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Agricultural.

THE KITCHEN GARDEN.

BEEF. The beet requires a deep, rich and pulverized soil. Sow in drills sixteen inches apart, and when the plants are thinned, they should stand from four to eight inches apart in the drills. The principal crop may be sown about the first of June. We prefer to sow seed enough so that there shall be no necessity for transplanting, as the roots do not grow smooth and straight after being transplanted. The seed is covered with a thick outer skin, and to soften this, and assist the germinating progress, we have found it beneficial to pour hot water on the seed, and let it stand ten or twelve hours before sowing. The plants will come up several days earlier for it. When the soil is light and dry, the garden roller should be passed over the rows, or a board may be placed upon them and pressed down by walking on it.—Use the hoe freely, keeping the soil loose and free from weeds. The Blood Turnip-rooted is early and an excellent variety for summer use. There are several varieties which are valuable for later use, among which the common Blood Beet stands deservedly.

CARROT. The most favorable soil for the carrot, says Schenck, is a rich and mellow sandy loam. It should be spaded at least two feet deep, and finely pulverized. If not thus prepared, the roots will be found short and forked, instead of long and cylindrical. Should the ground not have been left in good condition by the previous crop, the autumn is the best time for the application of manure, especially if it be rusk and unfermented. The space allotted for the bed ought to be dug over roughly, so as to court the action of the frost, and the dung buried beneath the bottom spit, by which means, the soil will become sweet and mellow by spring, and the roots will descend to the substratum in search of nutriment instead of throwing out a mass of fibres near the surface.

The seed is to be sowed rather thinly in drills, about a foot apart. As the seed is light and apt to cling together, a calm day is more favorable for sowing. Some scatter a few radish seed in the drills to mark the rows more distinctly for the convenience of weeding before the young plants have attained sufficient size to be readily distinguishable. Cover the seed about half an inch deep, and if the ground is dry press the earth on the rows by means of a board or roller. It will not do to neglect the plants in the early stages of their growth, and care and patience will be required in weeding and thinning. They should be thinned out to stand at an average distance of about six inches apart, especially if large roots are desired. The Long Orange and Altringham are approved varieties.

PARSNIP. A good sandy loam, rich and of considerable depth, is considered most suitable for the parsnip. The ground should be spaded deep, and the manure worked in thoroughly. Sow in drills a foot apart, cover the seed about an inch deep, and if the ground is dry, press the earth on the seed. If the seed is more than a year old, it is not sure to vegetate. As soon as the plants are readily distinguishable, they should be carefully weeded, and after they are firmly established, should be thinned out to stand about six inches apart in the drills. The frequent use of the hoe is beneficial to nearly all garden plants, not only to keep them free from weeds, but also to keep the soil loose, and to prevent the surface from baking. The parsnip does not attain maturity until late in the season, and its sweetness and agreeable flavor are said to be much improved by frost. We prefer to have them

intended for spring use in the ground over winter. Those dug in the fall should be packed in layers of sand.

BEANS. The Kidney bean (so called to distinguish it from the English, or Horse bean) is so well known and so generally cultivated as hardly to need any notice here. It has, as it deserves, a place in every garden. There are two species, the dwarf or bush bean, and the pole or running bean. They prefer a light, rich soil, founded on a dry substratum; in lead anything is better than a clay of a wet, tenacious character. The bean is remarkably tender, and if planted before the ground is sufficiently warm, or if covered too deep, it is very likely to rot in the soil, or, if it does finally germinate, becomes a sickly and unprofitable plant. The first of June in this State is early enough to plant the principal crop, although in a warm and sheltered situation they may be started earlier.—Better plant them when they will come forward rapidly than to have them remain in the cold and wet ground six weeks without germinating. A liberal dressing of well rooted manure should be applied either broadcast and worked into the soil, or else in the hill or drill before planting the beans. The bush bean may be planted in drills two feet asunder, two inches apart in the drills, and covered an inch and a half deep. The soil should be kept loose and free from weeds by the frequent use of the hoe. Schenck mentions the following varieties in the order of their succession for the table, as the most valuable for small gardens: the Early Mohawk, the Early Yellow Six Weeks, the Early St. Valentine, the China Red-Eye, the Rob Roy, the Brown Valentine, and the Royal White Kidney Dwarf.

The pole, or running bean, requires more room than the bush bean. The hills should be at least three feet apart each way. Put a liberal supply of compost or old dung in the hill, and if they are raised a little above the average level, it may be all the better. Plant five or six beans in a hill, and cover them about an inch deep with fine soil. We think it well to set the poles at the time the beans are planted. The poles should be eight or ten feet high. Use the hoe frequently, keeping the soil mellow and clean. The "Horticultural" is large, early, and generally considered the best variety.—The Red Cranberry is rather smaller and somewhat later. The Wild Goose bean is smaller still, and later, but is a very prolific variety, generally bearing until frost comes. We consider all these varieties of pole beans, much richer and better than the white bean when dry. The White and Green Lima beans have a high reputation for the table. Schenck says: "The green is preferable on account of size, but as regards the certainty and uniformity of a crop, the White seems to have the advantage. They are both largely cultivated in the vicinity of cities, where they always meet with a ready sale, both when green and when dried."

ASPARAGUS.—Next to green peas, asparagus is the most generally admired garden esculent raised. Every farmer should have a bed of it, to supply the wants of his own family, it being a very easily propagated vegetable, and one that is almost certain to do well in any soil possessing the attributes of fruitfulness and natural warmth. Mr. Pond, the celebrated horticulturist, gives the following directions for its cultivation:

"In the month of April, or when the frost is fairly out of the ground, select a spot sufficiently large to plant the number of roots intended. If the plantation is to be large, and intended to supply the market, the ground should be ploughed to a good depth; if for a common kitchen garden, it should be trenched to the depth of fourteen inches. Make the surface of the bed level, after this is

performed, proceed to mark places, and dig trenches for your roots; they should be two and a half feet apart; then throw the soil, twelve inches wide and twelve inches deep, laying it up in ridges between the trenches. After this is done, throw in three or four inches of manure; level it, and add about one inch of soil on the surface, scraped from the sides of the trenches; level this also, and all is ready for planting."

The roots taken from old beds are better to propagate from than seed, as they produce sooner, and require much less care and trouble in cultivation. The plan I have pursued is the following: In autumn I dig my trenches either in green sward land, or that which has been cultivated—making the trenches eighteen inches deep by twenty-four wide, and filling them to within six inches of the top with good old manure or compost. On the top of this I place four inches of garden mold; and plant my roots or slips six inches apart, covering them with two inches of soil which has been previously saturated with house ley, or salt.

A sprinkling of salt is given early in the spring, and repeated at intervals of a fortnight through the season. Salt is an indispensable agent in the cultivation of asparagus, which is a saline marine plant, and cannot be brought to perfection without it. An occasional dressing of chip manure or compost, formed of pond mud and forest scrapings, is highly advantageous. If the beds become weedy, pour on pickle. It will destroy the weeds and grasses, without injuring the asparagus. All blanching of the spires, I consider injurious; they are thereby rendered more tender, it is true, but not so sweet.—*Maine Farmer.*

BOTS IN HORSES.

There are but few bodies, if any, in the animal or vegetable kingdom, that has not some insect to "burrow" in it, and make it a nursing mother to its young. It has been thought by some benevolent souls, that in moderate numbers, such visitors are healthy to the body infested, and that it is their great or unnatural numbers that causes mischief. We can hardly subscribe to this doctrine, although some plausible arguments may be brought forward in favor of this position. In regard to bots in horses, we presume a horse is not much injured, perhaps none at all, by a few bots in his maw; but that he is, benefitted by them we can hardly believe.

The bot, which is the larva, or maggot of the bot fly (*Oestrus*), is a curious and singular specimen of insect life. What singular changes it undergoes. In the first form it is a fly, sailing along with the greatest ease by the side of your horse, on a summer's day, and keeping up with him without any trouble, however swift the horse goes, even to the speed of 24, and ever and anon, darting up and depositing a nit, quicker than you can say "Jack Robinson." Then in the nit form it rides about until it becomes attached in some way to the lips of the horse, when it hatches, and passes down the throat into the stomach of the horse, where it hooks itself to the mucus coat, and is comfortably furnished with warm winter quarters. It continues to grow and pump, and pump and grow, till May or June, when it unhooks itself, and journeying along, is thrown out to the earth, where it lies a short time in the dormant or crystalline state, and then bursts its shell, and starts up a perfect fly, and commences its life in the air, and runs races with horses, and deposits eggs on their legs, as its ancestors did before.

There is no doubt if they often cause the death of the horse. We have seen a few instances of horses that had been opened after death, when it was supposed their numbers were either the remote, or profane cause of his death. Some have

thought they eat through the coats of the stomach. This is very doubtful; Dr. Dadd thinks they do not perforate the coats until after the horse is dead.

He also thinks it is idle to give medicine to cause bots to let go their hold, and indeed, that they are not able to let go themselves, until they have arrived to a stage of growth and maturity, when nature tells them to start for a situation out of doors, to undergo their last transformation.—*Id.*

THE ROMISH CRUSADE AGAINST AMERICAN COMMON SCHOOLS.—We have testimony from a Romanist authority that this movement originated and was planned at the Vatican. The *Tablet*, a Romish paper published at Chicago, tells the secret, and thus warns the faithful against the "infidel schools."

"If any Catholic hitherto ignorant of duty in the matter, be desirous to know whether he can with a good conscience, patronize an infidel school, he need say only one word to his pastor, and he will be informed that the voice of Peter has been heard again and again, and in thunder tones, condemning, denouncing, and anathematizing the whole scheme of mixed or godless education, and its authors and abettors. There is no mistake about this. The trumpet of the Vatican gives no uncertain sounds, and the Prince of the Apostles speaks with no double stammering tongue. Peter has spoken; and that voice of solicitude, vigilance and authority, has flown across the loud sounding waves of seas and oceans, and been echoed heartily by the assembled hierarchy of the U. States, as well as by the bishops individually speaking from the pulpit and through the press. Catholic bishops, pastors, journalists, writing for the general approbation of bishops, have agitated the question from one end of the land to the other, until now there is hardly an excuse for ignorance on the subject. If your son or your daughter is attending a State school, you may be certain that you are violating your duty as a Catholic parent, and conducting to the everlasting anguish and despair for your child, as if you could take your oath of it! You ought not to be able to rest an instant, to bargain, labor, recreate, eat, drink, sleep, with common comfort, until you have removed your son from that approximate occasion of spiritual ruin, in which, perhaps ignorantly, perhaps thoughtlessly, you have placed him. Do you wish him to be a reputable, thriving member of society? a comfort and a prop to your old age? an honor to your name? but, above all, a Catholic man, and an heir of heaven? Take him away from that school.—Perhaps he has been too long there already. Perhaps he has already contracted habits of vice, or infidel principles, which he will carry to his grave, and into the endless world beyond. Let him rather never know how to write his name, or spell his way through the plainest paragraph of a newspaper, or perform the simplest calculation, than become the bound and chained slave of Satan, than rise up at the last dread day of account to curse you in all the unavailing bitterness of final despair. Take him away, if you do not wish your bed of death to be tortured with the spectre of a soul, which God has given you, as a secret trust, surrendered to the great enemy of mankind. Take him away, and let him be a boor, a hewer of wood, and a drawer of water; let him incur the scorn of an enlightened age; let him be accounted by lettered infidels and heathens only an ignorant Papist, rather than incur the anger of his God, and the loss of his soul. Take him away, let what will be the consequence."

If the Doge of Venice were to lose his sight, what useful article would he be converted into? A beggar, blind.