

Agricultural.

Hints About Work.

At the North we are pretty much out of corn from field work, yet, as the *Agriculturist* goes Southward, it soon comes upon bare fields and soil in which no frost remains long. There spring begins in good earnest a month or six weeks earlier than in our latitude (41 deg.), and "spring plowing," etc., is rather winter work. We adapt these hints to our own latitude, but are apt to anticipate a little, chiefly in order to have plenty ready in case the season is especially early.

Field Work.—Dead furrows in grain fields and furrows plowed for surface draining should be clear, so that the ground will not wash much in thaws. If grain is badly harmed by frost put on an even light dressing of muck or soil or simply roll.

Grass and Clover Seed may be sown if the ground is bare and the frost is out. It is best to be done on a very light snow in the case the surface is not frozen.

Mansure may be hauled out to the distant fields when there is good sledding, but it should only be such as is well composted and which will neither wash nor deteriorate essentially by exposure. It may easily be put in this condition by the use of muck, but very little that is hauled to the field in the winter time is so protected from the action of the weather, and half to two-thirds is wasted.

Buildings.—They may be prepared for any repairs, or for new buildings which may be desired. Stables and cellars should be opened and aired on warm dry days. A little salt sprinkled around posts, which form the foundations of corn cribs and similar structures will prevent their being harmed by frost. This is true of gate posts.

The Wood Lot affords plenty of work in cutting fire wood, getting out framing stuff, cedar, bean poles, staves, such things. Avoid cutting trees that are full of sap at this season, or as soon as the weather is warmer, as the maple, beech, etc.

Secure Seed of each kind of grain it is proposed to sow this spring. If you can do so, select seed grain from a large quantity by repeated winnowings. Send for catalogues of seedmen, study them, and order early. At the same time also

Order Good Farm Hands.—February is usually the time to make the best engagements.

Working Stock, if not employed, should not be fed too much grain, but roots should be in a measure substituted, and if hard worked, feed accordingly.

Horses ought to be kept sharp-caulked, as ice is more dangerous if it exists only in spots than when it covers the ground. Feed four quarts of carrots with a handful of ashes and half as much ginger daily if they get "off their feed" for lack of exercise.

When they are approaching the time when they shed their coats and as they are then liable to take colds, they should be well fed and in good condition.—The tax upon the system in renewing the coat is considerable. Brood mares, with foal, need especial care, lest they slip and fall, or in playing strain themselves, or get kicked.

Merchandise.

with water enough to apply with a brush. If there is much loose bark, or a great accumulation of moss, a blunt scraper may be used. Every cluster of *Caterpillar's Eggs* removed now is clear gain.

Cions are to be cut on mild days, and kept in sawdust or moss until wanted. Earth or sand will keep them as well, but they are less pleasant to use than when preserved in moss or sawdust. Cions are readily sent by mail; tie them in a bundle, wrap in oiled silk, and over all put a stout brown paper, and tie securely. Mark "cuttings only," and put no writing in the package. Postage is 2 cents for 4 oz.

Grafting should be deferred until the buds of the stock begin to swell—which they will do this month in some parts of the South. Root grafting ought to be finished up, and the grafted roots ready to set out.

Nursery trees will be received by some of our southern readers, and if long on the way may have suffered from drying, or they may be frozen. Completely bury all dried or shriveled trees, and if not too far gone they will become plump in a few days.—Any packages, the contents of which are likely to be frozen when they are received, should be allowed to thaw gradually in a cool place before opening.

Manure may be spread in the orchard wherever the ground is not frozen. **Manure** may be spread in the orchard wherever the ground is not frozen.

FRUIT GARDEN.—Continue to exercise oversight, and see that no injury comes to trees and plants by animals. **Grape Vines** were not pruned in autumn, take advantage of the first thaw and do this month.

Currents may also be pruned, and the cuttings buried until the weather allows of their being set.

KITCHEN GARDEN.—As there is but little to be done here, in northern localities, our notes for January are equally good now.

Manure, whether for garden use or for hot-beds, should be accumulated. When the heap becomes hot it should be turned to avoid injury.

Hot-beds are to be made at the South, and at the North, if very early plants are wanted. Prepare *Straw-covers,* or straw mats; the last are made by stretching a warp of five tarred stricks, the width of the sash and a foot longer, then laying on handfuls of straw, each of which is to be bound to the warp by a small string.

Cold Frames need more close attention as the weather gets milder. Open them whenever the weather is not severe, and harden off the cabbage and other plants to fit them for early transplanting.

Root crops still in the ground, such as horse-radish, parsnips and salsify are to be dug and marketed whenever the ground is sufficiently thawed.

Onions, if frozen, should be kept so by a covering of hay to prevent alternate freezing and thawing.

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