

relative to the planting of cucumbers, which came under my observation, and which is worthy of being known. I shall at least give a further trial myself of its reality; though I cannot conceive there is a doubt remaining on the subject. Last spring, a friend of mine and myself were planting cucumbers at the same time. I was planting mine, as is usual, in gardens, by mixing a small portion of stable manure with the earth, and raising the hill an inch or two above the surface of the ground. Observing it, he jocosely remarked, "Let me show you how to raise cucumbers." Never having much luck in raising them, I cheerfully agreed to his proposition. He commenced by making holes in the earth, at the distance intended for the hills, that would hold about a peck—he then filled them with dry leached ashes, covering the ashes with a very small quantity of earth. The seed were then planted on a level with the surface of the ground. I was willing to see the experiment tried, but had no expectation of any thing but a loss of seed, labor and soil. But imagine my astonishment, (notwithstanding a drier season never was known, and almost a universal failure of garden vegetables,) when I beheld vines remarkably thrifty, and as fine a crop of cucumbers as any one could wish to raise, and they continued to bear for an unusually long time. I will not philosophize on the subject—but say to all, try it; and instead of throwing your ashes away, apply it where it will be of use, and you will rear a rich reward.—*Ohio Farmer.*

Upon the foregoing, the editor of the *Maine Cultivator* says: "We last season made trial of the above plan, and found it to succeed admirably."

The destruction of insects injurious to plants, both in the garden, and the field, is a matter of some consequence, to the gardner and farmer, and an able article has appeared in the *Farmer's Magazine*, from the pen of Professor Johnston, on the subject, by which it appears that the use of salt is highly recommended for destroying vermin, particularly slugs. Experiments have been made in England on wheat fields very much infected with slugs, that were destroying the roots of the young plants, and by an application of from four to six bushels of salt to the acre, the crop was saved from their ravages, though wheat in the next fields, where no salt was applied, was very much injured by slugs. Heavy rolling, especially during the night, is said to destroy slugs, and also wire worms. Salt, and rape powder are said to prevent the ravages of these destructive vermin—the wire worm.

It is a remarkable circumstance that in England, crops grown in land after being summer fallowed are not infected or injured by either slugs or wire worm. This fact should be sufficient encouragement to the farmers of Canada to summer fallow their lands, as the best means to destroy both vermin and weeds, as well as to improve the soil. Occasionally introducing material variation in the sort of crops cultivated upon the same soil, will have a very beneficial effect on checking the ravages of vermin, as it will deprive their larvae of the food most suitable to them, and which they are accustomed to feed upon. Salt is said to prevent the weevil injuring wheat in the store, by mixing a pint of salt to about a barrel of wheat. We

copy the following as we have found it appear in an exchange paper:—

The black and green fly may be killed by dipping the point of the young shoots of plants infected with them into a thin cream, composed of stiff yellow clay mixed with water; the clay will, it is true, look dirty upon the trees for a few days, but the first shower of rain washes it off, and the shoots will look more healthy than before the application. 'There is no fear,' says Mr. Loudon; 'of the return of the insects that season.' The scale in pines may be destroyed by the same mixture. The bug upon fruit trees may be killed by the use of the same clay and water, made as thin as whitewash, and mixing with every 6 gallons of it, 2lbs. of cream of tartar, 1lb. of soft soap, and half a peck of quick lime. 'When you think,' adds Mr. Loudon, 'that the weather is likely to continue dry for some time, take a bucketful of this mixture, and with a large brush wash over the bark of the trees, wherever you think it has been infected by the bug. A man will dress a number of trees over in a few days with a white-wash brush with this liquid; it is only necessary to be careful to do it in dry weather, so that the rain may not wash over the mixture for some time. A mixture of pepper, sugar, and water will speedily attract and destroy flies and wasps. Mr. Thomas recommends that the trees infected with moss and insects should be sprinkled with a fine powder in March, and again in October, on a foggy day, when the trees are damp but not dripping, and I have no doubt of its efficacy. The powder may be composed as follows: slack five bushels of lime hot from the kiln, with common salt and water: say 1lb. of salt to each gallon of water. When the lime has fallen to a fine powder, add, by small quantities at a time, a bushel of soot, stirring it until it be completely incorporated. Mr. Thomas has found that one man can dust over with the powder 50 trees in a day, and that the moss in the turf, under fruit trees thus treated, is also completely destroyed by the application. Worms in grass plots may be readily destroyed by copiously watering the turf with lime water, (half a pound of the hottest quick lime well stirred in a gallon of water,) or by sprinkling salt (10 bushels per acre) over it, or by strewing it on gravel walks in rather larger proportions. The caterpillars on cabbages may be readily destroyed by sprinkling them with fine powdered lime.

There can be no doubt that the careful farmer may do much to preserve his crop from injury by vermin. The wheat fly is the only insect that appears to be out of our power to check, unless by sowing wheat at such periods that it will come into ear previous to the 25th of June, or subsequent to the 15th of July—or by sowing varieties of wheat that will resist the fly, of which we know there are some that the fly cannot injure, whatever time in ear.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

SIR,—Permit me to enquire, through the medium of your Journal, whether any means has yet been found, to preserve young fruit trees from the attacks of the moles or field mice during the winter months.

AN AGRICULTURIST.

Montreal, 12th April, 1844.

In reply to the enquiry of our respected correspondent, we beg to state that it is very difficult to prevent field mice from injuring fruit trees in some situations, particularly if there be any long grass, or cover of any description, for these vermin, near the roots of the trees. We would recommend all such cover, of grass, heaps of stone, or other substances that would shelter these mice, to be removed from about the trees in the