

## A FEW SEASONABLE HINTS.

This is the most important month in the year to the agriculturist. In order that he may harvest his crops with profit to himself and ease to his labourers, the implements or tools should be in good order and of the best quality. Much of the wheat harvest will be housed before this reaches our Subscribers, therefore it will not be necessary to treat on the subject. Oats and peas should be cut before they are dead ripe, or else there will be much loss sustained by shattering. Save every blade of your straw, as you may require it before the close of the coming winter. The plan of throwing out much of the best straw in autumn, when it is not eaten, is too much practiced. A better use may be made of it thus—as soon as your grain is thrashed, either carefully stack your straw, or store it in houses for the purpose. When you cut your second crop of clover, which should be done as soon as the principal part be in flower, make it into hay, which is very seldom well cured at that season; and lay one layer of straw, and another of hay, and repeat the process to your whole crop; and we promise you that you will have good hay, and the straw will be much improved, which of itself will repay you for your trouble.

**Fallowing.**—This subject is of such vast importance and the field for discussion so wide, that whole volumes might be written upon it without exhausting or diminishing its interest. The few hints we gave in our last, we trust will not be lost sight of by our readers, and we hope they will make similar experiments. As we have often repeated, the drilling in of wheat would add much to the product, and *wheat-growing* would be a more certain business, as there would be less liability of the crop being winter-killed and injured by mildew. If any doubt our assertion, we advise them to lay up a few acres in rows or drills, as represented in our last, then the result will be proved by ocular demonstration; and we promise them that the advantage will be visible to the *pocket* as well as to the *eye*.

We noticed, a few days since, two fields of wheat, sown with an imported drill, which in our opinion will average 40 bushels per acre. The field in question is on the estate of Messrs. Thora and Parsons, Esquires, Yonge Street, Vaughan. We examined the drill. It would cost about £25.

If you plough in your wheat, by all means harrow it once afterwards, and properly water-farrow. Manage your land so that there will be no possibility of the plants sustaining injury by surface-water.

The wheat-growers do not pay sufficient attention to the culture of clover. This plant is justly considered the best food for wheat. Much of the light sandy lands might be made the most valuable, by seeding a large proportion of it down to clover, and by turning under the green sward for wheat. In the preparation of clovery leys for wheat, many methods have been practiced with ad-

mirable success. If the land be not clean from noxious weeds and wild grasses, the best plan would be to let the clover attain as large a growth as possible, in the early part of the season, and then harrow it down in the direction you intend to plough, and turn the whole under. The seed in this case should not be allowed to ripen. Another method is to allow the clover a good start in the spring, and depasture it through the summer with sheep or horned cattle, and when the time for seeding arrives, turn under the clover, and sow and harrow in; but the plan we most admire is, to have the land in high cultivation previous to the clover-seeds being sown. Cut the first crop of clover for hay, and turn under the second as above. Gypsum should always be used on clover; and the land may be increased in fertility yearly, under judicious cultivation, by its application.

**Seed Wheat.**—Old seed is preferable to new, if properly secured; but if used, great caution should be observed that the germinating principle have not been injured by heating in the mow or granary. If new be used, it should be left standing until dead ripe; and the field or patch intended for seed, should have every stalk of rye, chess, and cockle carefully pulled out while standing, and if neglected, the two latter can be separated by means of a hand sieve. A good fanning machine, by two dressings, will make a sample fit for market, notwithstanding it may be very impure before commencing the operation; yet, by close examination, it will be found unfit for seed. We wish to be understood that we denounce the doctrines of transmutation of grains. New varieties of the same kind may be propagated by a judicious management, on scientific principles; but we positively assert that it would be a violation of one of the first laws of nature, that two or more kinds could be cultivated or produced from the same kind. We could as soon believe that wheat would change into rye or *visa versa*, as that it would turn into chess. The latter grain, for so we venture to style it, is not so liable to winter-kill as wheat, and will remain uninjured if inundated with water, for a number of months in the winter season; and the wheat being killed on places thus exposed, gives the chess a chance to tiller, and thus the unskilful husbandman attributes the cause to an all-wise Providence.

**The Preparation of Seed Wheat** is various; but the surest cure that has been discovered to prevent smut is, to every three bushels of wheat take one pound of blue vitrol, dissolve it into about eight quarts of hot water, mix it with the wheat, and stir it well five or six times, and dry it with newly slacked lime. The only preventive we have ever used is a solution of salt and water, made sufficiently strong to bear up a fresh *laid egg*. After remaining a few hours in the same, we dried with newly slacked lime. This has invariably proved successful with us. A man will prepare thirty bushels in a day. We advise that class of farmers who never fail to have a *smutty* crop

of wheat, to prepare at least a part of their seed as above, and we warrant them that the result will be satisfactory.

**The proper time for sowing fall wheat** in Western Canada, is from the first of September to the fifteenth, and if not sown before the twentieth, it would be much better to sow such land with spring wheat, as it has proved a more certain crop on summer fallowed land, than late fall sown. We have seen spring wheat produce 35 bushels per acre, thus prepared. Some farmers practice sowing their wheat in August; we cannot recommend it for the following reasons:—If the fall be very open and fine, the plants will tiller if sown too early, which as virtually destroys the crop as if winter-killed—and the biennial weeds, if any are allowed to remain in the ground after the summer-fallowing operation, will get the start of the wheat in the spring, and in many instances we have seen whole crops destroyed from this cause. Some seasons it answers well; but on an average of seasons, the results of too early sowing would be as disastrous as sowing after the period above mentioned.

**Water-farrowing** should not be neglected, and should be performed as soon as the crops are sown and harrowed, and the angles should be opened with a spade.

In conclusion; we have directed your attention to a few subjects, that we trust will be worthy your serious consideration and practice; and hope you will obtain remunerating prices for the products of your industry and toil, and that your pockets may be full of money, and live long to enjoy the blessings with which a kind and bountiful Providence has been pleased to surround you.

## MONTHLY REPORT OF THE CROPS IN CANADA WEST.

We perceive from our exchange papers that the fall sown wheat, has been partially injured by mildew, in every district in the Province; but not to that extent, that the influence from the same disease was felt in the harvest of 1839. We have seen gentlemen from almost every populous township in the Home District, and have invariably made it a point to inquire of the state of the crops in their respective neighbourhoods, and the reply has been, without exception, that the late sown fall wheat, will not produce half an average crop. Various causes have been assigned by modern writers on vegetable physiology for this disease; and although it is a subject on which we have bestowed much research, both theoretically and practically; and have noticed its action on the plant in various stages of the disease, and under a diversity of circumstances as it regards the preparation of the soil, and its natural location; yet, we are not satisfied as to the true cause, and will not give a decided opinion on the subject.

At the period of our writing this, (the 12th of August), the wheat harvest is quite over in the Niagara and Talbot Districts.