

# THE GLEANER.

AND NORTHUMBERLAND, KENT, GLOUCESTER, AND RESTIGOUCHE  
COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

New Series, Vol. I:

*Nec aranearum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.*

No. 3.

Miramichi, Tuesday Morning, October 11, 1842.

## THE GLEANER.

### Agricultural Journal.

From "Colonies at Home."  
MANURE.

As plants require nourishment from food quite as much as human bodies, and that food is manure, it is of the greatest consequence to procure as much of it as possible; for they who can lay the greatest quantity of manure upon the land, will have the largest and finest crops; nothing should be wasted that can be made into manure. In the cottages for laborers, means must be provided for saving every thing of the kind. All the drains from the house, from the privy, the pig sty, &c., must go into the dung pit, which is to be made water tight. The fluid, being out in buckets, is very useful for watering the land, or it may be employed in this way:—throw up a quantity or heap of earth, and pour this fluid from time to time upon it, and the earth will swallow it up. Fluid manure may be very conveniently applied in this way to the land: let an 18 gallon cask be laid on its side, and mounted on a light frame with two handles, and a wheel in front, like a wheel-barrow; a wooden spigot is to be fixed in the barrel so as when loosed, to suffer the fluid to run slowly out. The more solid manure must be taken out of the pit and mixed with earth, which, when sufficiently enriched by it, must be laid upon the land. By covering your manure over with a little mould, you would prevent the waste of it, for all manure, if not buried as soon as possible, gradually wastes away; in this heap, you must deposit everything which will rot or putrify.

Pig's dung is excellent manure, as well as that of horses, cows, and all animals. Their urine, also, being mixed up with the soil, enriches it. The mud in ditches and ponds, from which the water is drained, is very good manure, and should be brought in barrows. To increase your heap, you should send out your children also, to collect horse dung from the roads, and at the fall of the leaf, you must collect as many leaves as possible, and deposit them in the dung pit.

The dung of Pigeons, fowls, and all kinds of birds; lime, ashes, horns, hair, hoofs, feathers, and all animal substances are very strong manure, fish and sea-weeds also, and bones broken small, are particularly good for wheat, peas, beans, &c. You may depend upon it, that the laborer who is most diligent in collecting and applying manure, will have the largest crops, so that you will find the saying true—'a large dunghill, a large crop.'

In the preparation of garden ground to receive the crops, it is absolutely necessary to trench to the depth of two spits or 18 inches, if the soil be so far down, but sometimes the under stratum proves sour and injurious. Though it is not necessary to dig the ground so deep after every crop, yet it should always be done once a year. The great point is to keep the ground in a finely pulverized state. If it has too much clay, you must mix sand; a small quantity of lime, if the soil be not

chalky, is very beneficial. The growth of all crops is much promoted, by frequently loosening, and turning over the ground between the plants with a hoe; the fresh earth then imbibes something from the air, which assists vegetation. In the application of dung, and other manure, where the land is trenched, the upper spit of earth should be dug first, and thrown into the bottom of each trench, the dung should then be spread equally over, and the spit thrown upon it.

In recommending the following articles for cultivation, I am aware that farther trials and more experience may lead to the discovery of still more advantageous arrangements, and I shall be glad of any information as to the results of experiments which may hereafter be made.

**Potatoes.**—There are several sorts of potatoes; some kinds come early, others late. It is the late sorts only cultivated as food for cows, pigs, &c. in winter, and those kinds should be preferred, which are mealy, and also fit for human food.

The most useful kind of late potatoes, are the Quebec, Red-apple, Tartan, Red nose, Kidney, Purple, Bread-fruit Potatoe, and Lancashire pink.

The soil in which potatoes flourish is a light sandy loam, and the richer in manure the better: it should neither be very dry nor very moist.

The ground set apart for potatoes is to be very thoroughly dug up as early as possible in the Spring; the finer it is made, the better.

A sufficient quantity of manure having been brought from the clamp, begin by forming a trench three feet wide, and from ten to fourteen inches deep, a second trench of the same breadth is to be marked off, and the surface soil to the depth of six or eight inches, must be thrown into the bottom of the former trench, over which a sufficient quantity of dung being laid, the potatoes must be planted at the distance of from four to eight inches from each other, and then as much earth must be taken from the bottom of the second trench as is necessary for covering the potatoe sets, and for making up the first trench to its former level. The potatoes must always be planted over, and not under the manure, and the ground must be kept very free from weeds.

In planting potatoes, they must be cut into pieces called sets.—Each piece must have two or three good eyes or buds eyes from out of the middle, rather than from either end of the potatoes. About seven pounds weight of them will be wanted for a rod. They should be cut always some days before planting, that they may become dry; the time for planting is the fourth month (April), or the first eight or ten days in the fifth month (May). It is of advantage to change the seed and the variety every year.

Potatoes for seed must be taken up a fortnight or three weeks before they are fully ripe; this prevents the disease called the curl. The finest and healthiest potatoes must be selected; they are to be spread upon a dry floor, and covered over with chaff, so as to keep out the frost, and here they may remain till wanted for cutting.

Soon after the potatoes come up,

the earth must be drawn up close to their roots, to the depth of one inch, and extending six or eight inches round the stem, as the potatoes grow near the surface. The coating of earth preserves the moisture, makes them grow better and larger, and improves the quality. When the time of blossoming comes, all the blossoms must be picked up, and this strengthens the roots. In about three months after the potatoes have been planted, you may gently feel about the stems with a stick, and when you meet with a large potatoe, take it carefully out in order that the others may be disturbed as little as possible, and then return the earth to its place. When the stalks die away, the potatoes must be taken up; if possible, choose a dry season.

Potatoes must be preserved from the frost, and should be kept in a dry place in sand, or under a covering of straw, or out of doors, by digging a trench one foot deep, and six feet wide, and the earth must be clean shovelled out, and laid aside; on the bottom of the trench make a bedding of straw, lay the potatoes upon it, piling them up about three feet high in the shape of the roof of a house, straw must then be carefully laid on to the thickness of six or eight inches, and the whole covered over about a foot thick, with earth, which is to be smoothed down with a spade. It is better to have several small heaps, than one large heap, as the potatoes are exposed to injury when the heaps are opened.

The produce of potatoes is from five to twelve tons per acre, or from 70lb. to 300lb. per rod, and upwards, according to the soil, manure, &c.

Very good flour may be made from potatoes, by carefully washing and paring them, and afterwards grating them; the flour may then be separated and dried.

Potatoes should not be given to the cattle raw, but steamed, or boiled. Boiled potatoes mixed with bean or of barley meal, or pollard or the meal of Indian corn, are useful in fattening sheep, hogs, fowls, &c.

**Carrots.**—This root is highly useful for feeding cattle; the soil in which it flourishes most is a rich, deep sandy loam; it must not be less than a foot deep, and equally good from top to bottom. Choose a piece of land in a good condition, (as no manure should be applied during the process of cultivation,) dig it 16 or 18 inches deep at the time of sowing, which should be early in the third month (March), after slightly levelling the surface with a rake, then scattering the seed at the rate of three quarters of an ounce to the rod, and then raking it finely in; sub-divide the piece into small beds about two yards wide, for the greater convenience of weeding, until this operation be required, nothing farther is necessary; we should prefer a soil of an open texture, either sandy or peat soils are found to answer well.

New seed must always be had, as it does not vegetate the second year; carefully avoid old seed, or a mixture of the horn carrot. Dig the soil well to the depth of 18 inches in the tenth month (October.) Lay it up in deep ridges, dig it over a second time in the second month (February,) and a third time in the third month (March.)—

Rake or harrow thoroughly, and make the mould as fine as possible. Then sow the seed; the sowing may be deferred as late as the second week in the fourth month (April.)

Carrots may follow Sweedish Turnips, provided the Turnips are cleared off the ground in the second month (February,) and the ground being dug deep, and laid up in ridges till the second week in the third month (March,) and then it must be made fine and sown.

It has been found useful to prepare the seed by steeping it in rain water for 24 hours. It is then left to sprout, after which it is mixed with saw dust and dry mould, in the proportion of one peck and a half of each to a pound of the seed. Eight or ten pounds of seed treated in this way will be sufficient for 160 rods, or an acre of land. The seed may be deposited to the depth of one inch in the rows, leaving the space of 14 inches between them at intervals. From 8 to 15 or 18 inches each way, is the common distance at which they are usually allowed to stand; hoeing and weeding are quite essential.

Carrots keep best in the ground, nor can the severest frost do them any material injury. When it is however necessary to clear the ground for barley, which follows carrots, take them up in the first week in the third month (March); keep them quite dry, cut off the crowns, and they may be preserved to the sixth month (June) in high perfection. The leaves may be picked over with great advantage, and employed as green food.

The average produce is about two cwt. per rod. Carrots are excellent food for hogs and horses; they may be used for horses instead of corn. Seventy pounds weight of carrots per day are sufficient for a cart horse; they do not require to be boiled or steamed. To save carrot seed, select some of the most perfect roots in taking up season and either preserve them in sand, in a cellar till spring, or plant them immediately in an open and airy part of the garden; they must be protected with litter during severe frosts.

**Milking Cows.**—A writer in the Scotch Farmer's Magazine gives the following directions to the Dairy maid:—'Go to the cow-stall at seven in the morning; take with you clean water and a sponge, and wash each cow's udder clean before milking; douse the udder well with cold water, winter and summer, as it braces and repels heat. Keep your hands and arms clean. Milk each cow as dry as you can, morning and evening, and when you have milked each cow as you suppose, dry, begin again with the cow you first milked, and drip them each; for the principal reason of cows failing in their milk, is from negligence in not milking each cow dry, particularly at the time the calf is taken from the cow. Suffer no one to milk a cow but yourself, and have no gossiping in the stall. Every Saturday night give an exact account of the quantity of milk each cow has given in the week.'

⚡ Might not warm water particularly in winter, be best? perhaps brushing the bag with a soft brush would answer a good purpose.—Editor N. E. Farmer.