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Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut ares.

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Agricultural Journal.

Loudon's Gardener's Magazine.

FORCING OF EARLY CUCUMBERS.

One great complaint among the growers of early cucumbers is, that the plants are often weak and yellow. This is occasioned by the beds being kept too warm, and too much covering being placed over them at night. The heat of the beds causes the plants to grow too fast for the small supply of light which they receive while the days are short; and which are rendered shorter still by the coverings being put on so early in the evenings, and left on so long in the mornings. I have always found that so much covering was rather injurious than beneficial. My practice is to cover up only in very cold weather, and then only with a single mat.

Crown glass should be used for very early forcing, and the surface should not be puttied. The glass in old lights is, like horn, almost impervious to the light.

In mixing up the soil for cucumbers fresh dung should be used, and it should be allowed to rot in the soil. The common method of employing rotten manure is bad, because in that state the strength of the dung is already exhausted.

The old notion is still prevalent, that it is best to sow old seed, because plants raised from new, grow too vigorously. There is no sense in such a prejudice: my own invariable practice is to choose new seed.

The usual method of putting three plants into one pot is also wrong. My plan is to put only one, and one plant only under a light. One good plant will fill the space of a light sooner than three set together.

It often happens that the plants are drawn up, as it is termed; having long stems. This has been attributed to the want of air, and the plants being too far from the glass. But it arises, in reality, from their being too much heat in the bed below; for the plants never grow so, however far removed from the glass, and scantily supplied with air, if there be not too much underheat.

CULTURE OF THE TURNIP.

The early white Dutch and early Stone are generally preferred; but the genuine Aberdeen yellow, (golden yellow, or Maltese golden) is the hardest, the hardiest, and most sugary of any sorts I have seen. Times of sowing may be about March 25, for an early summer crop; May 15, for autumn supply; July 1, for a main winter stock; and August 12, for the latest or spring crop. In sowing, suppose the ground to be in ridges, 18 inches wide, and some well rotted dung introduced between them; and after digging every ridge separately, cover the dung about 2 inches deep, pass the roller over the whole, then make drills, and sow the seeds right over the ridge of dung, burying them not more than half an inch deep. As the plants come up, let them be dusted with well powdered lime, to prevent injury from insects; and when they show their rough leaves, let them be thinned to about 3 or 4 inches apart

in the rows, and afterwards thinned for use to 6 or 8 inches. At the approach of drought, frost, or snow, some may be dressed to one inch of tap, leaving the root entire, and crowded side by side in dry tan, sand, or soil, in any open shed, or awning, where they will continue sound and serviceable for a considerable time.

HINTS ON RAISING ASPARAGUS.

Asparagus grown in the gardens of private gentlemen, is often inferior to that raised by market gardeners. The superiority of the latter is caused by the greater richness of the soil in which it was raised. Market Gardeners being under no controul of masters, generally spare no expense in enriching the soil, and their beds are more frequently renewed. To raise large asparagus, the soil should be made good to the depth of 5 or 6 feet; then laid out in beds from 4 to 6 feet wide, with paths between them of the width of 2 1/2 feet. The plants must be put in 2 feet apart, and the stems not allowed to approach each other much nearer than 2 ft.; or beds 3 feet wide, with one row of plants down the centre, and the plants 1 1/2 feet asunder in the rows would be preferable. It is a very common error to allow too many stalks to grow close to each other. If this be permitted, however good the soil, the asparagus is sure to be small; as the stalks when so close, draw upon each other. Weak and small stems produce invariably weak asparagus, for it is at the bottom of these that the asparagus springs.

Royal Agricultural Journal. ON THE USE OF LIME.

When a tenant enters upon a farm, if he uses lime, I would advise him to fetch his lime from different kilns, and lay it down in cart loads on his fallows; when fallen, spread it over the land, then sow the wheat, taking notice of the respective spots on which the different limes were placed, and adopting afterwards that lime which acts most beneficially on the wheat. The quantity used by me is from 60 to 80 horse loads per acre, a horse load weighing 2 1/2 cwt. Some of my neighbours suppose I put too much lime on my land, but six years back I put on 4 acres of summer fallow 80 loads per acre, an acre being left without; I then burned a kilnful of lime to finish the 5 acres, which kiln holds 100 loads; I then directed my servant to lay the same quantity on the remaining acre as the others. I believe he did not understand me, but laid on that acre the 100 loads. I directed him to remove each alternate heap; but the day following being Sunday, it rained before it could be removed. The lime was set out in small heaps the same as manure. I was thus obliged to plough it down the same as the rest; I then sowed the wheat, which came up very healthy, and I saw no difference on the one acre, only a darker colour; but in July I could perceive it was stronger; when reaped I kept the wheat produced from the acre by itself, which was thirty-nine bushels; the remaining 4 acres produced about 35 per acre, leaving 3 bushels more for the strong liming, per acre. The whole of the close

was seeded down with the usual quantity of seed; the seeds on the one acre strongly limed, were much better than on the remaining four acres. This close has been pastured ever since, and to this day the difference may be seen between the one and the four acres. This was done on strong clayey land. If only 30 or 40 horse loads of lime are laid on an acre and harrowed in, I consider it not sufficient to mix with the soil, and it consequently leaves a harbour for insects; but lay 60 horse loads of lime per acre, harrow and mix it with the soil, leaving none without; and when a shower of rain comes, examine the furrows, you will there find all sorts of insects dead, such as worms, slugs, beetles, &c.; if only 30 or 40 loads of lime have been laid on, you will find very few dead.

Halifax Colonial Farmer.

MANURES

These may be ranged in two classes, one comprehending the dung of horses and cattle, rotted grass sod, and decayed vegetables of ever kind that grow on rich land, may be applied to the land in any quantity without injuring the soil, although it is possible to ruin a crop by over manuring; the other comprising lime, sea plants, and many saline substances, to which we may add flesh and fish, if applied in too large quantities, or too frequently, will injure the soil and in some cases this injury is not recovered from for a number of years.

Kelp and Rockweed appear to change, when decaying, mostly into a gaseous or vapoury state, leaving very little visible remaining. While decaying, this vapour is a powerful manure, but it cannot be confined by a covering of earth. We have in the spring, made a heap with about twenty loads of rockweed, and the same quantity of sod from a pasture. At the end of three weeks, when it had become hot, it was turned, for the purpose of cutting the sod finer, and used for potatoes, producing a crop equal in quantity to what would have been produced from stable manure, but of inferior quality. We have also in the fall, made a similar heap with 100 loads of Rockweed and 100 loads of Sods; it heated and did not freeze in winter. When turned in the spring the Rockweed had disappeared, and the sod had become quite rotten; it had the strong smell of seamud (Sulphurated Hydrogen) and appeared to the eye like good manure, but the fertilizing vapour had evaporated. 20 loads of fresh cut Rockweed, used as soon as it began to decay, produced more than the whole heap.

Flesh and Fish, while decaying, are powerful manures, but if allowed to decay mixed with earth, the most valuable part is dissipated. We have read indeed, of twenty loads of manure from a dead horse, but never were able to learn the art of fixing the volatile effluvia from decaying animal substances. A pound of flesh will, it is believed, produce as good a hill of potatoes as a shovel full of dung. When the first settlers of New England planted their first crop of Indian Corn, they were directed by an Indian to make a Weir for catching Shad,

and to put a shad in each hill of corn. We recollect that in years long by-gone, it was customary with boys who were hoeing corn, if they killed a black snake or an adder, to coil it round a hill of corn, and cover it with earth; the leaves of the corn in a very short time acquired a very dark green color, grew very rapidly, and generally produced twice as much as the adjoining hills. Fish Gibs in a heap of manure, lost most of their value. They should be put into the ground with the crop, or applied while growing, if possible, but if procured in the fall, should be prevented as much as possible from decaying, by mixing with peat earth placed where the sun will not shine upon it. Manure of this kind ought to be used alternately with stable manure and compost. Land has been often injured for some years by a too frequent, or too plentiful application of seaweeds, fish, lime, and night soil.

Jackson's Agriculture.

BUCKWHEAT.

Buck-wheat is a green annual plant and grows well on dry, sandy, and calcareous loams, or moorish soils, which are suited for rye. It is seldom grown on any but the poorest land in England; but, provided the ground be light, and unmixed with clay, heavy crops are frequently produced. The seed should be sown at the rate of a bushel per English acre, from the middle of May to the middle of June, in order if possible, to escape frost. Occasional frosts in the month of May, effectually destroy the plant; and it is necessary that the seed should have dry weather immediately after it is sown. The plant flowers in July, and is generally fit for cutting in October, while the top of the flower-stalk is still in blossom. The crop shades the ground very effectually, smothering every weed, and leaves the soil in a fine mellow state.

LOTION FOR A SPRAIN OR BRUISE.

In a letter from Mrs. Susette Andrieu, a woman who by instinct, experience, and talent, is, as I am persuaded, the best nurse in these United States, I find the following recipe for Sprains and Bruises. My system has been to spread such things far and wide, for the benefit of humanity and the brute creation. In every family there should be a common-place book in which such things should be entered or pasted, for although we often hear of cures for burns, scalds, sprains, colics, &c. when these occur, we have either forgotten the materials or the proportions, or we have them not at hand. How many farmers are there who have such a thing as a set of plumes to bleed a horse, or a bottle with the neck of it wrapped with twine ready to administer a drench?

Prescription for a Bruise or Sprain.

1 pint soft soap,
1 pint strong vinegar,
1 handful table salt,
A table spoon full of saltpetre.
Of neat cattle New York possesses 3,642,433; Pennsylvania 1,146,418; Ohio 1,007,312. Of Sheep, New York has 4,331,225; Pennsylvania 3,396,431; Ohio, 1,958,957; Vermont, 1,398,459.