

FOR FARMERS AND GARDENERS.

Sorghum Cane may be stripped of its leaves with some advantages, especially that which has been late planted. The stripping allows the sun's rays free access to the stalk, which somewhat hastens its maturing.

It is said, also, that in the base of the leaves there is a considerable quantity of sap, devoid of saccharine, which, by stripping the blades, has a chance to evaporate.

The opinion that this cane is seriously injured by frost, after being cut, is pronounced groundless by more recent experiments; as also the common idea that the cane must be worked up immediately after it is cut, to prevent decomposition and fermentation. We are informed by an eastern writer that the Sorghum possesses all the durable qualities of the Southern Sugar Cane.

The cane sends up tillers or several shoots from a single seed. There is a diversity of opinion, we find, as to the propriety of removing them—some asserting that it is beneficial, others maintaining that it is highly injurious. We are experimenting on this point, for our own satisfaction and thus far, judging from the relative appearance of cane that has been suckered and that which was not, in rows adjoining each other, we incline to the opinion expressed last spring, that the Sorghum should not be suckered, and farther, that the suckering, so far from being in the least advantageous, has a tendency to retard the vigorous growth of the cane by disturbing its roots, while the energies of the stalk are at once taxed anew to produce new shoots; sometimes throwing out suckers or limbs from the upper joints, like the limbs of a small tree, which being destitute of saccharine, would probably somewhat reduce the yield of syrup.

One sugar mill has already arrived in this city. Others are near, and the probability is that all who have planted the seed, carefully tended the crop—and who successfully harvest the same, will have some home-made sweetening, if not more.

The Scientific American.—The publishers of this widely circulated and popular illustrated weekly journal of mechanics and science, announce that it would be enlarged on the first of July, and otherwise greatly improved, containing sixteen pages instead of eight, the present size, which will make it the largest and cheapest scientific journal in the world. It is the only journal of its class that has ever succeeded in this country, and maintains a character for authority in all matters of mechanics, science and the arts, which is not excelled by any other journal published in this country or in Europe. Although the publishers will incur an increased expense of \$8,000 a year by this enlargement, they have determined not to raise the price of subscription, relying upon their friends to indemnify them in this increased expenditure, by a corresponding increase of subscribers. Terms \$2 a year, or 10 copies for \$15. Specimen copies of the paper with a pamphlet of information to inventors, furnished gratis, by mail, on application to the publishers, MUNN & CO., No. 37 Park Row, New York.

Farmers, as well as mechanics and scientific men will find the *Scientific American* a most valuable acquisition to their other sources of information.

If agriculture is the "most healthful, the most useful and the most noble employment of man"—and we firmly believe the words of the great Washington, who uttered the above—then, we ask, should not the true farmer be among the foremost in encouraging whatever is really useful, practical and scientific?

Correspondence to the agricultural department of the *Deseret News* are solicited from all parts of the Territory and on all branches of agriculture or whatever pertains to the common interest of farmers and gardeners and all who are interested in the cultivation of the soil.

We print two or three communications in this number, which will be found interesting. We desire to learn of the progress and experience of our farming community. Will you write and inform us what you are doing in your various localities? We don't care if a dozen should write from the same settlement. Each will have some thing to say from which we may glean facts of general interest. Come, now; and if there be any who would like to communicate with us and do not know how to write (of whom, we are confident in stating that the number, among our enterprising farmers, is small indeed), ask your good neighbor to write for you (if not for himself too), or go to work at once yourself and sufficiently master the chirographic art to be able to communicate legibly your ideas on paper. You can do it, if you have the will, if you are

yet anywhere under the age of Methuselah. Let us have the benefit of your experience.

Things that are not Profitable.

To be at the expense of cutting and hauling hay and then stacking it in such a manner that the first heavy rain ruins from one quarter to one half of it.

To labor hard during the summer to raise some grain, and then for want of a little extra care and labor in securing it, have it meet with the same fate, or be destroyed by your own or your neighbor's cattle.

To attempt to keep calves—without a proper place to keep them—by starving them through the summer on a little milk robbed from the necessities of a family, and then late in the fall, when but the shadow of what calves ought to be, turn them out on the range never to see them again; or continue to keep them up during the winter in a state of starvation and in the spring drag their carcasses out to feed the wolves.

To keep several cows where they have to travel from three to five miles in the morning to pick a few mouthfuls of stunted herbage, back again at night as empty as they went, and nothing to feed them. When cold weather comes, still nothing for them but stunted fare and the lee side of a two or three pole fence to shelter them from the blasts of winter. Humanity forbids this; pecuniary interest forbids it! Better keep but half the number, feed and house them well in winter, and they will do you more good than the whole under the starving, freezing system, and the capital invested in the other half can be used in a more profitable manner.

To keep a flock of sheep in the summer, from four to five o'clock in the afternoon till eight or nine in the morning, in a small filthy corral, covered with manure in a state of decomposition, giving them but little time to eat except during the heat of the day, when they are tormented by flies and seeking shelter from the scorching sun under every bush and bank. When the storms of fall and winter come, their condition is made still worse, without shelter—in the same filthy pen covered with mud and water—the poor animals stand with their backs humped up, and feet drawn together as if in patient melancholy, surveying the dreary scene around them—determined to stand up as long as nature can endure before laying down in the mud to rest.

Probably the owner of that flock of sheep is equally negligent in taking proper care of his bucks; the ewes drop their lambs in February and March, instead of April and May. They are poor and diseased, without shelter or suitable food for furnishing milk for their young; consequently most of the lambs perish. The sheep, long before shearing time, shed a portion of their imperfect fleeces and, to sum it up, in short, the profits of the flock for the year have been a mere nothing to the owner, or he has sustained actual loss.

Let him who has been so unfortunate as to keep a flock of sheep in this manner during the past year, endeavor to practice the principles of humanity and common sense during the coming year and see if he cannot, at least, double the increase of that same flock in lambs and wool and thereby bless himself and the community.

THE CITY MARKET.—In answer to our inquiries last week, as to the whereabouts of the market, a knowing one informs us that our market is like the god of christendom, whose "center is everywhere and circumference nowhere." We are therefore compelled to reply to those who asked us for information on this subject, that the *precise locality* of the market has not yet been scientifically defined and, with such limitless boundaries, it will at once be seen that it is not the work of a single day, or even a week to determine it. Wherefore, to quiet all unnecessary anxiety in the matter, we will state that, if in the course of the next year, or even the next ten years, we shall be successful in discovering—by the aid of any or all the astronomical appliances of the age, or through the agency of our honorable Mayor, Aldermen and Councilors in City Council assembled—the exact point of latitude, longitude and altitude, on this mundane sphere, occupied by the City Market—we will impart the desired information at the earliest possible moment.

Smut has made its appearance in some sections of California. The use of blue stone, it is stated by some, has been of no avail as a preventive, while other statements attest the benefit of its use. The Red Bluff (Cal.) *Beacon* says that "Those who did not use blue stone at all will have their crops almost ruined, while it has made its appearance in fields on which it had been freely used."

We believe that blue stone well repays the extra expense and labor of using it.

[For the Deseret News.]

A Treatise on the Present State of Horticulture in Utah.

BY E. SAYERS, HORTICULTURIST.
No. 8.

THE HOP GARDEN.—CONTINUED.

HOP PICKING.

This is a merry time in Kent. The old, the young, the rich, the poor, the halt and lame, all "To hopping go."

The hop picking generally commences about the first of September, when the planter assembles his pickers and divides them off in small parties, generally in families; as the hops are picked in large baskets of six bushels each, and the pickers are paid at the end of the season at a price according to the crop of hops.

THE BASKETS

Are all numbered and each little party draws lots for their numbers, the numbers being written on a small piece of paper doubled close and put into the hat of the talisman, who holds up the hat and each party draws their number—the planter's family always reserving the privilege of basket No. 1.

THE TALISMAN AND POLE-PULLER.

Besides the pickers there is the talisman, who is the superintendent; he measures the hops, sees they are well picked and overlooks everything in the garden during the season. To every six or eight baskets there is also a pole-puller or binman, who ties up the horses or cross poles for the pickers, draws the poles, carries them to the pickers and does every thing that is needed to his own bin, as it is called.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE BASKETS.

When everything else is ready, the talisman arranges the baskets between two hills, the rule being always that each basket picks two rows of hops through the garden. This done, the pole-puller draws up a good strong pole, strips it and with the vines ties it at each end to the poles in the hills on each side the basket. This is called the horse. The pole-puller then draws six or eight poles of hops and lays on the horse each side the basket, when all the baskets are loaded, as it is called. The tallyman then, with a voice of authority, calls out aloud, "all to work," and at it they all go to picking the hops—the young women standing up each side the basket—the old men and old women and other small fry sitting on small chairs, stools, etc., picking in small baskets.

PICKING COMMENCED.

The hop picking is now commenced, with the regular hum of the pickers crying out to the pole-pullers, "poles, poles here, No. 6." Mr. Bumble, the tallyman, walking round with his bunch of tallies by his side, stirring up and overhauling the hops in the baskets, exclaims, "I tell you what, Moll, you must not pick so rough."

SONG AND RENEWED LABOR.

Soon resounds in rustic harmonious notes from every part of the garden, the old song,

"To hopping we will go, will go,
And to hopping we will go."

Now begins the strife to see who shall have the first basket of hops to empty. When this is determined, "Tally, Tally!" is called out aloud, and Mr. Bumble repairs to the basket and sees the hops emptied into the green bags for the hop oast.

AT TWELVE O'CLOCK

The tallyman calls out, "all leave off picking." All the hops are now emptied out of the baskets and put into the bags to be carried to the hop oast for drying.

THE TALLYING.

The account of the hops picked at each basket is kept by tallies, which are simply pieces of clean pine about 18 inches long, an inch thick and an inch and a half wide, neatly planed and squared off at the edges, which is cut through the middle lengthwise with a fine saw, 15 inches, taking out the short piece, which exactly fits the tally, as it is called. The tallies are all numbered and the small pieces or tallies are given to the pickers. When a basket is measured, the pickers give the tally to the tallyman, who places it into his tally of the same number and with a file cuts a notch across the two tallies and returns the small one to the pickers. The odd bushels are kept at the end of the tally at noon and night, and when the right number of six is made, they are cut off and put down as a basket. Small holes are made through the large end of the tally and a string is run through each end of the whole. The bunch in regular order is hung around the waist of the tallyman, who swings them with as much air of consequence, as would Mrs. Evergreen, the jolly housekeeper to Mr. Lord Windmere, the keys of the closet.

HOPPING AGAIN.

At 1 o'clock the tallyman calls out aloud, "all to work;" and at it they all go, picking until night, when the same order as at noon is followed by measuring out the hops, etc.

FROLICS OF THE HOP GARDEN.

As I before said, hopping is a merry season; indeed there is nothing I am acquainted with where mirth and good feeling among all classes is so much combined with industry and rural economy as the hopping season of Kent. Here the rich freely associate and mingle with poor the in rural industry, and the poor feel more free from their bondage of poverty than at any other time; indeed the whole community of the neighborhood around the planter is brought together and seems to harmonize into one brotherhood of the humane family.

The demand for laborers in the farming districts of California, the present season, is enormous.

"An Observer" writes us from Provo, Aug. 2, that the gardens generally look well in that vicinity. He gives the following account of a stroll through the grounds of Mr. Daniel Graves, of that city:

"I was highly gratified by seeing the tea plant. The largest, I think, is about two feet high and he says they are now three years old. His cucumber vines are the finest and healthiest I have seen in the valleys. On some of them there are nearly one hundred cucumbers varying from twelve to seventeen inches in length.

MULBERRY, MADDER, GROUND ALMONDS, &c. Of the first mulberry plants I have seen in the valley, he has upwards of two hundred; also a few madder plants. He has the Ground Almond or Chuffa, three new varieties of Cabbages, the Ice Cream Watermelon and various other sorts which he has been careful not to plant close together, thereby preventing them from mixing, so as to keep the seed pure.

TWO CROPS GREEN PEAS THE SAME YEAR.—He received in the spring a small parcel of the Washington Early Peas; planted them 4th of April, gathered 4th of June; replanted the seed from the same on the 25th of June and gathered again on the 24th of July, having raised two crops in the short space of sixteen weeks. Can that be beat? He is saving them all for seed, which will be for distribution at the fair in small packages, so as to give an opportunity for those who wish to obtain so good and early a variety.

Mr. Graves has another excellent variety, called the Australian pea, brought from that country, which he was told to plant in rows two feet apart, the peas one foot apart in the rows, and was informed that they would yield three hundred fold and I really believe they will, for they are very prolific bearers.

HIS FLOWER GARDEN.—Is very tastefully laid out and is adorned with the choicest varieties that I have seen in the mountain valleys.

The Apricot, Apple and about 15,000 Peach trees from seed; also Bent grass seed brought from England, sufficient to sow an acre of land, all look flourishing.

There is promise among us of a limited supply of peaches, apples, &c."

Glad to hear of the prosperity of our friends at Provo. Go on in the good cause and bring into requisition for your mutual comfort those elements which exist around you in inexhaustible profusion—only waiting for the diligent hand of the cultivator, attended with the blessings of a beneficent Providence, to bring them into full fruition for the health and happiness of His creatures.

Tobacco.—Mr. Henry J. White, of Washington, Washington county, writes to us as follows on the cultivation and curing of tobacco:

"Having grown some of the 'weed' here in Washington, and finding that it grows exceedingly fine, I may venture to say it can be produced here as good as that grown in New South Wales or any part of the United States. I make this assertion after several years experience in growing and manufacturing it.

Be careful not to sow your seed on land that has a general superabundance of salt. Prepare your beds by burning brush on them before you dig up the earth, then water them well and when the seed is sown, cover them with boughs or brush and be sure not to suffer the surface to get dry. Sow early in February.

THE CURING OF TOBACCO is more difficult in this climate, as it is apt to dry green. I therefore advise that, when the tobacco is ripe and cut, to lay it down about two or three stalks thick and cover it over with boughs, straw or corn stalks, taking care to turn it daily to prevent its heating. Let this be done until it changes rather yellow, then hang it up in a shed, house or cellar and exclude the air from it during the day. When dry band it up into hanks and before stacked, if it has not previously attained the proper color, boil some of the stems and lightly sprinkle it with the liquid. It ought to be about the color of well-tanned leather.

THE SEED. I recommend the variety introduced here by myself from New South Wales.

The directions given by our correspondent relative to the planting of the tobacco seed are very correct for such southern localities as Washington, Fort Clara, etc.; but, in this region, to plant the seed in the open air early in February would only result in complete failure. Experience in this vicinity has shown conclusively that, to perfectly mature the tobacco, the plants must be raised in hot beds, as early as possible and transplanted when the weather has become settled and warm, in rich, mellow soil. By this mode of treatment we are now able here to exhibit as fine specimens of tobacco, probably, as can be found in any other part of the Territory.

For small patches, transplanting is recommended, as tending to add vigor and health to the plant.

The Corn Crop throughout Utah, so far as we have heard, bids fair for a good yield. The intensely hot weather of the present summer, tho' disastrous, in many localities, to wheat, has been propitious to the corn. At Grantsville, a week or two since, we saw as fine looking corn as we have ever seen in this Territory.

In California there are fair prospects of a heavy corn crop.

Worms are destroying the rose bushes in California.