

often heard my neighbors observe, that some of their cows, though very good in the fore part of the season, dried up of their milk so early, that they were unprofitable, and they should have to put them off; I accordingly thought it expedient to find out the cause, if possible: and when I brought to mind the ways that some of my young cows had been kept and milked, I attributed the cause to the milking of them the first season they gave milk; and by many experiments since, I have found that young cows, the first year they give milk, may be made, with careful milking and good keeping, to give milk almost any length of time required, say from the first of May to the first of Feb. following, and will give milk late always after, with careful milking. But if they are let to dry up of their milk early in the fall, they will be sure to dry up their milk each succeeding year, if they have a calf near the same season of the year; and nothing but extraordinary keeping will prevent it, and that but for a short time. I have had them dried up of their milk much past that time in any succeeding year. In 1820, I had two heifers, which had calves in April, and after getting them gentle, I set a boy to milk them for the season, (which is often done the first season on account of their having small teats;) he was careless, and dried them both off in August. Although I felt satisfied I should lose the greater part of the profit of them afterwards, yet I took it upon me the following year to milk them myself, and give them good feed, but too no purpose. I could not make them give milk much past the same time they dried the year before. I have two cows now that were milked the first year they had calves, until near the time of their calving again and have continued to give milk as late ever since, if we will milk them.—*R. Woodward, of Suffolk.*

#### Garden Seeds.

As success in gardening depends much on good seeds, a few hints on raising, gathering and preserving them may be of importance to the young and inexperienced gardener. Plants intended for seed should be carefully cultivated during their whole existence and especially while their seeds are ripening. They should also be located in such a manner, as that those of the same species cannot intermix and produce deteriorated varieties. To prevent mixing, they must be set at considerable distances apart, as even Indian corn has been known to mix at the distance of three hundred yards. It is utterly impossible to preserve varieties of cucumbers, melons, squashes, pumpkins &c. in their purity, if they are permitted to flower and ripen their seeds in the same garden—the seeds of two varieties of the same species of plants, should not, therefore, be attempted to be raised in the same garden at the same time. It is this disposition to mix and degenerate that renders it difficult for seedsmen to raise a complete assortment of seeds on their own grounds, unless they are very extensive.

The most luxuriant and perfect plants, and such as arrive at maturity the earliest in the season, should be selected for seed. They should be permitted to remain in the garden until the seed is perfectly ripe; and should then be gathered and cleaned in clear weather. If any moisture remains, they should be exposed to the rays of the sun until they are perfectly dry, and then be put up in bags or boxes and secured from the depredations of rats, mice and insects, and the action of severe cold. As a general rule, new seed is to be preferred to old on account of its germinating quicker and producing a more vigorous growth; but good seeds, gathered and preserved in the foregoing manner, will retain their vitality as follows:—

Asparagus,.....4	Marjoram,.....4
Balm,.....2	Melon,.....8 or 10
Basil,.....2 or 3	Mustard,.....3 or 4
Beans,.....1 or 2	Nasturtium,.....2 or 3
Berbs,.....3 or 10	Onion,.....3
Borage,.....2	Parsley,.....5 or 6
Cabbage,.....6 or 8	Parsnip,.....1
Carrot,.....1 or 2	Pea,.....2 or 3
Celery,.....2, 6 or 8	Pumpkin,.....8 or 10
Corn,.....2 or 3	Pepper,.....5 or 6
Cress,.....2	Raddish,.....6 or 8
Cucumber,.....8 or 10	Rec,.....3
Caraway,.....4	Ruta Baga,.....5
Fennel,.....5	Salsafy,.....2
Garlic,.....3	Savory,.....3 or 4
Leek,.....3 or 4	Spinage,.....3 or 4
Lettuce,.....3 or 4	Squash,.....8 or 10
Mangel Wurzel,.....8 or 10	Turnip,.....3 or 4

Some gardeners prefer old seeds of cucumbers, melons, squashes, &c. &c. to new on account of their running less to vices and producing larger crops of fruit: but on this point we cannot speak experimentally. The vitality of seeds is easily tested, and the ought never to be sown, in any considerable quantity, without it. When divested of their covering, such as will germinate will sink in lukewarm water, while such as have lost their vitality will float on the surface.—*Silk. Cult.*

#### Wheat.

At the late meeting of the British association, Mr. Richardson, the enterprising traveller, and writer of several valuable works on the natural history of North America, stated that about Hudson's Bay, wheat ripened in seventy days from the time of sowing; and Humboldt asserts that only ninety days are required, in South America. Here, what is called winter wheat, requires ten months and sometimes employs twelve, in a single crop; and spring wheat is rarely cut short of six months from the time of sowing. Cannot this period be shortened? We think so, by the introduction of wheat from the point of the farthest north where it is produced in perfection, and then by great care in selecting the earliest plants for seed, a constitutional tendency to early ripening would be created. There can be no doubt that the seeds of a plant early arrived at maturity, seek to become so likewise when sown; and that even under unfavourable circumstances, it requires successive generations to cause it to recede from the condition of the parent. It is well known that winter wheat sown in the spring will not arrive at maturity the same season; if it would, a great obstacle to the culture of wheat in some sections of our country would be done away; certainly in those places where fall snow wheat is liable to be frozen out during our severe winters. We understand that some experiments have been made to do away the obstacles to raising winter wheat when sown in spring, and that the results were very satisfactory. It is to be regretted that no account of these experiments have been laid before the public, and we hope if this notice should meet the eye of any one acquainted with the process adopted, they will at once give this journal a history of the proceeding, with its success or failure. There can be no doubt, we think, but that wheat, mixed up with a small quantity of earth or sand, and slightly moistened with water, and prepared the fore part of winter by placing it where it could be at such a temperature that active vegetation could not commence, but the wheat remain as late sown wheat sometimes does, without sprouting until spring, would, if sown early in the spring before it sprouted, produce a crop as surely as the ordinary spring wheat, and with this advantage, that the crop would possess all the qualities of the best winter wheat. If some such method could be adopted, combining the qualities of winter wheat, with the certainty of spring wheat, a great step in the prosperity of many parts of our country would be gained.

#### Frozen Potatoes.

As it is probable from the severity of the cold, and the small quantity of snow, that many potatoes buried in the fields, if not those in cellars, will be frozen, it may be well to give at this time the methods recommended by the celebrated agriculturist Dallas, in the French publication *Bibliothèque Universelle*. Mr. Dallas considers them in three states; first when they are slightly touched by frost; second, when the outer portion of their substance is frozen; and third, when they are frozen throughout.

In the first case he says nothing more is necessary than sprinkle the potatoes with lime to absorb the water formed under the skin, which unless done will speedily occasion their complete decomposition. In the second instance he causes the potato to be pared, and thrown for some hours into water slightly salted.

The thoroughly frozen potato should be boiled, and mixed with bran or meal, as food for swine or cattle.

#### Curing Hams.

I have heard complaints from people that had tight brick smoke houses, that their hams did not smoke well, and consequently did not keep in summer. I think I have discovered the whole secret. I have for twenty years used a tight brick smoke house, but have a hole near the roof of four inches square, through which passes a large volume of smoke, and with it all the vapor that is extracted from the meat by the heat of the fire. I stopped the hole last winter, and found my hams to be wet whenever the fire had gone out; the confined vapor became condensed and settled on the meat