

Agricultural.

Sheep Husbandry.

Mr. Joseph Harker of West Jordan Ward, who is favorably known as a thorough and practical farmer, writes to Bishop Edward Hunter, as follows:

"I have closely observed several flocks of sheep this winter, and in my opinion, the best adapted for these valleys are the South Down and Leicester. The South Down for a hardy sheep; the Leicester for profit when well cared for.

I have two young rams that show a great deal of the Leicester blood. I had them at the fair last October; the best weighed 121 lbs. at six months and a half old; since then he has been with a large flock of ewes for four weeks; the remainder of the time he has been fed on hay and a few potatoes. He is now ten months old and weighs 140 lbs.

I was raised in Lincolnshire, England, where some of the best sheep in the world are raised, and I have taken the first prize for ewes at their fairs.

I never saw a judge that could judge all the qualities of a sheep without handling them in all their points.

The two rams that I had at the fair show equal size and quality to the eye, but one weighs 28 lbs. more than the other. I think they are as good as any thing in this Territory of the sheep kind.

Sheep or cattle that run on the range need something to warm their stomachs in cold weather—while those that are stall fed on hay want something to open their bodies. Potatoes, beets, carrots, or rutabagas, are as fine a thing as can be given to stock and, as we cannot depend upon the range in winter, we have to provide for our stock and then they will pay for it."

The more general cultivation of roots for fodder cannot be too strongly urged. We shall have more to say on this subject at a future time.

Culture of Flax.

We are also favored with the following letter from Mr. Absalom W. Smith, of Drapersville, in this county, in which he gives his experience in growing flax in this Territory:

DRAPERSVILLE, Feb. 4, 1860.

PREST. EDWARD HUNTER:

It is with a degree of interest that I yield to your request and communicate some of my experience in the cultivation of flax. The flax you saw at my house was sowed the last of March, on a rich piece of bottom land, at the rate of about 1 1-2 bushels of seed to the acre. It came up thick, and even, but the spring being cold and backward I did not apply the water on it until the first of June. I found it needed water very bad and some of it had died in spots, the ground being gravelly in places; the flax then was from five to seven inches high; I then applied the water, and aimed to water it whenever it needed it, but not having the water at my command all the time, I had some difficulty. The water was appropriated to me every eighth day, which I found was oftener than necessary and to let it pass sixteen days without water I found was too long.

As soon as I thought the seed was ripe enough to grow I pulled it up and spread it on the ground to cure, but was very careful not to let it lay too long in the hot parching sun, which I believe is very injurious to flax and hemp.

I then bound it in bundles, hauled it, and put it under a shed. The average length of the flax was two feet nine inches long.

About the first of September, I thrashed off the seed, hauled the flax to Jordan to water, put it in a pond about three feet deep, which had a stream running into it from the river, and then run out again below, which kept the water free from stagnation.

After six or seven days had past, I took out a few stalks each day, put them in the sun to dry, when dry I tried these stalks by braking them and rubbing them in my fingers.

The tenth day I found that the stalks would brake easy, and the lint peel off free; I then took it out, and spread it on the ground; when dry, I bound it in bundles, hauled it and put it again under the shed.

I have had considerable experience in producing flax in Virginia and also the western States, and some little in this Territory. I have even reason to believe that flax and hemp

can be produced in this Territory with just as good lint as any part of the United States.

A farmer should select for his flax ground, rich moist bottom land, if he has it, if not, the best that he has, and if possible manure it well in the fall, with rich, well rotted manure, plough it deep in the fall, and then plough it again in the spring, harrow it well, sow his seed, and harrow it in.

I prefer sowing flax seed the last of March in this country, though the farmer must be governed by the spring, to a great extent in the sowing of the seed.

Watering is, I believe, one great difficulty in raising flax in this country. Another evil is, many men let their flax lay or stand in the hot sun too long after it is pulled.

Strict attention should be paid to the watering of flax, and see that the growth of it is not checked for the want of water at any time when the flax is growing, more especially from the time it begins to bloom, until the flax is ripe, and have the ground moist when it is pulled.

After it is pulled and cured so it will not spoil by packing it together, it should be kept in the shade.

The best of my land put in flax needs watering about every twelfth day.

Your friend and brother.

ABSALOM W. SMITH.

A Timely Hint.—A cotemporary justly remarks that it should never be forgotten by the farmer that there are works of charity and kindness, that more frequently press their claims upon him during the winter, than at any other time. While his happy family is clustered around the cheerful hearth; while his table is loaded with the bounties which a kind providence, personal industry, and a fruitful soil have given him; while his wood-house is filled, his granaries overflowing, and every reasonable want supplied; he must not forget there are other less favored individuals or families around; children destitute of fire and wood; widows and orphans distressed and destitute, all requiring care, and not to be forsaken while the frosts of winter are upon the earth. For the poor there must be employment; for the destitute there must be a supply; and the honest and industrious, or the unfortunate poor, have claims on the more fortunate, that may not be disregarded. Well directed charity is one of the few acts of life in which both the giver and the receiver are blessed; let not one then forget the poor.

Grafting—New French Mode.—Cut the grafts at the usual period, save them for future use, and when time and leisure come, take a subject—any tree, any bark—cut out a bit of bark with a little of the wood, with a knife as keen as a razor; then cut the bud as exactly as possible of the same size with a bit of the wood; fit bud to stalk, and tie it lightly over with woollen yarn, (on account of its elasticity) apply all over it with a small brush, collodion. This immediately forms an elastic skin over the whole, and perfectly excludes the air—which by all other modes of grafting or budding is not perfectly excluded. This is the whole secret.

To Make Cuttings Grow.—Prof. De Lacroix, Besancon, France, says, that cuttings of roses, apple, apricot, pear, plum, and others, if put out in June, after his method, will grow. He takes a cutting long enough to let its two ends be well bedded in the soil, and a bud in the middle close to the ground, grows well. These cuttings should be kept properly moistened by sprinkling; the cutting must be of the growth of the last year; the cuttings thus draw nutrition from both ends, instead of drying up the end in the air.

Repeated Transplanting—retards the growth of wood, and produces premature maturity in the plant; it converts for want of abundant nourishment, wood buds into fruit buds. It is calculated to produce early bearing. Frequent transplanting is often resorted to by the florist, in order to induce plants to produce flowers, or to produce an abundance of flowers, and it is found highly efficacious in the balsam, coxcomb, &c.

Land and Labor—are the principle sources of public and private wealth. The more fertility we can impart to the one, and the more intelligence we can infuse into the other, the greater will be the returns they make and the greater our means of happiness; for it is wealth, rightly employed, that enables us to multiply not only our own, but the comfort and happiness of those around us.

THE DOMESTIC GARDENER'S CLUB TRANSACTIONS.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON VEGETABLES.

SECOND DIVISION—CULTURE OF THE TURNIP WITH LIST.

The turnip requires nearly the same culture as the beet and carrot. It does not thrive, however, so well on different soils and locations, particularly on dry bench land and land that has been long cultivated; on such locations the roots are generally small, hard and tough, when planted early, and if the seed is sown late, the turnip is often attacked by insects and not worth cultivating.

The best locations for the turnip are newly cleared willow patches and new ground by the side of rivers or wet, low places where the soil is naturally rich and mellow.

CULTURE.

Previous to sowing, the ground should be well dug or plowed deep and made fine and mellow; care should always be taken never to dig the ground in the spring until it is dry and crumbles freely after the spade or plow. Another great consideration in this part of the business is always to sow the seed shortly after digging, when the ground is fresh and moist; for, when ground is left too long after digging, it becomes dry and hard and the consequence is that the seed never germinates or comes up freely.

THE TIME OF SOWING

Turnips, depends on the different varieties, and when the crop is required for use. Early turnips, for table use, may be sown about the middle of April, but for a general crop of Ruta-baga and field culture, the sowing may be deferred to the middle of May or first of June. In many parts of the States it is the custom to sow turnips so late as July. This method is not, however, adapted to this dry soil and climate, as when planted late, the roots seldom thrive well or come into good perfection.

SOWING THE SEED.

On low, moist ground the seed may be sown broadcast at the rate of 2 lbs. to the acre. When the plants are in rough leaf they may be thinned out to about six inches apart for table use and in the field to twelve inches apart.

On dry locations the seed may be sown in drills one inch deep, and eighteen inches apart; the plants may be thinned as above directed and drills two or three inches deep made between the rows, for watering, so soon as watering is necessary to be done.

FOR FALL SOWING,

Which may be done from the 1st of August to the 1st of September, it is a good method to well prepare the ground by dressing it down fine and sowing the seed broadcast; rake the ground smooth and draw drills three inches deep and two feet apart for watering.

THE GENERAL CULTURE

Is to keep the ground loose and mellow by often using the hoe between the young plants, watering, etc. Indeed, the more turnips are hoed, the better will be the crop.

FOR SOWING TURNIP SEED,

The reader is referred to the article on planting out beets, carrots, etc.; the method is precisely the same.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF TURNIPS.

No. 1—White Stone Turnip.

This is an old favorite, early garden variety, which has several varieties; as, the Snowball, Early Six Weeks, etc., which are a little improvement on the original. The root is white inside and out; clear skin, small top and of a roundish oval form, and an excellent variety for table use.

No. 2—Green-flat Dutch.

This is an old, early garden variety; the root is flat, and is white inside, and a greenish white on the top outside, and white at the bottom. The variety is well worth cultivating as an early garden variety.

No. 3—Purple-top Stone.

Is an old, excellent variety for general use, either for garden or field culture; the variety is very similar to the white stone with the difference of being purple, and a more hardy and later variety than the white stone. The improved variety of this and the white are called the strap leaved.

No. 4—Purple-top Ruta Baga.

This is the best variety of the Ruta Baga,

and a great improvement on the old yellow Ruta Baga or "Swede."

The roots are large, of an oval shape, yellow within, and a purplish green outside on the top, the leaves are also of a purplish green and small tops. The roots are excellent for winter feed for cattle, and serve a good purpose for cooking in the spring in domestic use.

To the above many varieties may be added, which are very similar and worth cultivating by the amateur.

GENERAL REMARKS ON THE CULTURE OF ROOTS.

This branch of agricultural economy will, when well understood, form an important item in the general welfare of Utah; indeed it may be said that the Territory is well adapted to the culture of grain and agricultural roots and that the culture of the one is directly related to the well being of the other.

The too general culture of wheat is an error which is very apparent to any candid observer; and the only remedy is the introducing of root culture as a routine of cropping, by which means the land can be again in a measure reclaimed to its primitive vigor for producing good crops of grain—in the first place, by the change of crops; in the second, by a different manner of working the ground as fallow land; and third, by bringing on a greater portion of manure from the feeding the roots to animals, etc.

The obtaining a greater portion of feed for animals in winter, also, claims the attention of the farmer and those who have milch cows and other animals; and, for the welfare of poor animals which often suffer for the want of change of diet, we plead the more general culture of roots; for, as man was not made to live on bread alone, it may be argued that animals were not made to live on hay and straw alone; they require green food, as roots, for a change and to keep them in a healthy condition.

In the treatment of the culture of roots, care has been taken to point out the different locations most suitable for the different species. It should be the object of the cultivator in this Territory to select out locations and soil adapted to the roots that are to be cultivated. By attention to this rule, much trouble and expense might be saved; for the truth is that ground which is well adapted to the beet and carrot, as light, dry upland, will rarely produce a good crop of potatoes or turnips, which require a moist location, so that the roots may always be in growing state.

By a little extra care and labor a scattering crop of roots may be produced among other crops; as peas, potatoes, corn, etc.

Sugar beets are what may be called a social plant—the roots do well if the seed is sown thin among almost any kind of vegetable and produce fine roots in the fall, after peas, etc., and the ruta бага and, indeed, the carrot may be grown as a scattering crop either in the garden or field.

To be successful in this method the seed must be sown tolerably early and when the ground is watered, so as to bring up the seed freely and to grow the plants of a moderate size before the first crop is taken off the ground. When this is done, the roots may be cultivated as directed under their proper heads.

E. SAYERS,
W. WAGSTAFF.

Negligence and Inattention—is as inexcusable in the winter as in the summer; and frequently productive of worse effects. How often do we see farmers suffer such losses in their flock and herds from sheer inattention or idleness in the winter, that a year of hard labor and privation will hardly place them in their first position?

Fresh Eggs.—To keep them, says the *German Town Telegraph*, take a box two feet long, one and a half feet wide and six inches deep. Place a layer of dried wheat bran on the bottom, and on this a layer of eggs, small end down, and thus on till the box is full, alternately. The contents will remain perfectly fresh for a year. Try it.

To Raise Cream.—Have ready two pans in boiling water, and on the milk's coming to the dairy, take the hot pans out of the water, put the milk into one of them, and cover with the other. This will occasion great augmentation in the thickness and quality of the cream.

Setting Out Peach Trees.—A correspondent of the *Ohio Valley Farmer* says, peach trees should be set rather deep, because "the peach cannot, like the pear, apple or quince, put out new roots above the old ones."