

a spreading deciduous calyx, an undulated pod, with a distinct beak, and globular seeds in a single row, having folded cotylidons. The most common of these species are the *Sinapis Nigra* (common or brown Mustard), and the *Sinapis Alba* (White Mustard). The former is frequently found in waste places and in fields of neglected cultivation, and is often the prevailing Charlock weed. The latter is distinguished from the former by its stems being covered with rough hairs, and its pods terminating in a broad two-edged or dagger-shaped beak. The white mustard is in some places cultivated rather extensively, but it is also not unfrequently found in a wild condition, assuming the character of an ordinary weed. Its buds are a pale yellow. The *Sinapis arvensis* (Charlock) much resembles the last, but differing in having the upper leaves lanceolate, erect, and toothed, not lyrate, and in the pods being obscurely angular, with a short awl-shaped beak. The seeds are brown, resembling those of *S. Nigra*.

Although Charlock is an annual weed, its extirpation is often found in practice to be very difficult, especially after it has been allowed to seed without [molestation. Its seeds being so highly oleaginous will sometimes remain unimpaired in the ground for indefinite periods of time, and when brought by the spade or plough to within an inch or two of the surface, will begin to germinate, and rapidly produce a plentiful crop. The digging of a ditch, or even ploughing a few inches deeper than ordinary, will occasionally bring the dormant seeds of the wild mustard into vegetative activity, and cause the pest to predominate where for generations it had been unknown. In this way seedsmen are occasionally, but most unjustly, charged with supplying impure or mixed seed.

The various species of this tribe of plants are all very prolific, as will appear from the following carefully made estimates of the number of seeds that have been found in single plants:—

<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	6,000.
“ <i>nigra</i>	8,000.
“ <i>alba</i>	3,600.
<i>Raphanus Raphanistrum</i>	5,000.
<i>Brassica napa</i>	5,100.

As the Charlock ripens its seeds early in the season, usually long before the cereals among which it appears become matured, it is found in practice to be difficult to extirpate. Cutting off the flowers before the seed matures by a scythe or hook is often resorted to, a practice that is always more or less injurious to the growing grain, and is at best but a mitigation, not a cure. Hand weeding, when the Charlock is not very thick, if carefully done, can, with confidence, be recommended. But the adoption of the row system, both as regards grain and roots, which readily admits of keeping the ground perfectly clean by hand or horse power, is the only effectual way of clearing land infested with wild mustard and most other kinds of weeds. For this, among other reasons, the introduction of the row culture a century ago by the celebrated Tull, constituted a most important epoch in the history of agricultural improvement. Since in this, as in most other cases, *prevention* is better than cure, we strongly urge our farming friends to exercise the most vigilant care in selecting *pure* seed, and equal care in eradicating all weeds that may appear before they ripen their seed.

The following quaint old song, if it has nothing of literary excellence to recommend it, conveys at all events some valuable and practical suggestions to farmers:—

“A GLOSTERSHIRE ZONG ON THE KERLOCK.

“The kerlock plant is a zite to zee,
As it zhines in the fields like gowld;
But all yeat gowld that glitters free,
I was once by ny veather towld.

Zo I'll take a heow and cut un all up,
All out of the barley ground;
And arter that I'd like to kneow,
Where a bit of nast* can be vound.

But a zays, zays he, it aint no use
For to go to a girt expense;
For twall come again whatever thee doos,
In a year or two vrom hence.

But passon zays as every weed,
Like the turmits and whate we sows,
Must al come up vrom a sort o' zeed,
Zo I wunt let un zeed if I kneows.

But I'll take a heow and heow'n all clane,
All out of the barley ground;
Vor if I doan't let un zeed 'tis plane
No't a bit of nast will be vound.”

* Nast is a generic term for weeds. Picking nast, or burning nast, will mean picking of couch &c., and burning weeds.