

commencing when the late oats were sown, and continuing pretty much till they were cut.

So it was with barley, and so with potatoes. The late growth of the Garnet and Peachblow was somewhat owing to the late rains and late growing of these roots, as they will grow the whole season through. The early Goodrich was a fair crop. The few planted late were a failure. The very earliest planted Peachblows, Garnets, Goodrich's, "California Reds," Prince Alberts, and all were a success. We never saw any better potatoes than such a medley of them planted on the first bare soil when dry enough, the earliest of any planted. We were surprised to see the load after load that was drawn from the field, and all sound, and most of them large.

Now here we have an example. It was the early planting that did this. The drought could not be more severe, and it began early, soon after spring sowing was done, catching some of the laggards.

On the other hand, we have noticed specially that late planting of the early sorts was uniformly a failure. Here is a case so clear that it cannot be misunderstood. As to the grass, that was very fine the fore part of the season, in consequence of the long, warm rain, which developed the latent germs, and gave us a fine stand of grass. It so covered the ground, shading it, that the growth was not much arrested by the drought, the grass drawing all the while from the deep fountains of the great rain of the spring; so it seemed.

It was the clover, however, that did the best. This grew unimpeded to maturity, and was a thick heavy crop—not coarse, but rather fine, dense and erect. It was cut quite early, and continued its second crop uninterruptedly. This the grass did not, but the clover did. In all directions we could see this. The tufts rose, and continued to rise till they occupied the ground for a second crop. This removed, there still were the tufts putting forth. Then the rains taking hold, there was seen, Oct. 17, the densest and richest covering, not only of clover, but of all the grasses. The drought only held back, or checked for a while the crop, the rain taking up the growth of the early moisture, continued it; and then we have the result.

We think we cannot sufficiently draw attention to this early putting out of the crops, corn excepted. That needs a *good start*; and later planting is required to give it this. But most of the grains, tubers and root crops, should be put out as early as the season will allow. Much can be done to secure this, if we so think and arrange accordingly. Late fall or winter ploughing will prepare the ground for this, and if the soil is dry or well drained, as it should be, there is no difficulty in getting out our crops in time.
—*Cor. Prairie Farmer.*

The number of threshing machines in the United States is about 229,000, and they save five per cent. more of the grain than the flail. There is accordingly a saving by these machines of about ten million bushels of grain annually.

GRAIN STEEPS.

The practice of using steeps or dressings for grain is not much followed in Canada, but those who are disposed to try it, I can recommend a very efficacious preparation which I got out from England. It is called "Down Farmers Friend," can be applied in ten minutes, and assists very much the germination of the grain. A neighbour of ours had a piece of ground badly infested with wire worm, which he wished to seed down to grass. He said he was no use sowing grain for the worm would have it all. The land was so full that you could turn up half a dozen of the depredators at every turn of the foot. Here then was a chance to try it. I gave him a package and he used it faithfully. The result was a crop of wheat which none had been grown for years.

W. T. G.

ITALIAN RYE GRASS.

Some time since inquiries were made in the *Canada Farmer* about Italian rye grass. Three years ago I imported several bushels from England, and it was sown, mixed with red clover in the barley field. It stood the following winter well, and in the ensuing season turned off about a ton of hay to the acre; but the hot, dry weather after mowing was too much for it, and by the first of September it was all quite dead, and nought but the clover remained. A few tufts of the rye grass in the lawn, where it was well watered, have grown well for five years. It requires a cool, moist and pretty rich soil.

W. T. G.

FARM GLEANINGS.

A correspondent of the *New England Farmer* says he raised thirty heads and 6441 kernels of oats from one kernel of seed.

A correspondent of the *Journal of the Farmer* says he has raised 1200 bushels of sugar beets on the acre on soil not over six inches in depth.

The *New England Farmer* says where green undecomposed manure is to be applied to any soil, it is preferable to plough it in late in the fall.

Muck should not be applied to the fields until it has been exposed to the atmosphere for six months or more, and composted with lime or unbleached ashes.

Mr. Dietz says winter wheats received in England have not been successful, as they have failed to have them acclimate well. They have always ripened too late.

The *Irish Farmer's Gazette* recommends the application of 400 gallons to the acre, of the refuse liquor of gas works, diluted with four times its bulk of water, as a top dressing for grass.