

Agricultural.

Hints about Work.

Many of the hints given last month are equally applicable to this, especially those that have reference to buildings, dairy matters, haying, etc.

Grain Fields may demand attention early in the month, particularly if many coarse weeds are seen in them. When possible, it will pay to go into the grain and pull, or cut with a spud, such weeds as dock, mustard, charlock, etc. After the grain heads have their development, look out for

Sowing Seed Grain.—Inspect the whole field and pick out those parts which are best; pull the weeds, and inferior stools of grain. If it can be done, a hoe may be used in loosening the surface, and drawing earth up to the plants to some extent. Cut off also inferior heads, so that a very superior stand only is left. Allow these selected portions to become dead ripe, at which time cut with a sickle of very carefully with a cradle, and handle the sheaves so that the grain will not shell out.

Oats, blown down or lodged, from their own weight, should be cut and cured for hay. Wheat and barley may sometimes be treated in the same way, but they fill better than oats, after they lodge, not being so leathery.

Barley.—Cut before fully ripe, and protect from rain in well made stacks. There is a great difference in price between that well and that poorly handled in harvesting, and the gain in the feeding quality of the straw will pay over and above for the labor. Eastern farmers, who raise much grain, ought to have.

Potatoes.—As the early sorts are dug for use, bury the tops, which soon decay and enrich the soil. Late cabbages, turnips, or spinach, may occupy the ground when the potatoes are off.

Rhubarb.—Flowering and seed bearing tend to exhaust the plant, hence the direction to cut off the flower stalks as soon as they shoot up. Now that fruit is abundant the pulling should diminish or cease altogether, and the plants allowed to recuperate by rest. Give a dressing of manure.

Seeds.—It is better to buy seeds than to save poor ones. Many take the first and best products of the garden for the table, and use what is left for seed. Just the reverse of this should be the case. The earliest, best shaped, and finest of everything should be chosen. By pursuing this course the kinds will not only not run out, but improve.

Sweet Potatoes.—Keep the ground of the ridges or hills clean and mellow until the vines cover it.

Tomatos.—The large green "worm" devours the leaves and green fruit. If any droppings are seen, hunt for the worm at once, as in every day of undisturbed foraging it makes wonderful havoc with the plants. If the plants are not trained in any of the several ways we have described, they will fall over with the weight of fruit; in this case place brush or some rude support for the branches to recline upon, and thus keep the fruit clean.

Weds.—Are to be fought all the season. A sharp steel rake, frequently used, will keep them down, and leave the surface open. If a deeper working is desired, use the hoe figured last July. This leaves the soil in splendid condition, and in a dry time it will benefit the plants more than watering.

Corn.—At the last hoeing, turnip seed may be sown, and hoed in.

Potato Ground.—If dug early for market, set cabbages as fast as the ground is cleared.

Cabbages may also follow field peas if the ground is rich, and if not, a fine rich compost may be plowed in.

Corn Fodder.—Corn, sorghum, millet, and Hungarian grass may be sown for sowing, or hay.

Tobacco.—The labor in the tobacco field will be steady and irksome, but a good crop depends upon having every spot in the field occupied by a good plant as early as the first week in July, and then hoeing thoroughly, keeping the ground loose and open, all the weeds down, and the worms picked off.

Grass.—Cut and cure grass whenever it lodges badly, even though the rest of the field cannot be cut. Cut Timothy when just out of blossom, and clover when in full bloom. All grasses should be cut before they are tough and wiry.

Curing Hay.—Stir well as soon as the sun is hot, and when the grass is well wilted and hot, take it into loose windrows; turn these frequently, shaking out wet locks until say 3 o'clock, then cock up and let these lie a day or two if need be, but employ the first convenient sun-shine after the next day to shake the cocks out and warm them through; then get the hay in. This curing in the cock is especially good for clover, but all hay is sweeter for it. It should never get dry and parched. If dried slowly, the juices have a sort of honey-like character, and will neither sour, mould, nor ferment in the mow, nor will the leaves and heads drop off.

Turpines.—Sow Cowhorn, or Purple-top Strapleaf, both good sorts. Sow in drills, except on ground that cannot be plowed, or among other crops. Usually after the 20th is early enough.

Buckwheat must be sowed before the 20th usually; though many take the risk of early frosts, which are fatal to the crop, and delay to the last of the month. The kernels fill better in the cool weather later in autumn, if frosts hold off. 24 to 32 quarts of seed per acre is the usual quantity.

Animals of all kinds require the farmer's attention during this as much as any other month; that is, a lack of needed care is just as injurious. See that all have pure water—if possible, running water—always within reach. Change pastures often enough, so that none shall get very short, and provide extra feed of corn, grass, oats, etc., cut green and wilted before feeding, if there is any failure of pasture. Feed and water working cattle and horses well, regularly, and give regular rest. Take care of harness or yoke galls, bathing with cold water and shifting the harness, padding it, or the yokes of cattle.

Kitchen Garden.—June opens with cold rains, and if these are long continued, many seeds will rot in the ground. Lose no time in replanting. In all profitable gardening the land is kept constantly at work, producing two and sometimes three crops in the year.

Transplanting still needs to be done with late cabbages, etc. It will be successful in the hottest weather, if the holes are watered before putting in the plants, and the plants are properly prepared by grafting, i.e., enveloping their roots in mud.

Favoured places.—May allow the land from which an early crop has been taken to lay idle and run to weeds. This should never occur. Fill up with ruta-bagas, fall spinach, and other leaf crops.

Asparagus.—Now that cutting has ceased, encourage as much growth as possible to repair the loss. A dressing of manure will not come amiss, and weeds should be kept from the bed until the tops shade it. If the leaves of the beetles appear—small, black, leech-like webs—cut all infested branches and burn them.

Beans.—Lima beans are usually allowed to run too high. Most vines will go to the end of their support before they begin to bear, and the Lima bean may be made to fruit earlier by only allowing it to run as high as one can reach. Salted string beans are very good in winter, and a planting made now will give a supply.

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