

# THE GLEANER

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

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## Agricultural Journal.

From the New England Farmer,  
March 29.

### SPRING WORK.

The cold and snows of the present month, will cause farmers to be later than usual in commencing the operations of ploughing, sowing, and planting. For this reason there is more than ordinary need of laying the most economical plans that are possible in the way of saving labor. Such work as can be done while the snow is on the ground, should be attended to forthwith. The tools may be looked up and put in good order; fencing stuff may be fitted for use; the topplings of willows, poplars, &c. to obtain summer fuel, may be done; old apple trees, &c. may have their dead branches removed and worked up.

Those who have their manure under cover, may perhaps take it, or at least a part of it, to the fields. Whether this will be a good course may turn upon the probable driving or press of work upon the team in the latter part of April and in May. There will be some waste to the manure if taken out now, and dropped upon the snow, but then it is not improbable that this loss will be compensated by the better opportunity to plow and harrow thoroughly, and to get the seed in the ground at the best season. As to this, each farmer must judge for himself. The manure, if put in a compact and well formed heap, and covered with snow enough to prevent much evaporation until the probable time when a coating of soil or meadow mud can be applied to it, probably will not waste much. We have put out the most of ours already in small heaps, to be spread and ploughed in as soon as the state of the land will permit. We have two reasons for this—our team will not be adequate to carrying it out comfortably while the ground is soft—and our work will be thrown back too much by delaying the carting of the manure until the time of planting. We will not maintain that we have practised good husbandry in doing as we have done—but we were willing to make the experiment.

**The Compost Heap.**—Those who provided swamp mud or peaty matters last autumn or during the past winter, may put their manure in a heap and cover it well with the mud; after the manure has become warm, let the whole be thrown over, and a little dry slaked lime or some ashes be evenly mixed in; then put a thin coating of mud or soil over the whole and pat it with the shovel. The mud that is intermixed, and that that makes the covering, will be penetrated by the gaseous ammonia of the dung, and will make good manure. By processes like this, the manure heap may be much increased in value.—The common representation is, that where the process of composting is properly conducted, one load of dung, a cask of lime, or its equivalent in ashes, and two loads of swamp muck, will be as valuable as three loads of dung. We presume it is; but we would not advise inexperienced hands to put more mud than they do dung; espe-

cially where the compost is to be used this spring.

**Early Peas.**—We would say to the farmers who raise Peas only for their own use, and who yet like to get them in pretty good season, plow your land well as soon as it is in a good state for working; then cover the ground well with horse-dung or other warm manure; then back-furrow or ridge up the ground, and put the peas on the ridge—they will do much better up there, than they will put upon manure that is buried in a furrow. Or if you will have all the manure in the drill, then just make a little mark along the surface of the ground and cover the mark with the manure; then with the plow turn up the soil and make a ridge over the manure and put your seed on the ridge. Hill's Early and the Cedo nulli are the earliest.

**Early Potatoes.**—Prepare your ground in the same way, and set your seed, the small or seed end up. Let this end come near the surface of the ridge. These early vegetables will do much better if the seed is put up on a ridge than if put down in the furrow.

If you are anxious to get them quite early, you may sprout them in that box, set in some warm place, and when you come to plant, be careful not to break off the sprouts.

From the Massachusetts Ploughman,  
April 1.

### FARM AND GARDEN WORK FOR APRIL.

March has been a remarkably cold month, and the prospect now is that not much will be done here with the plough in the first half of April.

It is not advisable to meddle with the sod till it is dry enough to crumble in pieces. Green sward may be ploughed, but we always prefer to have something green on it to be covered up. The rotting of this pulverizes the soil as much as many ploughings. For corn we would rather plough as late as the 15th or 20th of May than sooner. The grass is then green, and will rot sooner than a sod turned in April.

For potatoes we always recommend fall ploughing when sward land is to be planted. It then makes an excellent bed for the spread of the tubers. Sward land ploughed in the spring is apt to be very dry for potatoes. To prevent this it should be well rolled and harrowed to fill up the open crevices.

But the first ploughing will be for spring grain.—This should always be sown as early as the season and the soil will permit, or there will be but a small chance for a crop. Even Oats, which some think may be sown at any time, will be heavier and better when sown in good season.

One bushel and a half of spring rye or of wheat is the usual quantity to seed an acre, and three bushels of oats have generally been sown; but when grass seed is sown with them two bushels are better than three, because a large quantity shades the young blades of grass and makes them too tender to bear the sun in August when the grain is taken off.

**Preparation of Seed Wheat.**—Rye, oats, and barley are sown with-

out any preparation; but wheat must be prepared for the furrow or it will be quite likely to be smutty. It must be washed clean in several waters and then mixed with lime or ashes on the barn floor, or in a lime cask, so that every kernel shall be covered with the dust. When this is well done, and suffered to stand for 24 hours before sowing, there will be no danger from smut. Brine also will be efficient for the same purpose. Seed wheat may lie in brine a long time without injury.

**Transplanting Trees.**—April is the month for setting trees. It requires no witchcraft to make trees grow as fast as they ought. The use of a moderate quantity of common sense will answer every purpose. We shall give some practical hints on this subject in another paper; at present we advise not to transplant too early, that is, when the earth is muddy. We want fine mould next to the roots, and this is not readily obtained quite early in the spring. Trees may be taken up as soon as the frost is out; but they should be kept in some cool place, buried in earth, till the soil of the orchard has become warm.

As soon as the frost is out the asparagus beds may be dug over. If manure was laid on them in the fall, it will be in good order to be mixed well in the earth quite early, that the shoots may not be disturbed after they have started.

Onions must be sowed early, or they will not give a harvest; we put the seed in before the month is out. Gardeners near the city are now in the practice of sowing their onion seed in August or September, for the following year: and we have seen one gardener sow his seed as early as July. Fall sowing will give earlier onions, and it may be that for any kind this is the best time.

Turnips, for early use, should be sown early in the spring; they will grow in cold weather. Early turnips are apt to be wormy. Salt must therefore be spread on or mixed with the manure. We cannot say precisely how much salt an acre will bear without injury to the crop. Fifteen to twenty bushels have been used without injury; but land will not bear so much in the spring as in autumn. If twice that quantity should be spread on an acre in autumn it might be so much freshened through the winter as not to injure the harvest. We want some accurate experiments made with salt to see how much an acre will bear.

Peas are never afraid of the frost, and they may be sown early.

Beets, carrots, parsnips, and most of our garden vegetables, should be sown much later—the first of June is better than the first of May. Cabbage seed should be sown in April.

Beans will not bear a frost, and those who plant them early will often lose their labor.

In regard to preparation of Land for Spring Grain, it will be found best to make use of the harrow before the plough on Lands that were planted last year.—This may be used some days earlier than the plough can properly be. It will open

the ground and facilitate the drying of it without making it into hard lumps as the plough will. Then, if the harrow has been faithfully used, the plough should go but once, that all the potato vines, corn stubs, weeds, and other matter on the surface may be buried, and kept buried through the season. Some farmers first split the hills with a plough, then harrow, and afterwards plough a fine furrow. This is better than twice turning the same sod before sowing, as more of the surface matter will be buried. Cows must have particular attention at this season. None but farrow ones should now have roots of any kind. A little meal now daily, not exceeding one quart, will have a good effect on a cow through the summer.

Sheep need a little grain at this season. It should be given at a certain fixed time, say in the morning or in the evening, to prevent their calling for it through the day. When kept in the yard, they should have pine boughs or evergreens.

Care must be taken not to disturb brood sows for several weeks before littering. They must have room or they may destroy their pigs.

It will not injure horses or cattle to card them a little when the weather is warm enough to work without a coat.

If you have any ashes or soot, save them dry till fly time, when they will be wanted for your trees. Don't throw them out now, to lose their virtue.

We trim no trees till May.

Manure heaps ought to be overhauled that fermentation may commence before planting time. When it is fine it can be managed with ease in the field.

Caterpillar eggs may now be found encased in wax on the limbs of trees, 500 in a family. They may be readily destroyed by plucking them off with the fingers.

From the Cattle Keeper's Guide.

**Method of ascertaining the Weight of Cattle while living.**—This is of the utmost utility for all those who are not experienced judges by the eye, and by the following directions the weight can be ascertained within a mere trifle. Take a string, put it round the beast, standing square, just behind the shoulder blade; measure on a foot rule the feet and inches the animal is in circumference; this is called the girth; then with the string measure from the bone of the tail which p'umbs the line with the hinder part of the buttock; direct the line along the back to the fore part of the shoulder blade; take the dimensions on the foot rule as before, which is the length, and work the figures in the following manner: girth of bullock, six feet four inches; length, five feet three inches, which multiplied by twenty three, (the number of pounds allowed to each superficial foot of every kind of cattle measuring less than seven and more than five feet in girth,) makes 713 pounds; and allowing 14 pounds to the stone, is 50 stone, 13 pounds. Where the beast measures under nine and more than seven feet in girth, 31 is the number of pounds to each superficial foot. Again, sup-