

tread of animals has a similar effect; but in many instances the top of the ground is so soft and light that the feet of large animals sink into it too much, damaging the clover and grass by breaking the roots and throwing out or disturbing the plants. They also pull up some of the grass that has not a strong hold of the soil, in feeding. Hence it is better to turn on sheep or calves, which do no damage to the roots, and by their mode of cropping the herbage will rather thicken and strengthen it. Still it will in many cases be desirable to roll the fields before turning on any stock.

"In this section of the country, stubble-fields are too often covered in autumn with a growth of weeds—such as Roman wormwood, Spanish needles, &c. If left untouched they fill the ground with seed, and injure the next crop of hay by their dead and worthless stalks, besides obstructing the scythe or mowing-machine. They should be cut before they go to seed. It is but a trifling job to do this with a mowing-machine; and with a horse-rake the crop may soon be gathered for the hog-pen or barn-yard, or a portion of it saved to give the cattle, as a condiment, in winter."

SQUASHES AMONG POTATOES.

It has been generally supposed by farmers that in order to raise good squashes they must be planted on ground especially prepared for them, and then cultivated with great tenderness and care. A piece of rich land is usually selected, ploughed, and thoroughly pulverized and manured, and the squash seeds planted in raised hills. In this way they are cultivated in masses, and hold out the most tempting invitation to all the bugs in the neighbourhood to come and feed upon them. Under these circumstances the utmost vigilance is necessary to preserve even one plant from destruction,—and those that remain with the breath of life in them, are generally so disfigured and poisoned as to require about half of the growing season to recover from such blighting influences.

Attended with all this labor of the preparation of the soil, and the subsequent care which the squash yard requires, it is rarely the case that squashes do not cost the farmer altogether too much.

There is a cheaper and better way of raising this delicious and wholesome article of food. It may be common to others, but it came to our knowledge through the necessity of finding some more certain way of obtaining a crop than by the "squash yard" process. Several experiments were made, and among them one resulted in giving us the greatest abundance of excellent squashes, almost without cost.

We plant our field potatoes in hills at a distance of three by three and a half feet apart, and dress these hills or holes with straw, unfermented manure. Into these hills we pour occasionally a squash seed with the manure, but these are intended for early use—for the young *Marrow* or *Hubbard* squash is as delicious as the true *Summer* squash. At the first hoeing, seeds are pushed into the potato hills, pretty near the potato plants, where the plants

are slightly sheltered while young and tender, and soon begin to stretch away into the open spaces between the rows and hills, and grow with great vigor and luxuriance. All our hilling of the potato is done at the first hoeing. The cultivator is passed through the rows afterwards, and all weeds kept down, but all this occurs before the squash vines have extended themselves so as to be in the way.

By this mode of cultivating the squash, few plants are injured by bugs, the crop is secured at a most trifling cost, and it has invariably been a good one. The vines should never be so close as to run into each other—nor nearer than two or three rods. Those who try this plan will be quite certain to abandon "squash yards," and to have at harvest time as many high-flavored and excellent squashes as they desire. A dozen or two of squash seeds planted in an acre of corn will be likely to produce similar results—but they should be six or eight rods apart.

TROUBLESOME WEEDS

The present season has been peculiarly favorable to the growth of weeds, while the work of destroying them has been much retarded, especially in heavy lands, by the constant showers of the past few weeks. It seems to us we have never before seen a more rampant growth of everything in the form of weeds, and as it is now late in the season and work is behind, there is a very fair chance of ripening an unusually large crop of foul seeds. With the greatest care and plenty of time many will escape, but under present circumstances the number we fear will be far greater than usual. When we take into consideration the fact that the whole economy of a weed plant, so far as its individual existence is concerned, is devoted to its reproduction, the causes for their wonderful tenacity of life and excessive fruitfulness of their kind are apparent. Weeds, by nature annuals, if maimed and bruised, will oftentimes preserve their vitality through a second year, and complete therein the design of nature. The increase of a weed plant is so enormous as to almost stagger belief. From a series of experiments instituted by James Buckman, our Professor of Natural History at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, England, we obtain the following table relative to this peculiarity, as exhibited by several specimens considered only as medium in their reproductive powers:

	No. of flowers to each plant.	No. of seeds to each flower.	Total for a plant.
Common groundsel..	30	10	300
Corn-cockle.....	10	40	400
Corn sow-thistle....	25	20	500
Fool's parsley.....	300	2	600
Wild carrot.....	600	2	1200
Red poppy	25	50	1250

The Professor further says:—"In most plants the perfecting of the seed does not occur simultaneously; there is usually one set of seeds developed from the primary or first flower, the which, if it be perfected and sown, may increase groundsel ten-fold; corn-cockle forty-fold; red poppy, fifty-fold. And this