

The demand for heavy draught horses, for carriage, and for ride and drive horses, both in the States and in this country, is bound to increase, and a really good animal in any of these classes is sure of a profitable market. No economy can be more short sighted, then, than that which for the sake of saving a few dollars at the outset, engages the services of an inferior sire. A saving of \$5 at the outset may mean a difference of \$500 when the time comes to sell. Above all, let your readers be shy of "imported" horses and flash pedigrees. The fact is, the bringing over to Canada of half a dozen or more cheap cast-offs from second or third class studs, and sending them around as imported! stallions, has been a very promising speculation; whereas, if justice to the country had been done, they would all have been shot the moment they were landed. One of the principal defects of these "culls" is flat and shaly feet. Color should also be considered; avoid a horse with white fore feet; it is said "a good horse can never be a bad color," but if he was of a good color he would be a better horse. Your farmers should not allow another season to go by without making a resolute effort to reform their policy in this respect. The remedy is in their own hands. When they insist upon having a thoroughly good horse, in return, of course, for a fair fee, and are no longer content with the first "cheap and nasty" animals that are brought to their gates, the supply of better material will speedily be forthcoming.

Cultivation of Potatoes.

Last month we gave our readers particulars concerning the leading varieties of potatoes, and now give you some of the modes of cultivation which have proved successful. The soil considered best for potatoes is a rich sandy loam, which is neither too wet nor too dry. A cool moist soil has been found to produce large potatoes; but there is less risk from excessive moisture in a lighter soil; maturity is reached earlier and the quality is better in a warm light soil than in one which is heavier. A calcareous formation generally yields a sure crop; wet land produces a wet unpalatable crop of little value; old sod well turned under in the fall, or clover sod, is excellent, but in any case it should be well rotted, and the land well and deeply worked before the potatoes are planted; when the land is not rich, a top-dressing of some sort should be applied; if stable manure it should be old and well rotted. At the time of planting, bone-dust, ashes, plaster, marl and like fertilizers can be used to great advantage, as they are of a dry and absorbent nature. On wet soils they are especially beneficial; on a warm light dry soil muck compost may be advantageously used; decayed leaves are also highly recommended. In seasons when this crop has been affected by disease, fields where ashes has been used have suffered much less from the rot.

Potatoes are planted in hills or drills; the latter is in most favor in Ontario. The drills are usually three feet apart and the potatoes dropped twelve to fifteen inches apart in the drills. The method which we have found most economical is, after the ground has been well prepared, and when plowing the last time, to drop the sets in every third furrow. With a careful and good plowman they will be very regular and straight; the drills will be about three feet apart. Care should be taken not to plow too deeply; the proper depth is four inches in light soils, not so deep in heavy lands. When the plowing is done harrow the ground; also harrow again as soon as weeds appear. When the potato is too large to allow of harrowing use the horse hoe; do not let the weeds get a start.

Some still plant in hills, three feet each way being the usual distance. Some varieties need more room than others; when planting in the latter method, the cultivator should be careful to have the hills in rows each way of the field; the horse-hoe can then be used both ways. The harrow cannot be used with safety as a general thing when planted by the hoe in hills; each time you hoe or cultivate draw the earth toward the hills or drills, when flat cultivation is not practiced. Some excellent authorities on the subject say cultivation should cease when the blossoms appear; but should there be any weeds go over the fields pull them all by hand; on no account should any be allowed to grow and go to seed. The plan of planting five eyes to the hill is condemned by some who have paid much attention to this subject, and who say, "potatoes cut carefully to a single eye, and planted a little closer, will yield a larger crop than by the careless method of throwing in seed by the wholesale. The effect of close growth or crowding in the turnip, mangold, carrot or parsnip field is known to be a great disadvantage, and we consider the rule holds good in the potato family. Two large eyes to the hill, with a proper proportion of flesh to each, will produce a far larger crop of merchantable tubers than two whole potatoes, besides effecting a saving of seed." The time of planting varies much, according to the different localities. Some prefer to plant as early in the spring as possible, others do not until the last of May or first of June. The varieties which do best in your respective localities should be depended on; but we think a small plot should be used to test new varieties.

For many years there has been a variety of opinions concerning large and small seed; some maintain large seed is preferable, while others grow good crops from small tubers. The main points is, we think, to obtain healthy fecund eyes, whether from large or small tubers. The fact is, we call the tubers seed when they are not seed, but roots similar to the roots of other plants from which we take cuttings. When taking a cutting from any plant, our object is to get strong and healthy eyes, whether it be from a large or small plant, and if all do this the result from a small plant will be as satisfactory as from a large one.

The following figures show the results of experiments made in growing potatoes at the Experimental Farm of Cornell University, New York:

The Early Rose variety was planted on May 10th; the soil a sandy loam, unmanured, and only moderately fertile. Each plot consisted of a single row 50 feet in length. The rows were four feet apart, and the seed was dropped 18 inches apart in the row. Below is the yield in pounds:

Plot No.	Yield		Total
	Large	Small	
1. Small potatoes used as seed.....	30	55	85
2. Medium-sized whole potatoes.....	85	38	123
3. Same size cut in halves, one piece per hill.....	93	26	119
4. Same size cut to two eyes per piece, one piece per hill.....	84	19	103
5. Cut as No. 4, two pieces per hill.....	96	24	120
6. Seed end of potato planted.....	86	30	116
7. Stem end planted.....	88	25	113
8. Middle of potato planted.....	23	41	64
9. Seed planted two inches deep.....	76	46	122
10. Seed planted four inches deep.....	93	33	131
11. Cultivated flat.....	94	31	125
12. Cultivated in ridges.....	89	29	118

Potatoes less than an average-sized hen's egg were classed as small. It appears that medium-sized potatoes, cut to two eyes, and two pieces to the hill, gave the best results; that deep planting and flat culture did the best. These experiments, if they do nothing more, at least point out to the readers the advantage of such trials, and we hope there will grow among farmers a disposition to make annually similar tests in the culture of any and every farm crop. Much can be gained in this way.

The effort made by the potato plant to produce flowers and seed balls is claimed by some English authorities to be, in the general crop, a waste of power, which detracts from the desired crop. Experiments were made in England, on a large scale; three rows had the blossoms cut off, and on three they were left intact alternately all over the field. The produce of the rows which had been deprived of their flowers showed a marked increase over that of the rows which had not been so treated.

We have been asked by several of our readers if placing potatoes on sod, and covering with straw, instead of planting in the usual way, has proved a success. We have heard of crops being raised in this manner, but would not recommend it; it is in no way commendable.

Millet.

We have found this plant of great value as a substitute for hay, and also as a soiling plant. We believe Canadian farmers would find it profitable if they cultivated it more extensively. We have known some who have cultivated it not to be fully satisfied with the results; but we believe this was due to an imperfect knowledge of the plant. There are several varieties; the kinds most grown in this Province are commonly known as the Foxtail Millet and Hungarian grass; some authorities highly recommend the Golden Millet.

Millet is a rapid and rank grower, and produces large quantities of green food, hay or seed; it may be sown in drills or broadcast. If sown broadcast for hay, 40 qts. of seed per acre will be required, but if in drills for seed, 8 to 10 qts. will be sufficient. It requires a dry, rich and finely pulverized soil, though it will grow on light thin land, but like cereals, is not so remunerative. The sowing should not be done until the weather is warm, say from the 15th of June until the 15th of July. It ripens in 60 to 75 days if the weather is favorable, and for this reason should commend itself to the agriculturist. Frequently clover and grasses become partially winter-killed, but whether they may be profitably left for meadow purposes is not always discernible until it is too late to prepare the ground for a cereal crop. In such cases, if the grass or clover does not come up to the desired standard, after sufficient time has been allowed, if plowed up and the land well cultivated, a profitable crop of millet may be grown. In this respect alone it should be a great boon to our farmers.

It may be cut with a mowing machine, and dried like hay; but as the ground has been so recently plowed, it is apt to become very dusty if handled in this manner. We prefer to cut it with a reaper, laying it off in small sheaves, which if necessary can be turned by hand with a barley or large steel fork, and when dry enough may be put in cocks or drawn from the rows to the barn.

A fair average crop of seed is 30 bushels, but when cut for fodder and sown on good land, it should produce from two to three tons per acre. Some eminent agricultural writers claim it to be equal to good hay. Horses, cattle and sheep are fond of it, and if it is properly fed they all do well on it, but it is a very rich food, and should be fed in small quantities, or mixed with other hay; this is especially true after the seed has ripened. When a larger amount is fed at one time, it will be as injurious as so much unthreshed wheat. If to be used as hay it should be cut before the seed is ripe, but not before the head is well formed.

A farmer who has had experience with millet states his views as follows:

"I want millet cut when heading or in blow for horses that are fed grain, but when used without grain, cut when in the milk, cure and take to the