



## The Field.

### Grafting Potatoes.

The idea of grafting potatoes for the purpose of uniting the good qualities of two different varieties, was introduced to my notice through the columns of the *Rural New Yorker* about two years ago. I must confess I had but little faith, but concluded the best way to determine the value of the idea was by actual test. I commenced by selecting a specimen of the Early Rose and another called the Cherry Blow, a potato of dark red color, and but very little earlier than the Peach-blow. I removed the eyes from the Cherry Blow by cutting out a piece of oblong shape running to a point. In these cavities I inserted the eyes of the Early Rose, cut out in the same shape, fitting them in nicely and binding them with bass strings. The first year I succeeded in saving but one tuber. The following spring I cut this one in single eyes, planted in good soil, gave ordinary cultivation, and about the 1st of September harvested nearly a peck of good sized potatoes, possessing the characteristics of both the original varieties in this, that they were earlier than the Cherry Blow and later than the Early Rose, and color about a medium between the two. I think by selecting for seed each year those partaking of the nature of both varieties, I will have a potato superior to the Peachblow in one respect—it will be earlier.

J. R. SCOTT

We cut the above from the *Rural New Yorker*, and would ask, can it be true? If so, our ideas of the bud's controlling the fruit must be considerably modified. It has long been contended by some that the stock affects the fruit to some extent, intensifying or moderating its characteristics, but we never before heard it claimed that it would change varieties. We think it will require further experiments to establish the principle.—*Am. Rural Home.*

### The Red Chaff Wheat.

(To the Editor of the CANADA FARMER.)

Sir,—“A bad variety of spring wheat” is the heading of an article in the *CANADA FARMER* of May 1st. Holding somewhat different views from those set forth in the above-named article, I hope you will excuse my offering a few remarks respecting the variety of spring wheat named the Red Chaff Spring Wheat. My next neighbor procured a few bushels of this wheat last year from the county of Wellington, and sowed it beside some Fyfe wheat. The result was that it yielded more than double the quantity per acre, and having noticed your article upon it, he took a bushel to the mill, had it ground separately, and his wife made some bread from it. The miller who ground it pronounced it good flour, and the bread was also good, although darker in color than

that made from flour of white winter wheat. A number of farmers in this county sowed this wheat last year, the yield varying according to circumstances from 16 to 24 bushels per acre. I do not think it should be condemned because one or two millers happened to say that it will not make as good flour as the Fyfe Wheat. About 10 or 12 years ago, when the midge made its appearance, and threatened the total destruction of the better varieties of white winter wheat, one or two varieties of red wheat were introduced, namely, the Mediterranean and the Midge Proof, which to appearance were both exceedingly coarse, inferior samples, and I recollect very well that the millers pronounced them very inferior, and distinctly said that they would not make good flour, and that a farmer had better have half a crop of good wheat than a whole crop of inferior stuff, which was so mean that even the midge would not eat it. Now, sir, what was the result? They proved useful and profitable wheats to grow under the circumstances, and became very generally cultivated for four or five years, and are yet grown to some extent. The millers learned how to grind them so as to make good flour, and the longer they were cultivated the samples apparently improved. They became, as it were, acclimated. Now, I think this red chaff spring wheat may possibly improve in quality, and that the millers will perhaps learn how to grind it to make good flour, and I entertain hopes that it may yet become a desirable wheat to grow, and prove a valuable acquisition to the agricultural community, for I do assure you that although the Fyfe wheat makes good flour, it is no longer a desirable or profitable variety of wheat to raise in this section of the country. I am, &c.,

A WENTWORTH FARMER.

### Culture of Beans.

Relative to the culture of beans, we give the following practical remarks from a correspondent of the *New York Tribune* in Central Indiana:—

The first requisite for a bean crop is thorough preparation of the ground. Beans cannot be successfully raised among clods or weeds. The ground should be made very mellow by repeated rolling and harrowing. My own plan has been to run light furrows about twenty inches apart, and follow in these with a corn drill, planting the beans three or four inches apart in the row. (The brush must be taken out of the drill box, and the iron where the brush is fastened must be cut or filed out, in order to plant them so thick.) This will require between three and four pecks to the acre, varying according to the size of the beans. Immediately after planting the ground should be harrowed again. Beans will usually come up in three to five days from the time of planting. The after-culture which I have practised is ploughing twice between the rows with a steady horse, a careful ploughman, and a very narrow single-shovel plough. The cultivation should cease as soon as the beans begin to blossom. I have found from the 1st to the 5th of June to be a very good time for planting; they will then ripen about the last of August, and the ground can be easily made ready for a wheat crop. The yield varies greatly, according to the season,

fifteen bushels per acre is considered by many as a fair yield, but from twenty to thirty bushels can be raised in a favorable year by proper care and attention. Navy beans usually command from twenty-five to fifty cents more per bushel in market than the ordinary kinds, but they are not so easily raised, and they ripen much later, frequently too late for the ground to be sown in wheat. Beans require a good soil, which must be well drained. They can be raised on very poor ground, but the yield will be correspondingly small. Seed beans purchased from the stores should be tested by sprouting a few before planting the crop, as they sometimes heat in bulk and will not grow.—*Country Gentleman.*

### Harvesting, Shocking and Stacking.

Wheat and barley are the two varieties of small grains from which farmers expect to realize cash returns, and this for the simple reason that their selling prices in our principal markets are such as to warrant their transportation to comparatively long distances. Rye and oats are next in importance, but rye is not generally raised in the West, and oats do not generally bear price sufficient to warrant long shipments. Much grain is lost annually by bad shocking, and since there may be much rain during the present harvest, a few hints on this matter may not be out of place.

Now-a-days there are so many really good reapers in the hands of the farmers, that the binding of grain is very much simplified, the gavels being laid at regular intervals, out of the way of the reaper, and with the butts reasonably square for binding. All that is necessary to be done is for the binder to form the band, tie, and the grain is ready for shocking. This labor may be facilitated, if the binder will toss the grain into convenient piles, from which they are carried to the place for shocking.

In setting the sheaves together it is quite common to see the bundles of rye, barley, and oats simply leaned against each other in long lines, and without covering from the rain, and in too many cases the grain is often injured to a greater or less extent thereby. This should never be done, except perhaps in the case of rye which does not readily absorb moisture, and the length of the straw of which makes it somewhat difficult to be placed in shocks for covering. Nevertheless we have always practised covering the shocks of rye.

Barley we should never bind, but should always take the gavels directly to the barn as soon as dry, for, if wet with rain, the grain is thereby seriously injured; indeed every time the grain is wet with dew, after being cut, it is more or less discolored, and once wet, after binding, the grain can no longer be sold as first-class in the market.

There are various ways of shocking, but the one most in use, and, all things considered, the best, is to set two sheaves upright, placing, against these, two other sheaves at two of the sides, making six sheaves compactly together. Against these, leaning slightly, the butts set firmly on the ground, put a sheaf at each end and one side. Your shock now contains ten sheaves. Press the heads together and it is ready for the caps. These are made by selecting medium sized sheaves for the purpose. Break the tops above the band, so that the straw and heads may spread, and, opening the butts, set it on the shock, so that the heads may cover the sides, and the butts the end of the shock. Bend another sheaf as before directed, for the opposite end of the shock, lapping enough to partially cover the first cap sheaf. If this be carefully done, the shock is safe from or