

is enclosed. It is a considerable time before the young plants display their seminal roots and by that time the field is covered with weeds of considerable height. The germination is often interrupted either because the seed is too near the surface, and cannot find a proper supply of moisture, or because it is too deep in the ground and development becomes impossible. On ordinary soils transplantation is usually the preferable plan, as it leaves time for giving the requisite preparation to the soil. But as the vegetation of the plant is disturbed by transplantation, it is important to procure the seedlings in good time, and therefore to sow as early as possible.

The method which is found to be most advantageous consists in advancing the germination a few days before sowing by moistening the seed with water from the dunghill and then setting it in rows, two or three grains at a time along a cord on which equal distances are marked. The seed is placed in little holes about an inch or an inch and a half in depth and formed with a dibbler; it is covered with mould, taken from the preceding hollow, or if the soil be very light the earth is pushed over the seed, by the foot of the sower as he advances. When this plan is pursued, germination takes place quickly, and the weeds do not get the start of the beet plants. Care must be taken to uproot the superfluous plants as soon as those which are to remain have put forth three or four leaves.

The plants require careful cultivation during their growth; it is upon this indeed that their success mainly depends. The cultivation is performed with the horse-hoe but in spite of the opinion of some agriculturists, a slight earthing up is very useful even to the variety which grows chiefly above ground. The large fleshy leaves of the plant attain their greatest size in August; many cultivators set great value on the green fodder, furnished by these leaves. According to approximate calculations, if the leaves be stripped early and frequently the produce which they afford is greater than that of the roots but it is obtained at the expense of the latter, for if the leaves be stripped early and to excess, the roots remain very poor. Cattle eat these leaves but are not very fond of them, and though large they appear to contain but a small quantity of nutriment. Whatever is gained in real value on the leaves is lost upon the roots. Moreover the gathering of the leaves is troublesome, and on the whole I think that nothing but a scarcity of other kinds of fodder can justify this operation in an economical point of view. It is only in autumn when the plants have attained their full growth and the crop is soon to be taken off that the leaves can be properly cut close to the root and given to the cattle.

The roots are easily pulled up, but the removal of the filaments, which is necessary to the preservation of the roots, is not so easy. But roots grown in an argillaceous soil have not so many of these filaments.

It is difficult to preserve the roots to an advanced period of the winter, for they are very sensible of cold, and soon destroyed by it; in warm cellars they are very liable to rot, so that they require to be placed in beds and separated by straw or sand,

Beets possess the advantage of being almost exempt from the attacks of insects.—*Ibid.*

MR. FLEMING'S PEAT COMPOST.—Many ways of working up peat (moss) have been suggested, such as adding lime, salt, and other substances, to aid fermentation. The most successful of these substances with which I am acquainted is one which has been used with much advantage on the home farm of Mr. Fleming, of Barochan. This compost consists of—

Saw dust or moss earth,	40 bushels.
Coal tar,	20 gallons.
Bone dust,	7 bushels.
Sulphate of soda,	1 cwt.
Sulphate of magnesia,	1½ "
Common salt,	1½ "
Quick lime,	20 bushels.

These materials are mixed up together and put into a heap, and allowed to heat and ferment when the compost is ready for use. Compared with farm yard manure and guano, this mixture gave on hay and turnips:

1. On hay, per imperial acre—

	PRODUCE.	COST.
Nothing,	416 tons.	
Guano, 3 cwt.,	752 "	£1 10 0
Compost, 40 bushels,	761 "	1 0 0

2. On turnips, Jones' yellow top—

	PRODUCE.	COST.
Farm yard manure, 28 yards,	26 tons,	
Guano, 5 cwt.,	18 "	£2 10 0
Compost, 64 bushels,	29 "	1 11 0

According to these results, this compost is superior even to guano. The experiments, however, require repetition, and the results will, no doubt, vary with the kind of soil and crop to which the compost is applied.

NOTICE.

THE GENERAL MEETING of the **LOWER CANADA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY** will take place at their Rooms, in this city, on **FRIDAY, the 15th of MARCH**, instant, at 11 o'clock, A. M., for the purpose of electing Directors for the ensuing year.

By order,

WM. EVANS,
Secretary L. C. A. S.

Montreal, 1st March, 1850.