



AGRICULTURAL
JOURNAL
AND
TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
LOWER CANADA
Agricultural Society.

VOL. 4.

MONTREAL, AUGUST, 1851.

No. 8.

TIME FOR CUTTING WHEAT.

It is a prevailing opinion that wheat should be cut before it is perfectly ripe, and there cannot be any doubt that it is the best plan to cut it before it is at full maturity, as the grain makes a better sample, and the danger of loss by shedding is in a great degree avoided. We, however, would not recommend that wheat should be cut a fortnight before it would be ripe. We have seen it stated that in England it is frequently cut a fortnight before it would be thoroughly ripe, and that it is found to be the best time to do so, and the same course has been recommended here. In the first place, a fortnight has a very different effect in ripening grain in England and in Canada. We have seen wheat in the latter country change from a green state to perfect ripeness in that space of time; but in England the same number of days would not produce any thing like the same effect on a crop. It requires to make allowance for the dif-

ference of climate in these cases. A crop of wheat or any other grain that would be cut in Canada a fortnight before it would become perfectly ripe, would not be of much value, and in the case of wheat, would act as injuriously upon it as rust would do. It should be sufficient to recommend generally to farmers to cut down their grain crops before they would be perfectly ripe, but to have it to their own judgment to determine what the state of ripeness would be when it would be prudent to cut it. Three or four days will make a great difference upon a crop here, when nearly at maturity; and in very few instances would it be safe to cut a crop here more than three or four days before it would be perfectly ripe? Circumstances alter cases. When grain is lodged, it may be better to cut it several days before it would be ripe, but a fair standing crop may be safely allowed to stand until it is very nearly at maturity.