

## SOWING.

The seed best adapted for the generality of soils is Riga, although Dutch has been used in many districts of country for a series of years with perfect success, and generally produces a finer fibre, but not so heavy a crop as Riga. In buying seed, select it plump, shining, and heavy, and of the best brands, from a respectable merchant. Sift it clear of all the seeds of weeds, which will save a great deal of after trouble when the crop is growing. This may be done by farmers, and through a wire sieve, twelve bars to the inch. Home-saved seed has produced excellent crops, yet it will be best, in most cases, to use the seed which is saved at home for feeding, or to sell it for the oil mills. The proportion of seed may be stated at one Riga barrel, or three and a-half imperial bushels to the Irish or plantation acre; and so on, in proportion to the Scotch or Cunningham, and the English or statute acre. It is better to sow rather too thick than too thin; as, with thick sowing, the stem grows tall and straight, with only one or two seed capsules at the top; and the fibre is found greatly superior, in fineness and length, to that produced from thin sown flax, which grows coarse and branches out, producing much seed, but a very inferior quality of fibre. The ground being pulverised, and well cleaned, roll and sow. If it has been laid off without ridges, it should be marked off in divisions, eight to ten feet broad, in order to give an equable supply of seed. After sowing, cover it with a seed harrow, going twice over it—once up and down, and once across or anglewise, as this makes it more equally spread, and avoids the small drills made by the teeth of the harrow. Finish with the roller, which will leave the seed covered about an inch—the proper depth. The ridges should be very little raised in the centre, when the ground is ready for the seed, otherwise the crop will not ripen evenly; and when land is properly drained, there should be no ridges. A stolen crop of rape or winter vetches, or of turnips of the Stone or Norfolk globe variety may be taken after the flax is pulled. Rolling the ground after sowing is very advisable, care being taken not to roll when the ground is so wet that the earth adheres to the roller. If the crop be grown oftener than the regular rotation mentioned, then manure should be tried.

## WEEDING.

If care has been paid to cleaning the seed and the soil, few weeds will appear; but if there be any, they must be carefully pulled. It is done in Belgium by women and children, who, with coarse cloths round their knees, creep along on all-fours. This injures the young plant less than walking over it, which, if done, should be by persons whose shoes are not filled with nails. They should work also facing the wind, so that the plants laid flat by the pressure may be blown up again, or thus be assisted to regain their upright position. The tender plant, pressed one way, soon recovers; but, if twisted or flattened by careless weeders, it seldom rises again. The weeding should be done before the flax exceeds six inches in height.

## PULLING.

The time when flax should be pulled is a point of much nicety to determine. The fibre is in the best state before the seed is quite ripe. If pulled too soon, although the fibre is fine, the great waste in scutching and hackling renders it unprofitable; and if pulled too late, the additional weight does not compensate for the coarseness of the fibre. It may be stated, that the best time for pulling is, when the seeds are beginning to change from a green to a pale