# THE GLEANER.

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## Agricultural Journal.

From the Br. American Cultivator.

*A few Hints to the Wheat Grower.*—There is no operation in agriculture to which a greater degree of importance should be attached, than that of properly preparing land for the reception of wheat; yet there is no subject upon which there is a greater amount of ignorance displayed, when its importance and the members engaged in the business, are taken into consideration. With most farmers it is sufficient to know, that by ploughing two or three times, (and that it may be in an imperfect manner), the soil becomes comparatively mellow, while they have no knowledge whatever of the changes which the soil undergoes by contact with atmospheric agents, and that deep, clean, and frequent ploughing are of vital importance to give strength, vigour, and freedom of penetration to the coronel roots of the plant, which cannot make any impression through the hard pans caused by unskilful cultivation, unless thoroughly broken up and pulverized.

As wheat is the principal and almost the only staple crop the Canadian farmer can cultivate with profit we deem it our duty and privilege as conductors of an Agricultural Journal, to disseminate all the useful information in our power on the subject, and give our own opinions and experience frankly, at the same time we earnestly solicit our subscribers to make some experiments on this crop the ensuing fall, and when the proper time arrives report the results through the medium of THE CULTIVATOR.

To prove that we do not urge on others what we are unwilling to attempt ourselves, we take much pleasure in reporting a few experiments which we made in the fall of 1839.

The experiments in question, were made on land ploughed or broken up in the month of June, to the whole of which an equal amount of manure and seed was applied. The field on which they were made was divided four equal portions, and each treated in the following manner:

No. 1.—The manure was spread over the ground previous to the first ploughing, and thoroughly incorporated into the soil, in the course of the following operations. The third and last ploughing was laid up into lands four yards wide, sown and harrowed in, and immediately properly waterfurrowed.

No. 2.—The manure was drawn into the field in the month of March previous, and made into a large compost heap. The first, second, and third ploughings took place at the same period with No. 1, and after the third ploughing which was laid up in narrow lands as above, the ground was harrowed twice lengthwise, and matured from the heap before mentioned. The fourth and last ploughing was performed in the same manner as if intended for drills for turnips, with this difference that instead of being twenty inches as is the usual for turnips, the drills were only about fourteen inches asunder. The seed was sown broad cast, and harrowed in singly lengthwise, with a pair of light harrows, and water furrowed. The plants came up nearly as regular as if sown with a drilling machine.

No. 3.—Was managed in the same mannre as No. 1, with this difference: The manure was taken from the compost heap above alluded to, and spread over the ground the day previous to the third and last ploughing It was then marked out into lands four yards wide, the seed sown on the mauuro, and both ploughed in, and afterwards harrowed lightly and water furrowed

No. 4.—Was managed in every respect as No. 3, with only this difference, that it was left rough and not touched after being ploughed in, which is the usual mode of covering wheat with the plough.

The result of these experiments was as follows—Parts of No. 1 were considerably winter killed and slightly injured with the rust, and gave a return of about 25 bushels per acre of a middling sample.

No. 2 was not the least injured by being winterkilled or mildewed, and the stem of the plant or straw stood up stiff and short like beanstalks, and gave a return of about 31 bushels per acre.

No. 3 gave a return very similar both to quality and quantity as No. 1.

No. 4 did not yield more than 16 bushels per acre, and that of an inferior sample.

We accouut for the great difference between the 2d and 4th Div., in the following manner:—In the former, the wheat being covered a sufficient depth with finely pulverized soil, came up in a much less period of time than the latter, and the plants being in rows sheltered the roots, and they naturally being interwoven together, were not so easily displaced by the thawings and freezings in the spring; but the greatest advantage belonging to the plan is less liability to mildew, and grows much shorter and stiffer in the straw, which is a clear proof, in our opinion, how important it is to those farmers who are engaged largely in the culture of wheat, of introducing drilling machines.

No. 4 which was left rough and gave so inferior a crop, would have yielded a much heavier return, had it been sown ten days sooner. At the best, it is a plan we have always been decidedly opposed to, for the simple reason that the surface must be more or less covered with receptacles for surface water, which has a tendency to destroy the plant. If any of our readers; who practice this system, are not satisfied as to the validity of our assertion, we advise them to examine their fields thus sown in the latter end of the month of November, or soon after the equinoxial rains, which most generally take place about that time; and if the space between the furrows are not filled with water, which must have a pernicious influence upon the health of the plant at that inclement season of the year, then of course we must charge the result to some other cause with which we are at present unacquainted.

In order to have carried our experiment No. 2, to a still greater perfection, we purposed to have made a small sized scuffler or horse hoe, and cleaned the ground of all noxious weeds, in the first week in May, or as soon as the land might be sufficiently dry, but the plan was not acted upon. It is one which we conceive to be practicable, and attended with very little cost. At some future period, we may try other experiments in the cultivation of wheat as well as other grains and roots, and give to our readers the profit and loss, and a detailed description of their management.

In the cuitivation of wheat as well as other crops, no specific rule can be laid down, that would be applicable under every circumstance; the quality of the soil, the peculiar state in which the land may be found previous to commencing the operation, and the changes of the seasons, all contribute to increase the management; but upon one point we may safely centre, that the land should be in good heart, and that it requires clean and frequent ploughing.

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The quantity of cattle in various European countries has been estimated to be as follows:—

| | CATTLE. |
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| Great Britain | 5,100,000 |
| Russia | 19,000,000 |
| Netherlands | 2,500,000 |
| Denmark | 1,607,000 |
| Austria | 9,912,000 |
| France | 6,602,800 |
| Spain | 2,500,000 |
| Portugal | 650,000 |
| Italy | 3,500,608 |

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*Cucumbers.*—As soon as the Cucumbers begin to start, and the *striped* bug begins to eat the leaves, go and pick a handful of *Tansy*, and lay two or three spears around in each hill, and the bugs will soon move to other quarters, and will not trouble you any more. Hoe the cucumber three or four times, as necessity requires. Try this manner of procedure and reap your rich reward.—*Gen. Farmer.*

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*To Remove Grease Spots on Woollen Cloth.*—Use Spirits of Turpentine, it dissolves the grease, and then the soap more easily removes it. Grease may be removed from undyed woollen, by a solution of pearl ash.

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From the Farmer's Journal.

*Promptness.*—Promptness in mechanics is of the highest importance. The farmer who sows or reaps out of season, will not loose more by doing things out of the proper time than will the mechanic in a long run, by neglecting to perform work and fulfil orders as promised.

The farmer sees plainly by the operation of nature around him, the importance of promptness and dispatch. If he is late in sowing, he finds that the season of genial rains and sunshine are passing away without preparation, on his part, to profit by them; and the green fields of his neighbour are an evidence of his loss, and spurs him on to action.

But the mechanic has less evidences of his loss by neglect. The customer that is often disappointed, may bear the evil silently, but resolves to learn by experience, and look for one more prompt for the future.

Disappointments in mechanical work are serious evils; and a great many excellent workmen, who have but little to do, are among the first in their profession in skill, and could do a large business, were they as much noted for their promptness as for their skill and ingenuity.

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*Practical Hints on Agricultural Topics.*—The following hints is condensed from Louden's 'Encyclopœdia of Agriculture:—

'In salting or curing butter the use of wooden vessels is preferable, and they should be made from timber which has been previously boiled four hours, to free it from pyroligneous acid, or they should be made of the lime tree, which wood is without this acid. To feed a horse when hard ridden, or if weakly and tender, it is often useful, to give bread, or bread with ale or gruel. It is of the utmost consequence, if the journey be of several days continuance, that the baitings are sufficiently long to allow the horse to digest his food. When any young man intends embracing agriculture as a profession, whether as ploughman, bailiff, steward, land valuer, or rent paying farmer, he ought to undergo a course of manual labour for one year or more, in order to acquire the mechanism of all agricultural operations. When the pupil is not destined for any peculiar county, then he should be sent to a farmer's in a district of mixed agriculture. When the pupil is intended to be settled in any particular county, he ought to be sent to a county as nearly as possible of similar soil and climate, where the best practices are in use.'

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*Tomatoes Cure Scours in Pigs.*—This plant, the tomato, is generally the first disliked by many,—but it nevertheless is much cultivated and admired. Last fall, we had a pig that was taken with the scours badly. We tried various remedies for it but with little effect. One day we threw over to it three tomatoes which was readily eat, which we found gave it relief. By following this course a few days it was finally cured.—*Maine Farmer.*

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*To Cure Heaves in Horses.*—Take one oz. Salt Petre, 1 oz. Asafœtida 1 pint rum; give a tablespoonful of this mixture in oats every other day.

*Another.*—Take a weasel skin, and chop it up fine; add 1 lb. ginger, 1 quart molasses, and give it to the horse with the grain in reasonable quantities.

*Another.*—Horse warts, chopped up fine, and fed with the grain.

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*Oil of Spike*, or a mixture commonly sold under that name, is nothing but some spirits of turpentine, mineral tar, and some essential oil, added in various proportions.—The following is a good receipe for its preparation:—Take spirits of turpentine, one pint; mineral tar, 1-2 pint; oil of amber, 3 ounces; oil of rosemary 1 ounce.—*Albany Cultivator.*