

# THE ONTARIO FARMER,

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## The Farm.

### HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

The chief operations this month are finishing the sowing of spring crops and planting hoed crops. Flax should be sown as early this month as the weather will permit. Grass and clover seeds may still be sown on grain fields and bear spots in meadows. Rolling and top-dressing are to be recommended wherever practicable. They will greatly promote growth. Oats do best sown in April, but for seedling down to grass they may be put in early this month, and if not likely to mature, may be cut in a green state and cured like hay. Thus treated, they make excellent fodder. Oats and vegetables mixed make good green feed during the Summer, and cure well for Winter use. Indian corn sown thick broad cast makes the best green forage for Summer soiling, but it ought not to be sown until the last of May, or first of June to avoid risk of frost. Every farmer should have a small patch of this excellent green forage plant, and especially should the dairy farmer avail himself of its help in keeping up a supply of milk when the pastures fail through Summer heat and drought. We also recommend our readers to plant a piece of ground in the usual way for a crop of ears. This cereal is much neglected in Canada, but may be grown to great advantage, especially in certain localities.

When corn is planted in hills, it is well to plant a few pumpkin seeds here and there, that a double harvest may be obtained. Carrots and mangold should be sown early this month if they are not already in the ground. Both are very valuable winter food for stock. Potatoes ought to be all planted by the end of May. As a general rule, the earlier they are in the better, provided risk from frost is avoided. Occasionally late planted potatoes yield the best owing to the early spring turning out dry, and it is well to have both an early and late-planted patch. To raise potatoes profitably, hand-hoeing should be avoided as much as possible. Plough out drills about three feet apart, and drop the pieces about a foot and a half apart in the rows. Cover with the plough, or with a cultivator having the middle tooth out. In about a fortnight, or just before the

potatoes come up, a careful harrowing lengthwise may be given, which will be as good as one hand-hoeing. Ground should now be in course of preparation for turnips and buckwheat, though these are not to be sown for some time to come. Beans should be planted this month. The white bush variety is the best for family use. Dairy operations will begin to require a large amount of attention this month. A clean cool, well-ventilated milk room should if possible be provided. In the orchard, grafting should be attended to early this month. It is a simple operation which any handy man can easily learn to manage. Do not wait until you can afford to employ a professional nurseryman. Try your hand on a few trees, and resolve to quit growing natural fruits, some of which is sour enough to give even pigs the colic. This will be a busy month in the kitchen and flower garden. Seeds of all kinds must now be sown, as the state of the soil and weather permit. Fruit-trees, shrubs, shade-trees, &c., may still be planted out with success. May is the best time for lifting evergreens. With care they may be successfully planted from the woods and swamps but they are more sure to grow and will come on much more quickly, if transplanted from the nursery. Our native balsams, cedars, and spruces, if well grown are very beautiful, and make very effectual wind-screens. Active operations will begin this month in the apiary. Weak stocks may require a little feeding still, but it will not be long before fruit-tree blossoms, early spring flowers, white clover, &c., will furnish abundance of food. Toward the end of the month there may be a disposition to swarm in case of strong stocks, but generally speaking there is no danger of this occurring until June. Our advice to all bee-keepers is 'get moveable frame hives and practice artificial swarming. Then your bees will never betake themselves to the woods.'

### A TALK WITH A FARMER.

A few days since I met with a Garafaxa man; he was a Scotchman, and of course more advanced in agriculture than the generality of Canadians. He had just been paying for his land; and as I knew the progress of the man, I rather wondered at it.