditions were certain to be fulfilled. When either were wanting, the stumps were left untouched. So important have I found the attention to these rules to be that I could now burn out the stumps from every field on my farm if it was not that those remaining are altogether in pasture land, and there being therefore no immediate benefit to be derived from burning them out. Every year adds to their decay, and more certain and easy destruction. All those fields that have been burnt out are so entirely free and cleared of stumps that a mowing machine could be run over every foot of them. There are no roots whatever, all having been burnt completely out the first time of firing. Some of my neighbours, who would not listen

to reason, have persistently attempted to fire at odd hours a stump here and there, generally to afford light for their pipes, never attending to its burning entirely out, or "chinking up" any loose roots to feed the fire; and as these attempts were made at any odd interval, it followed that the stumps were sometimes wet, and often not rotten enough to be consumed; and to this day they are tearing up old roots, and projecting pieces of burnt stumps disfigure the field. This course is manifestly bad policy, and causes much annoyance and waste of time, and then the job at last is not well done.

I have tried, as much as possible, to have each field remain in pasture till about the seventh, eighth, or ninth year after chopping. The fifth and sixth years will see a great many of the smaller stumps quite rotten; and when they will come out without cattle jerking them, then I always carry them to some old water elm, sprouting bass, birch, hemlock, or the like, so as to be continually consuming them, experience having taught me that these particular stumps are very difficult to burn at any time, rotten or sound, old or new. They decidedly object to be set fire to, or be quietly and easily consumed like beech and maple stumps.

After land is about eight or nine years cleared, you may make a business of attacking hardwood stumps of any size. About that time, many of about ten and twelve inches in diameter will shake when pushed with the foot or hand. A practised man readily detects those that are loose enough. The first to the fifteenth of April is the best time to stump land. The soil is soft and spongy, and a stump that is immovable in June will readily jerk out in April. Make up your mind beforehand where you are going to summer fallow, and let an active team and man go over the field in April, and jerk out all the stumps that are loose; just upset them, and allow them to lie where they fall, that is, if they can be readily carried; if too large, the cattle must haul them to some old incombustible monarch of the forest, and by piling them up around him, his death and destruction are secured. When the dry time comes, attend thoroughly to the fires; chunk up with bits of outsides of stumps and roots all fires that are languishing; and if well and carefully looked after, two weeks' time of a man and team will burn 25 acres all clear out. C.

DRAINING WITH CEDAR.—Mr. N. Hamacher, of Osborne, sends us the following brief notice of his success in draining with wood: "The timber used for the drain is cedar, which is very plenty in this section of the country, and can be bought for \$9 per 1,000 feet. For an ordinary leading drain, lumber 10 inches by 1½ inches is sufficient. Set your lumber in; edge up one piece on each side; cover with cedar slabs; cut them the breadth of the drain; lay them across on side pieces; then you will have a drain next to tile."

Sanford Corn.

Perhaps some of your numerous readers would like to hear from one who has tried the Sanford Corn, and therefore I will give you my experience, which is as follows:

The seed was ordered from Long Island, N. Y., and cost me, for one bushel shelled corn, including express charges, \$3 70. This I planted on sod ground, without manure. The crop was not hoed, but received only ordinary cultivation, till too large to be worked amongst. From this I harvested from the first acre husked, one hundred and fifty-five bushels of ears of corn, by actual and fair measurement. The next acre, one hundred and forty-one bushels. I had some white Dent, and also some eight-rowed red Blaze, in the same lot. The ground and the cultivation were about equal; but from the best of these latter kinds I got one hundred and ten bushels to the acre.

The Sanford corn, I find, yields two bushels of shelled from three (measured) bushels of ears. So I am confident that I had over one hundred bushels of shelled corn from my best acre.

Where fodder is an object, the Sanford corn must be popular, as it produces nearly double the amount of eatable fodder that the Dent corn does. The stalks are much smaller, besides it suckers somewhat, making the best of feed when properly cured.

If any of your readers can show a better record, cultivation and all considered, I want to get some of their seed.—*Cor. in Western Rural.*

A Visit to a Well Managed Farm.

NO. I.

The hurry of spring work being over, I accepted an invitation to spend a day or two with a friend, who is noted in his neighbourhood for being a successful farmer, very well off, and especially for having a "place for everything, and everything in its place." As his farm was very large, and stock good, though not full blood, and as he is well known to read a great deal, and where practicable, to carry out such new hints as he thus receives, I anticipated some pleasure and profit from my visit. The farm is situated in one of the best grain and grass districts west of Toronto, and from the beginning has always grown heavy crops.

This beginning commenced nearly forty years ago, and affords a signal instance of a Highland Scotch emigrant who had money when he arrived here, and who took care of it afterwards. With characteristic caution, our friend related to me that "he didna know if he should just relish farming in Canada or no, so he wad just lend out his money in the meantime, and buy his land on credit as a poor man." "Ye see," he said, "the folk will na know I have ony money if I diuna