

Farmers' Column.



Give fools their gold & knives their power. Let fortune's bubbles rise and fall. Who sows a field or trains a cow. Or plants a tree, is more than all.

Wheat Culture. In many sections the labor of putting in the wheat will be an important part of the labor this month. The ground will need at least one more thorough stirring with cultivator or harrow before the seed is sown.

It cannot be made too mellow or too finely pulverized for a seed bed, and as each stirring assists in germinating and destroying the weed seed that lie dormant in the soil it will allow the plants to get better ground before the weeds spring up to choke them out, and give cleaner crops next year.

No seed should be used which has not been first carefully screened and winnowed, for the removal of foul stuff from it, and to take out shrunken, light or imperfect seed of any kind. It should then be treated with lime, or with a solution of vitriol or sulphuric acid, to prevent the smut. From the 10th to the 25th of this month is the most usual time for sowing, but it needs to go in earlier upon cold lands than upon a warmer soil, and in northern regions earlier than farther south upon very light soil it is well to delay the sowing, as only a certain amount of growth is desirable before winter. It should be remembered, however, that seed germinates more slowly when a good super-phosphate is drilled in with it than when stable manure is used to enrich the land.

The usual amount of seed used is from one bushel to five pecks to the acre when drilled in, and about half a bushel more when sown broadcast, to make up for loss of seed by covering too deep or not deep enough, the proper depth being about one and a half to two inches. The more mellow the soil and the more liable to surface drying the greater the depth of sowing should be. If all seed could be placed at equal distances apart, and equal depths, a much less amount of seed would be sufficient. A Connecticut farmer sowed about two hundred rods of drill with one quart of wheat, and harvested eight bushels, and thought he would have had more if birds and neighbors, to whom a wheat head is a curiosity, could have been kept away from it. As there could be over 2,600 rods of drill, one foot apart, in an acre, it would require a little over thirteen quarts of seed, and a yield equal to his would give over a hundred bushels per acre; or fifty bushels per acre could be grown in drills at two feet apart, from six and a half quarts of seed. We do not advise farmers to go so far as this in the matter of light seeding. They cannot all have old garden soil to sow their seed upon, nor give it garden cultivation or the possibilities of light seeding in good soil.

Holling the ground after sowing the seed also has a tendency to cause the plant to "fill out," so as to cover the ground, and throw up numerous stalks from each root. But when this is done the land must be rich enough to carry out the crops, even to the growth of grain. The use of a good super-phosphate has been found to greatly stimulate the growth of wheat but the difference in phosphates is but imperfectly understood even by those who have used them for many years, and many fail in the experiments because of not knowing how to adapt them to their crops or soils. As a general rule, it may be said that for this crop ammonia or nitrogen increases the growth of leaf and stalk, and makes it more rapid, potash stiffens the straw and prevents the lodging of the grain, and phosphoric acid makes a plumper, heavier grain and a better flour. Of course each of these ingredients assists in other ways but these hints may help the farmer to improve his crop when he knows in what particular he has failed in years past.—Am. Cult.

It is general accepted that brewers' grains are not a wholesome food for cows, and the milk furnished by them when fed from it, is of an inferior quality, and not fit for habitual use especially as food for infants.

It is a good plan to save the lower coats of Lima beans for seed, as these are always the earliest. Like beans like in this respect. Some seed growers have obtained in this way Lima beans so much earlier than the common kind as to merit the claim of being a distinct variety. It is a good plan to begin growing Lima beans by planting this early kind.

It is the practice of some milkmen to sow a mixture of oats and peas in succession for green feed. The oats are cut just as they are coming in head, by which time the pea vines will be pretty well podded. Though the bulk is not so great as from sowed corn, the cows eat it readily, and it makes a richer and better milk-producing food than does most sowed corn.

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