

The Parsnip—its Culture and Nutritive Properties.

There are but few farmers in our country who have not experienced great inconvenience for the want of succulent food for their *milk cows and yearling ewes* in early spring, at that period when winter fodder becomes exhausted, and before the pastures afford sustenance for these useful animals. To endeavor to supply the deficiency shall be the object of this paragraph. In reflecting upon the subject and comparing the relative merits of the several vegetable products usually cultivated in our country, the conviction has been forced upon our mind that there is none better adapted to such purposes than the *parsnip*. In the quantity of product, under the influence of good culture and congenial soil, it will produce as much upon any given quantity of land as any other of the root family.

It may be proper here to remark, that wherever parsnips or other roots are fed out to cattle or sheep, they should always be accompanied by portions of dry food, as hay or fodder of some kind, to correct any ill effects which might otherwise result from the succulent nature of roots.

There is one quality connected with the nature of parsnips which renders them a most availing spring feed. They may be left in the ground where they may be grown, all winter, without being the least injured. This operates as a great saving of labor in the fall, when potatoes, turnips, beets, carrots, and indeed, all other roots have to be dug, and buried, or housed in some dry cellar to preserve them from the effects of frost. Thus left out, the parsnips will be found in spring, when they may be wanted to be fed out to the stock, just as good as they were before the frosts of winter set in.

As to the number of bushels of parsnips which may be grown on an acre of land, that depends entirely upon the quality of the land, the kind and quality of manure, the manner in which the ground may be ploughed and put into fine tilth, and upon the cleanliness of the after culture. All the circumstances to which we have alluded concurring, a *thousand* bushels of parsnips in a favorable season may be grown on an acre—we say may be, because more than that quantity has been raised on that quantity of land. It is, however, safer for those who may design to enter into their culture to fix their expectations upon 500 bushels, as that quantity we think, with ordinary good

tending, may be set, down as an average yield.

This is not the time to undertake their culture but as we like that farmers should look well ahead, we revert to the subject now, in order that they may be providing manure, and selecting a good piece of deep *sandy-loam*, to begin the culture of an acre or two of parsnips next spring. Parsnips delight best in a deep soil in the character named above—the kind of manure best adapted to their growth, is a compost formed of 7 parts well rotted stable dung and 1 of ashes—the quantity may be set down at ten double horse cart loads, to which should be added 1 bushel of plaster and two of ground bones, the whole to be well mixed together, and suffered to lie in pile two or three weeks before being used. If the bones were moistened with 10 pounds of sulphuric acid, diluted with a 100 pounds of water, and permitted to digest a few days before being put into the compost, their effects would be more prompt, as they would then immediately give out their nitrogen as well as phosphoric acid.—*Am. Far.*

Ice-Houses.

“1st. *An Ice-house above ground.*—An Ice-house above ground should be built upon the plan of having a double partition, with the hollow space between filled with some non-conducting substance.

“In the first place, the frame of the sides should be formed of two ranges of upright *joists*, 6 by 4 inches; the lower ends of the joists should be put into the ground *without any sill*, which is apt to let air pass through.—These two ranges of joists should be about two feet at the top. At the top these joists should be morticed into the cross-beams, which are to support the upper floor. The joists in the two ranges should be placed each opposite another. They should then be lined or faced on one side, with rough boarding, which need not be very tight. This boarding should be nailed to those edges of the joists nearest each other, so that one range of joists shall be outside the building, and the other inside the ice-room or vault.

The space between these boardings or partitions should be filled with wet tan, or sawdust, whichever is cheapest or most easily obtained. The reason for using wet material for filling this space, is, that during winter it freezes, and until