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## The Farm.

### HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

July brings the indubitable summer, and is chiefly remarkable in this climate for a degree of heat that, with occasional most welcome relentings, keeps us almost constantly in a sweltering condition, and makes our anticipations and memories of the month, rather painful than otherwise. We hail June, but dread July. "Ike Marvel" says: "I picture July as a stout woman perspiring fearfully; yet she wears a cheery, honest face, and if she have none of the bridal freshness of May and June, she wears the honors of maternity, and leads in a great brood of flowers and fruits in her train."

Thorough cultivation of the soil, unremitting slaughter of weeds, turnip hoeing, hay-making, and wheat harvesting are the chief labors of the month. All crops that admit of it are greatly benefitted by frequent stirring of the soil about them. July is a most favorable time for the extirpation of weeds. Only scratch them out of the ground, and the scorching sun will do for them very quickly. In a damp, cool time it often seems of but little use to hoe among weeds, they take root again so quickly, but the July heat finishes them in no time. Even the Canada thistle will "cave in" if hoed up or mowed down in July. The latter process is highly recommended by many farmers. It is especially likely to be effectual if rain comes shortly after the mowing, as the wet filling the stalks and settling into the roots, induces quick decay. Almost the only bit of advice necessary about haying is to be sure and cut at

the proper time; not too soon, or the fodder will be deficient in substance and nutritious properties; nor too late, or it will be tough, woody, and sapless. Grass ought to be mowed between blossoming and seeding. Very much the same advice may be given about harvesting wheat. The *Illustrated Annual Register of Rural Affairs* says: "Cut wheat a week before full ripe. The grain will weigh more and be better. The straw will be brighter and richer." Early cutting of grass not only improves the hay, but secures a better after-growth for a second mowing, or for pasturage.

A word about the turnips. Early in July is the time to secure a good plant, and attend to proper thinning in the rows. Re-sow if there be extensive failure, through fault in the seed, or depredations of the fly. Gaps in the rows may be filled up either by transplanting or sowing again. When too late for Swedes, Yellow Aberdeens and White Globes may be sown. One great essential to success in turnip-growing is to get the plants thinned at the proper time. If left too long it is almost impossible to retrieve the error. A sharp hoe, about eight inches wide in the blade, is the tool to thin with, and a skilful hand will go over the ground very fast. This well done, and all danger of the fly past, they will grow very fast, quickly shade the ground, and form bulbs.

Though the end of June is the usual time for sowing buckwheat, it does well most seasons if sown early in July. This crop is mainly used for cakes and green manure, but let us not omit to mention its value to bee-keepers. Buckwheat honey is not a choice table article, but it is good enough