



Rocky Mountain Husbandman.

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The ROCKY MOUNTAIN HUSBANDMAN is designed to be, as the name indicates, a husbandman in every sense of the term, embracing in its columns every department of Agriculture, Stock-raising, Horticulture, Social and Domestic Economy.

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Agricultural.

SEED the soil as soon as in condition.

SPRING wheat should always be sown as early as possible.

MORE acres will be sown in Montana this season than ever before.

FARMERS must push their work from the first; it will never do to be pushed by it.

LETTUCE, radish and cabbage seed should be sown now. Cabbage seed may be sown in boxes.

NEARLY every farmer is widening out his fences and preparing to cultivate a large acreage.

THE Iowa Agricultural College has a department in which young ladies are taught the art of cooking.

THE gardner should be abroad at the earliest possible moment, as we cannot have early sasses unless the seed is put in the ground early.

THE back-bone of the winter is broken, and with the exception of a few squalls, which are usual in March and April, we may consider that spring is here.

FARMERS make a great mistake in allowing their cows to eat frozen potatoes. It often endangers their lives. Feed them on good sound vegetables and none other.

A WRITER in one of our leading agricultural papers, who had given much attention to the subject, gave the acreage of the entire country for the year 1881 at about 1,100,000 acres.

FARMERS are beginning to think of seeding their fall plowed lands, and well they may, for spring wheat should be sown as soon as the frost is out of the ground sufficient to admit of harrowing.

GRAIN put in the ground now will be ready to germinate and come forth as soon as the season will permit, and will lose nothing if it does have to lay some days before the weather is warm enough to cause it to come forth.

A FRIEND of ours says we are mistaken as to the cause of scab in potatoes. He, however, is unable to give the cause, but says it results from successive cropping of potatoes on the same land, and recommends change of land as a remedy. As to the result, and probably the cure, he is correct. The experiment is worth of trial.

Writing last week about the advantages of Missoula county for raising swine over other sections on account of the great quantity of camas that grows there, brings the suggestion of the advisability of extending the growth of the plant to other parts of the country. The camas grows in damp, marshy ground and upon the side of mountains where the soil is rich and moist. It is hard to kill out, and if planted would spread rapidly. Those intending to raise swine to any considerable extent might make it quite profitable to secure camas plants and grow patches of it for them. There is no question as to its value as a feed for hogs. In fact, it is first-rate food for man. The Flat-head Indians use it extensively, and we are told it is almost as palatable as the Irish potato.

A CORRESPONDENT in the *Cultivator and Country Gentleman* gives the result of some experiments in growing potatoes: Some years ago I selected some healthy potatoes that had no sign of running out, and made a selection of the largest and smallest firm tubers in each lot. I planted the same number of hills of each kind side by side; gave the same treatment in every particular, and in the fall I weighed the product. There was one pound difference in favor of the large cut potatoes. I then selected the largest from the largest and the smallest from the smallest, and planted the next season the same number of hills side by side, with the same treatment. In the fall the weight of product was one and one-half pounds in favor of the small tubers. I continued the experiment for five years, selecting the largest from the largest and the smallest from the smallest. Sometimes one yielded the best; sometimes the other; but the variation never reached two pounds. At the end of the five years' experiment there was one-half pound in favor of the small tubers. The experiment comprised ten hills of each.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Editor Husbandman: I subscribe for your paper to get local news and farming items. I like it very much, but one thing I miss that I have been used to seeing in an agricultural paper, and that is the correspondents' column—questions and answers from farmers on subjects pertaining to farming, stock-raising, etc. Now, is this the fault of the paper or of the farmers? I think it must be the latter. I think that this part of a paper devoting itself to the interests of the farm and garden is an important one, and especially so here in a new country. New beginners here could, through it, get at the experience of those who have been here longer, learn the differed ways of planting, the kind and time to plant and sow different kinds of seed and grain. It may be a little too late in the season to start this thing moving (as it is almost spring), but perhaps some good may yet be done before it is time to plant. And, to give it a send off, I will say that several years ago I heard an essay on potato raising read before the Prickly Pear Grange, by a by a brother granger, who still lives near Helena, (I'll not call his name,) which I thought was very fine. I, for one, would like to see it in print.

Has there ever been a success made with Dent Corn in Montana east of the Rocky Mountains?

Has any one in the Territory ever tried the White Russian oats; and, if so, with what success? **QUIZ.**

ANSWER.—In reply to the first paragraph of our correspondent's letter, we would state that we have been running a question and answer column for a number of years, giving place to all questions when received, and answering them as far as it was in our power to do so. Heretofore our farmers have been cultivating new land that produced abundant crops, which generally sold at prices so remunerative that they have not been taxed with much thought as to farm management. When our country grows older and the question of preserving the soil becomes more perceptible and a greater exertion is needed to make profits from the farm, this department will grow more interesting. Farmers will then be more willing

to give their experience, in the hope of gaining the result of the experiments of others. It is not too late in the season to ask questions. We believe questions and answers and results of experiments might be kept up with profit all the year round. We published one excellent article, read before the Prickly Pear Grange, several years ago, and will willingly publish others having merit. We have not seen any Dent Corn growing in Eastern Montana.

White Russian oats have been grown in Deer Lodge and other counties the past two seasons, with good success. The stalks grow large and strong, and the grains are of good size, very solid and heavy.

GETTING EARLY POTATOES EARLY.

A correspondent in Connecticut who devotes his garden grounds chiefly to the production of early crops for market, writes to know if we can name any variety of potato which he can plant and get in ahead of his neighbors, who raise the Early Rose for an early market sort.

There are varieties claimed to be a little earlier than the Early Rose, and equally valuable in the other points which make that variety so popular, but we doubt if there is anything yet before the public which could be depended upon to excel it in all its good qualities.

The earliest potato we have ever grown is Bliss' Early Triumph, a very handsome bright red, roundish potato with sunken eyes.

It will mature several days earlier than the rose, but with us it has never been a great cropper and the eating quality is variable, sometimes good, but often heavy and watery.

If early crops were desired, we would adhere to the Early Rose, Early Vermont, Beauty of Hebron, Clark's No. 1, or other well known early varieties, and endeavor to get in ahead of neighbors by forcing growths and maturity. This can be done by several methods.

Of course warm, early land is indispensable. It should also be full of fertility. There is little danger to be apprehended from having the land for early potatoes too rich, however objectionable it might be for late varieties. The manure too, fertilizer used should be in condition for immediate use. Green fermented manure is too slow for early potatoes.

One way to start the plants is to make hot beds or cold frames in which to give the young plants a start. The frames should not be filled more than three or four weeks in advance of the usual planting season, nor should the heat be very strong. Just a little protection from extreme weather is all that will be required, as the potato will grow in quite cold weather.

Make the frames as for the hot bed planting, except that less manure should be used. A depth of four or six inches of good manure would be better than a thick body, which might heat violently. Spread a little soil on top of the manure, to keep the potatoes from direct contact with the manure. Cut the potatoes in one or two eyes, remembering the directions for cutting the seed, as given in the *Farmer* of January 27. Lay the pieces within two inches of each other, which will give about eight to ten square inches of room for each plant. Cover lightly with good soil and lay on the sashes.

In a few days the sprouts will start and roots will be thrown out. When the stems appear above the surface, sprinkle over an inch of good soil. This will cover the little weeds and thus you will avoid the necessity of weeding by hand. The plants will also be stronger and more healthy for this killing up process. Give plenty of air in all mild weather, that the plants may be hardy. When the outside weather becomes warm enough, the plants must be set in the garden or field where they are to grow.

They may remain in the beds till the tops are from four to six inches high.

When ready to remove, take off the frames, and with a six-tine manure fork take the plants up and lay them carefully in a hand barrow, or wagon box, for carrying to the field. Having the well manured rows all prepared, take up a fork full of the plants from the carriage and carefully pull the

plants apart, keeping as much of the soil and manure attached to the roots as possible, and lay in the furrows. A second hand should follow and draw soil around the roots, as when setting cabbage or other hot-bed plants. Then with a hoe draw up more soil, and you have a nice patch of potatoes all hoed, and perhaps nearly ready to bud, when your neighbors have but just planted theirs in the open ground.

If a frosty night is feared, a hoe full of dirt may be hauled upon the tops, to be removed in the morning by careful brushing with the fingers.

This is a method we have followed many years, and it has given us potatoes ripe for digging, from ten days to two weeks before they could be had by open ground planting.

If the plants are started too early, so that new potatoes are formed before transplanting, the crop is apt to be dwarfed, as the roots get too large to be disturbed, but if the plants are but fairly started into growth so there shall be no check from transplanting, quite full crops may be expected.

Another good way is to bring the seed potatoes into a warm room about three weeks before pladting time. Select small-sized whole potatoes for planting, place them in trays made of laths, all with the seed end up and resting on the stem end. Keep the trays in a strong light by day, and where the temperature will favor growth day and night. From the center of the seed end a single eye will usually send up a strong, stocky sprout, which will have a reddish green color, showing the rudiments of roots and leaves.

When the garden soil is warm and dry enough to crumble by cultivation, these sprouted potatoes may be planted, carrying them in the trays and being careful not to bruise the sprouts when setting them in the rows.

They should be set sprout end up, of course, and a little earth must be drawn around and over them. When they show signs of pricking through, an inch more of earth may be hauled over them with the hand hoe, or the land may be cultivated and brushed, so as to kill the weeds and hill up a little.

For a large field the latter method of forcing is to be preferred, as the labor will be less, and there can be no check to the growth. We have described these methods in previous years, but the many new readers will be glad to learn the details of an excellent method for getting early potatoes early.—*New England Farmer.*

The Poultry Yard.

CLEAN your poultry houses and treat them to a fresh coat of whitewash.

If you want eggs for breakfast, see to it that your hens have nice, new nests in some secluded spot, or a dark corner or back room of your poultry house.

Any flock of poultry will lay in the spring, but one provided with neat, attractive quarters will produce double the amount of eggs that the one will which is confined in filthy, unhealthy and unattractive premises.

NECESSITIES IN POULTRY KEEPING.

The requirements for success with poultry may be summed up in a few words—make the fowls comfortable and at home, satisfied in every respect. To do this several things are necessary, and if any of these are lacking, loss will result. These requirements are a variety of food (including the grains, with a little animal and vegetable material added occasionally), enough to satisfy and no more, yet sufficient to keep the fowls in good condition, avoiding too much fat, which results from too much feeding with corn; pure water in constant supply; clean, well-aired and well-lighted quarters, sufficiently roomy to prevent crowding; avoiding the extremes of heat and cold; allowing of no intrusion upon the hens' privacy, and familiarizing them with the presence of attendants; their nest retired and easy of access; their roosts also easy of access; and a bed of sand and gravel to walk in and peck at.

More might be named with some advan-

tage. Those mentioned are the necessary points. When understood, each person must determine for himself how to suit them to his circumstances or situation, and the situation must be such as to allow them all to be adopted. As with everything else, the business must be understood—at least its principles, and for a large investment experience should be added—or disappointment will result, the disappointment proportioned to the extent of knowledge and its faithful application.

In securing fowls, discard the native sorts. There is no lack of good breeds to select from, and the difference between them is not very great, being much a matter of fancy. All may be made profitable if the above requirements are strictly adhered to.

Where desired for special purposes, a few breeds may be mentioned. The Dorking stands high for the table, both the young and the mature bird, and will serve the purpose well where flesh is the main object. The Leghorn furnishes the greatest number of eggs. For general excellence, not lacking greatly any good point, or largely possessing any objectionable one, the Houdan will probably give as much satisfaction as any. These are the popular, well established breeds, and can be readily obtained at reasonable prices. In selecting birds be careful to get those free from vermin and disease, and propagate only from males of pure blood, never exposing the brood to cold, wet weather, or great changes of temperature, which is hurtful, and when allowed, strong, healthy chickens cannot be expected. By carrying out this treatment, there will be little danger from vermin or disease, if the birds are carefully selected, or eggs secured for hatching, and the hen house and its surroundings, as well as the food of the fowl are kept clean from the start, making prevention the cure.—*Corr. Country Gentleman.*

The Household.

Cold Fish Cakes.—Take any kind of cold fish, chop very fine, and mix with two-thirds more mashed potatoes than the quantity of the fish. Season with salt and white pepper, and the gravy used with the fish the previous day. Make it into rolls shaped like rice croquettes, or into round, flat cakes, dip them into rolled cracker crumbs or grated bread crumbs, and fry in broiling hot drippings or bacon fat. A few slices of bacon, cut into squares after the are fried, and laid upon each cake, will add to their flavor.

Molasses Cake.—Take a pound of flour, rub into it two tablespoonfuls of butter, one of lard or beef drippings, and a teaspoonful of saleratus. Mix with it a dessertspoonful of ginger, one pound of cinnamon and the least pinch of red pepper. Stir a cupful of boiling hot water into a cupful of molasses and half a cup of sugar. Mix into a batter and bake in thin cakes.

Old Bach's Pudding.—Beat up three eggs, flavor with essence of lemon and grated nutmeg, and add them to four ounces each of finely minced apples, currants, grated bread crumbs and two ounces of sugar; mix thoroughly and boil in a buttered mould nearly three hours. Serve with lemon sauce.

Economical Rice Pudding.—Two large tablespoonfuls of rice to one quart of milk, one small cupful of white sugar, one cup of cut-up raisins. Let it stand in a warm place three hours and bake one hour. The addition of one or two eggs spoils the pudding, rendering it firm and hard. Four eggs and half the rice, previously boiled, will make a delicious custard, with a few grains of rice at the bottom.

Imitation Duck.—Boil two onions until nearly soft; then chop them fine and mix with pieces of stale bread crusts that have been soaked awhile in cold water or milk. Add a little powdered sage, some pepper and some salt. Grease a baking tin put the mixture in, and strew over the top some grated bread and bits of butter. Bake it for half an hour and serve for breakfast, or a side dish at dinner.

When boiling cabbage, put a slice of salt pork in the water and an agreeable flavor is given to the cabbage.