

this destroys parasite and serves as manure to Nettle.

PLANTING OF NETTLE

Ground prepared in Fall; may be set out with slips in Spring.

Shoots, Layers.—To be set out in Fall in time enough to allow of gaining roots before Winter. Seed not practicable as means of propagating.

Shoots or Layers.—Roots of Nettle form a long string, on which bundles of rootlets, at distances of an inch, branch out. From these one may separate always three, and opposite to these on the stem root the young plant strikes out. These may be obtained by digging up the wild Nettles. If a tract is to be planted, rows are made with plough 35 centimetres apart—then 3 of these rootlets are placed together in one spot, then 30 centimetres further another three and so on. Planted in hills because it is a so-called gregarious plant. Earth to be pressed in closely around plant. Must not be planted too close, for they spread rapidly. With slips, the same procedure, only in this case take six little twigs, as the throwing out of roots more difficult. Bouché plants in rows at a distance of 1 metre and 3 metres, alternately. In intermediate space grows other plants, as willows for basket making, etc. Rows to run north and south, so that these willows and such like, protect the Nettle from sun. Recommend as willows suited, *Salix caspica*, *daphnoides*, and *calodendron*. Authoress thinks sunflowers a better plant to grow between Nettle rows. Willows take up too much moisture. Besides, sunflower affords material for weaving, but must, for this purpose, be collected before seeds ripe; besides has other valuable applications, seeds for oil, and food for fowl. When not much exposed to sun, ground need not be planted with anything as a protective to Nettle.

Authoress suggests setting out of orchards with Nettles,—trees would afford shade from sun, and Nettles would protect orchards from robbery. Corn and wheat, etc., do not prosper between trees, but Nettles will.

If seeds to be used, instead of layers or slips, recommended to cut at end of Sept, the Nettle stalks, allow them to lie some time and then they will be found to shell easily.

In first and second year, necessary to weed Nettle. If beds become too thick, to be thinned out.

NETTLE HARVEST.—HARVESTING OF NETTLE.

1.—As textile plant.

As to best time for harvesting—yet uncertain. In last century, customary to harvest if stem below had begun to be brown or yellow and the leaves had begun to hang loosely from stem. Plant has by

this time attained greatest development, blooming is over, seed ripe, and stem begins to dry.

Bouché advises harvesting before seeds are ripe, because then the fibres more soft and pliable. A satisfactory experiment of this kind gave authoress a harvest in August,—by this time the growth of plant ended and fibres tender.

Nettle cut by a sickle, and best early in morning while dew upon plant and stings do not pierce hand. Better, in any case, to be provided with a glove or wrapper. Stems to be cut close to root, with care not to tear out root. Cut stems to lie 24 hours upon ground to dry,—to be spread out for drying with a rake. Dried Nettles then have lost stinging power. Their leaves stripped off,—which may serve for fodder, or left on nettle beds for manure. Stems not to be piled up too much, as they become heated and fibres impaired thereby.

2.—Harvesting of Nettle as fodder.

For fodder, can be harvested two to three times in the first year, and in the following, four to five times,—as often as they have attained a height of one to one and a half feet, and while tender. Can be strown dry among fodder for cattle, or be boiled and given in this shape,—eaten generally greedily.

Boiled they give a brown coloured liquid with an odour agreeable to cattle. They give more milk after this fodder, and milk yields more butter, and butter receives, even in Winter, a fine yellow colour and an agreeable taste. Pigs devour the Nettle leaves also, greedily. For horses, advantageous given with oats, makes them plump and coat sleek.

FURTHER TREATMENT OF NETTLE.

Reaped Nettle to be treated like hemp. Krunitz recommends spreading them upon meadow, letting dry for two days, so that leaves separate easily from stem; thereafter treated like hemp, bound in bundles, and allowed to lie for six or seven days in clear river or pond water.

After this so-called retting, must be very carefully dried and allowed to lie in a dry place, in order to be ground or put through the brake; all the more necessary to dry carefully because otherwise after 24 hours they heat and the fibres become heated. Further treatment as in case of hemp, with stamp and comb.

Authoress had tried another plan. Spread them out for 14 days, then roasted and ground them. To allow lie in water advisable, as the fibres easier separated.

In grinding, especial care needed,—fibres tender and must not be stamped too hard,—more carefully to be treated even than hemp. Roasting same as by hemp. They look and smell during this process precisely as hemp. Hemp not boiled until in form of yarn. With

Nettles have found advantageous to boil before combing. Easier spun after this.

In England fibres prepared as follows: Laid in lye of water and Soap and Callipoli, or some other oil, then pressed with wringing machine and boiled in clear water; the process of washing repeated, thus perfectly cleansed and made tender; freed from knots, etc.

In England a combing machine invented, which won prize offered by Government. Excellent results in its use. Can be combined with ordinary hand machines.

Advantages of Nettle over hemp are—Hemp requires more care in planting and harvesting than Nettle.

Hemp requires very good soil, Nettle grows anywhere.

Storms of hail, etc., ruin hemp crops,—do no injury to Nettle.

Nettle far hardier and better suited to our climate.

Nettle flourishes in worst soil and under all circumstances of weather; not so, hemp, which fails from year to year.

Once planted, Nettle requires no further care for ten to fifteen years. Hemp, now planted every year.

The spun material from Nettle quite as good as from hemp, in fact more capable of being worked.

Yarn from Nettle (here spun by hand) stronger, softer and brighter than hemp.

If cultivation sometime carried on, the material will become so much improved as to be much purer and prettier.

As to yield, authoress has obtained from a perch of land 3 lbs. yarn. From these, can make 4 ells cloth, so that from an acre, on an average, 300 lbs. yarn and 400 ells cloth to be had. As every plant, through cultivation, improves, so will the yield of Nettle increase.

Authoress thinks the yarn fitted for domestic purposes, for linen, for beds, etc., for table linen, towels, etc.; the wild nettles for sacks and ropes, sail cloth, etc.

Soon possible to make finest materials from Nettle.

Nettle is easily bleached and coloured, and has thus every quality desirable.

Nettle, a plant destined by nature to play a grand rôle in domestic economy, and it will be able to do that *with credit to itself*. *May God grant it!*

ISRAEL LONGWORTH, Esq., of Truro, member of Board of Agriculture for the District of Hants, Colchester and Cumberland, and Professor Lawson, Secretary of the Board, have arranged to pay a visit to several of the Agricultural Societies of the District. Three Societies are to meet at Tatamagouche Town Hall on Tuesday, 9th July, at 4.30 p. m. A lecture on Scientific Agriculture will be delivered by Professor Lawson