



REVISED REPORT ON SMUT IN WHEAT.

BY THE DOMESTIC GARDENER'S CLUB.

In consideration of the great importance of the culture of wheat, and the damage caused by smut in the crop, it is highly important that a preventive be adopted by the producer. There may be several thousand bushels of sound grain annually gained in the State by cheap and simple remedies.

It is evident that the first cause of smut in wheat is owing to the grain being in a sickly, diseased state, brought on by various causes, by which the plant in a growing state is checked, either by over watering, being kept too dry or by general bad culture, so that the grain is not properly matured, and consequently is in a putrid and diseased state and the vitality or life at an end. The disease of the grain being either a fungus or insect containing life, coming in contact with good grain, adheres to and contaminates it in such a manner that, when in a growing state, the disease is carried into the system of the entire plant, and is the cause of a continuation of disease.

In order to prevent wheat from becoming diseased, it is necessary that the seed be selected from a good clean stock of well matured grain, which should be thrashed with a flail or some other way that will not injure the skin or bran of the kernel, and cleaned by sifting it before a strong wind, in order that the light grain may be blown from the heavy and well matured, which should be chosen from the heap, rejecting that part which contains the refuse and light grain.

LIMING AND BRINING.

The washing of wheat in brine and mixing with lime, has been universally practised by the best farmers in Great Britain for more than a hundred years, and smut there is little known. It has been successfully practised by the best practical farmers in America with the same good effect; and cultivators who have practised brining and liming in this State have universally stated that when seed wheat has been thus prepared, the grain has always been free from smut.

PREPARING THE SEED.

This is simply to make a brine strong enough to float an egg; put it in a tub, and then turn as much wheat in the brine as will wash and have room enough to let the light grain, smut and refuse to separate and rise on the top of the brine, which must be skimmed off, and the grain stirred with a stick till it is cleansed from the refuse. Take the wheat from the brine with a skimmer or turn the contents into a basket placed over a barrel or tub; when it is moderately well drained turn it out on the floor, and when the desired quantity is cleaned, sift over it some slacked lime and mix it well together with a shovel until the wheat is well covered over with the lime; it is then ready for use. The exchange of seed is a system that has been adopted by practical farmers for many years. Cultivators of clay or heavy soil exchange seed with those who cultivate light sandy or gravelly land. The difference of locations has a tendency to invigorate and give a healthy state to the grain.

SELECTING SEED.

In order to keep wheat true to its variety and in a healthy condition, select out of the best and largest ears from a good stock when ripe, say enough to make half a bushel of wheat, or more, every three or four years. Sow this wheat for seed the succeeding season, and by this method much may be done to keep the grain in a healthy state.

To the above methods of cleansing and preparing wheat for sowing, many more might be named, which would all however tend to one purpose, viz: cleaning the seed in such a manner that all the light seed is parted from the good, heavy, well matured grain; and brining, liming, soaking the seed in a lye made of ashes, using urine, and the use of blue vitrol, etc., in order to destroy the disease in its latent state, and put the seed in condition to produce a strong, healthy plant.

A crop of wheat raised from well prepared seed, may be seriously injured by being sown on land partly seeded by the former crop of wheat which was smutty and foul. The continual cropping of the same piece of ground with wheat, as often practised, is a bad system, and would in time bring on smut, and have a tendency to reduce the crop. It must also be evident to every intelligent cultivator that the sowing of wheat, year after year, on the same land will in a measure, weaken the healthy condition of the grain, owing to the continual exhausting those ingredients contained in the soil that produce the requisite qualities in the grain, as starch, gluten, etc.

The many systems recommended of rotation in cropping are too numerous to mention and are not wanted in this country, but that change of crops is necessary in the culture of wheat, change of soil and good management in culture to insure good crops and keep wheat in a healthy condition cannot but be evident to every tiller of the soil.

[For the Deseret News.]

Flowers and Flower Gardens.

The following communication on the culture of flowers had not the author's name appended, but it supposed to have been written by one of the fair florists of Utah County:

Is there anything more delightful to the human eye than the loom of flowers, clothed in all the gorgeous array of light and beauty, aye! more than the hues of the rainbow?

If these delicate creations of nature so charm the eye, how much more will their delicious fragrance intoxicate, exhilarate and gladden the olfactory, swell the heart and soften all our rough and turbulent natures? With what a voice they teach humility, purity, gentleness and love. Man should never live without their smiling faces to soften his harshness, and allay his irritability; woman should dwell among them, breathe their sweet fragrance, and, like them, be ever lowly, sweet and lovable; children should ever find them near, and they should be the constant companions of youth, their very companionship will bring refinement and a love of all that is good and beautiful. Very few bad people ever are remarkable for their admiration of flowers. Why? Because their innocence and purity reproach the guilty.

Flowers are angel's smiles, that whisper of a radiant sphere and bright sinless beings beyond this earth—they are equally appropriate at our birth, the bridal or upon the bier. Then we should all love links that bind as refinement and hope, and every one should delight in their culture. They may be grown everywhere, in our yards and gardens, by the walks, on the lattice, walls, fences, roof and in the porch, the veranda, the parlor, kitchen and even garret. Let our hours of pastime be made both pleasant and useful in these pursuits and let every man, woman, girl and boy have at least one pet, upon which to lavish some love and attention.

HOW TO KEEP SEEDS, AND WHEN AND HOW TO PLANT.

The seeds of most flowers are small and quite tender, when gathered they should be kept in a cool room, dry and airy and where they will not be subject to get damp or wet.

Some seeds may properly be planted as soon as the ground is fit in the spring, others must be delayed till the disappearance of frost. Among the hardy and half-hardy may be reckoned—Athreas (Hollyhock), Phloxes, Centaurea (Bluebottles), Cactalia (Tassel-flower), China-Pinks, Sweet Williams, Pansies (Violets), Poppies, Dianthus (Pinks), Coreopsis, Stocks, &c. Many of the above varieties may be planted before the first of May and some early in April. Most other varieties should be planted in May.

Let the ground be well prepared with the plow or spade, dig over with hoe or long-toothed rake, so as to pulverize all the lumps, then rake the surface smooth and well, make slight elevations or beds, up and down the inclined plain where irrigation is necessary, and about two to three feet wide, make three drills of an inch in depth lengthwise of the bed, sprinkle along your seeds from one to six inches apart (avoiding placing the seeds of large and small plants together); cover with an inch of dirt, press gently and smoothly; and make your water-courses between each row. If the sun shines hot making it liable to dry up the top of the ground, a little straw, old rug, weeds, or even boards or sticks may be laid upon the ground for a week after planting, so as to give the seeds time to sprout before the surface becomes dry. In planting you may mix the seeds, taking heed as to size of plants and effect of shade and color of flower, or plant each distinct, as suits the taste.

GROUPING, MASSES, ETC.

Some flowers have a fine effect in groups or masses, others single. For the former, group your Mignonettes, Candytufts, Gillias, Phloxes, Asters, Sweet-Peas, Lupins, Centaureas, Papaver, Pontulaccas, Coreopsis, Amaranths, Zennias, Pansies, etc., etc., but for Balsams, Marvel of Peru, Stocks, Pinks, Honeysuckles, Marygolds, Nasturtian, etc., etc., let the plants be from one to two feet apart. Cinerolulus or Morning-Glories should not be allowed a place in the open garden, give them a summer-house or a distinct place and pull up all others.

The Cypress (a climbing vine) has a charming effect if planted on a slight mound and allowed enough willows or long reeds, spread at the bottom, and fastened at the top.

Hollyhocks should border your walks or be planted in masses in some spare nook or corner.

PARLOR GARDENS.

Obtain the common brown earthenware pots, by no means glazed, have saucers with them if possible. Place pebbles enough in the bottom to cover. Make composition of equal parts of old and fully decayed manure, good soil, and sand, work all over until thoroughly incorporated, and then fill the pots to within an inch and a half of the top. After gently pressing down, level and sprinkle your seed on the moist soil, cover with half an inch of the same material, then cover with one-third of an inch of coarse sand, set in a warm room of even temperature in a north or west window for a week, then change to an east or south window, where the sun will strike a part of the time. Meantime keep water in the saucers, and if not sufficiently moist, sprinkle a little on the top, but let the water always be of the same temperature of the room, and to effect this, let a pitcher of

water stand in the room over night and use it in the morning for your flower-pots. When the plants are getting of some size, remove to the garden, or to other pots, all the superfluous ones. For pot or house plants, the best common varieties are—Verbenas, China Pinks, Pansies, Pot Marygolds, Dwarf Petunias, Centranth, Ice, Sew and Sensitive plants, Geraniums, Phlox, Asters, Stocks, Gillias, etc. Flowers sometimes need fresh air as well as sunshine and plenty of water in the saucers. It should not be poured upon the top, unless necessary. To freshen the flowers and remove the dust from the plants set them out and give them a natural or artificial shower, but avoid placing them in hard winds or drizzling showers. Treat them kindly and gently and they will smile upon you a sweet and delicate recompense.

Hot-Bed.

Few who have tried it fail to appreciate the advantages of a hot-bed. With a little expense and trouble, one may have plants and several sorts of fruits and vegetables a month sooner than their neighbors, who will not take the pains.

HOW TO MAKE AND USE IT.

Dig a pit two feet deep, three by six feet, east and west. Fill with long and short manure, equal parts, well mixed and evenly strewed in; wet it thoroughly with warm water.—With logs, slabs or plank, build a tight pen around this, one foot high on the south side and three feet on the north, sloping at the ends; then cover the manure with six inches of finely pulverized rich soil. Through the day let the bed be open, at night cover with glass and sash, or a piece of carpet or quilt. In about five or six days, or as soon as a vapor arises, put your seed in the ground, watering only slightly when needed.

Of early plants, the most useful are Cabbage, Tomatoes, Ground Cherries (Strawberry Tomatoes), Celery, Rhubarb, Cucumbers, Lettuce, etc. Plant seeds in drills an inch deep and pat the ground down moderately.

If you have not glass to cover with, let it stand open through the day but cover at night for fear of frosts, and so continue until plants are large enough to set.

Seeds of cucumbers or other vines should be stuck into small bits of turf, packed close together on the bed and then covered half an inch with sand. When there is no further danger of frost, take out each bit of turf separately, and plant them in hills prepared; water well and keep shaded for several days, or until they are well rooted and look healthy. Little more attention is needed but an occasional watering when the soil looks dry.

MULTUM IN PARVO.

Utah County Agricultural Matters.

Provo, March 15th 1862.

EDITOR OF THE DESERET NEWS:

At the recent election of the Utah County Branch of the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society, the following were elected officers for the ensuing year:

Andrew H. Scott, President; John B. Milner, Daniel Graves, Thomas J. Patten, H. L. Southworth, E. W. Clark, Elijah Billingsby, Managing Directors.

William Mendenhall, of Springville, Zebedee Coltrin, of Spanish Fork, John H. Moore, of Payson, John G. Wheeler of Pleasant Grove, Elbert Eastmond, of Lake city, L. H. Hatch, of Lehi, District Directors; Daniel Graves, Secretary, and H. L. Southworth, Treasurer.

I have recently visited the various settlements in this county, and can say that the people are generally advancing in the science of Agriculture and Home Manufactures. I saw at Springville a washing machine of superior model and workmanship, manufactured by Mr. Henry Mower who informed me that machines of that kind can be manufactured at a cost of about ten dollars. They would, if brought into use, be great labor-saving institutions, as with one of them, a person can do as much washing in one hour, as in a day with a common washboard and with much less wear to the clothes.

I expect soon to commence my gardening operations, and have some five hundred kinds of seeds to plant and sow this spring a great many of which I have imported this season, from the States, amongst which is the African Sugar Cane and also the White Sugar Cane Seed from Georgia, which have been raised in Nebraska; also creeping plants of the Honey suckle, Clamatis, Jessamine, Virginia Creeper, the Sporeas, Chesnuts and a number of medical herb seeds, intending to establish both a botanic and seed raising garden, which I conceive is a very desirable object in this Territory.

Yours respectfully,  
DANIEL GREAVES.

THE GUIDING SONG.—In the mountains of the Tyrol hundreds of women and children come out when it is bed-time, and sing their national song until they hear their husbands, fathers, or brothers answer them from the hills on their return home. On the shores of the Adriatic the wives of the fishermen come down about sunset and sing a melody. They sing the first verse, and listen for some time; and then sing the second verse, and wait until they hear the answer from the fishermen, who are thus guided by the sounds to their own villages.

A Generous Criminal.

A TRUE STORY.

A young man recently made his escape from the galleys at Toulouse. He was strong and vigorous, and soon made his way across the country, and escaped pursuit. He arrived next morning before a cottage in an open field, and stopped to beg something to eat, and for concealment while he reposed a little; but he found the inmates of the cottage in the greatest distress. Four little children sat trembling in a corner, their mother was weeping, and tearing her hair, and the father walked the floor in agony. The galley-slave asked what was the matter, and the father replied that they were that morning to be turned out of doors because they could not pay the rent. "You see me driven to despair," said the father, "my wife and little children without food or shelter, and I without means to provide for them."

The convict listened to this tale with sympathy, and then said, "I will give you the means. I have just escaped from the galleys; whoever secures and takes back an escaped prisoner, is entitled to a reward of fifty francs. How much do your rents amount to?"

"Forty francs," replied the father. "Well," said the other, "put a cord around my body; I will follow you to the city; they will recognize me, and you will get fifty francs for bringing me back."

"No, never!" exclaimed the astonished listener, "my children should starve a dozen times, before I would do so base a thing."

The generous young man insisted, and declared at last, that he would go and give himself up, if the father would not consent to take him. After a long struggle, the father yielded, and taking his preserver by the arm, led him to the Mayor's office. Everybody was surprised that a lit le man like the father had been able to capture such a stout young man; but the proof was before them. The fifty francs were paid, and the prisoner sent back to the galleys. But after he was gone, the father asked a private interview of the Mayor, to whom he told the whole narrative.

The Mayor was so much affected, that he not only added fifty more francs to the father's purse, but wrote immediately to the Ministry of Justice, begging the noble young prisoner's release. The Minister examined into the affair, and finding that it was comparatively a small offense which condemned the young man to the galleys, and that he had already served out half his time, he ordered his release.

Scotch Wit.

A minister in the North was taking to task one of his hearers who was a frequent defaulter, and was reproaching him as an habitual absentee from public worship. The accused vindicated himself on the plea of a dislike to long sermons.

"Deed, mon," said the reverend monitor, a little nettled at the insinuation thrown out against himself, "if ye dinna mend, ye may land yersel where ye'll no be troubled wi' mony sermons either long or short."

"Weel, aiblins sae," retorted John, "but it may na be for want o' ministers."

An answer made to Mr. Shirra strongly illustrative of Scottish ready and really clever wit, and which I am assured is quite authentic, must, I think, have struck the fancy of that most excellent humorist himself. When Mr. Shirra was minister of St. Ninian's, one of the members of the church was John Henderson or Anderson—a very decent, douce shoemaker—and who left the church and joined the Independents, who had a meeting in Stirling. Some time afterwards, when Mr. Shirra met John on the road, he said,

"And so, John, I understand you have become an Independent."

"Deed, sir," replied John, "that's true."

"Oh, John," said the minister, "I'm sure you ken that the rowin' (rolling) stane gathers na fog?" (moss).

"Aye," said John, "that's true, too; but can you tell me what good the fog does to the stane?"

Mr. Shirra himself afterwards became a Baptist. The wit, however, was all in favor of the minister in the following:

Dr. Gilchrist, formerly of the East Parish of Greenock, and who died minister of the Cannon gate, Edinburgh, received an intimation of one of his hearers, who had been exceedingly irregular in his attendance, that he had taken seats in an Episcopal chapel. One day, soon after, he was met by his former parish- orner, who remarked,

"Well, Dominie, I've changed my religion."

"Indeed," said the Doctor, quietly, "how's that? I ne'er heard ye had ony."

It was this same Dr. Gilchrist who gave the well known quiet but forcible rebuke to a young minister whom he considered rather conceited and fond of putting forth his own doings, and who was to officiate in the Doctor's own church. He explained to him the mode in which he usually conducted the services, and stated that he always finished the prayer before the sermon with the Lord's Prayer. The young minister demurred at this and asked,

"May I not introduce another short prayer?"

"Oh aye," was the Doctor's quiet reply, "if ye can gie us onything better.—[Dean Ramsay's Reminiscences.]

—A year ago there were sixty papers published in Texas. There are now only ten.