

The Bloomfield Times.

HOUSE, FARM AND GARDEN.

We invite communications from all persons who are interested in matters properly belonging to this department.

Fall Plowing for Oats.

Fall plowing for oats is most essential. There is no grain, probably, so much affected by being sown on land turned in the fall, and left exposed to the action of frost, as this. They require early sowing, and by plowing in the fall this can be accomplished much sooner in the spring, than when left unplowed until seeding time. Our heavy, hill lands dry out much quicker, if this plan is followed. A few years ago we began plowing for that fall, when we had only about one-third of the piece done. In the spring we commenced where we had left off, and finished the piece. The whole was harrowed once, with a sharp-toothed harrow, before sowing and twice after sowing. Mark the result: The crop on the whole field was very abundant, yet that in the center, or on just so much as we had turned in the spring, acted nearly as well filled. We believe that we would lose nothing by plowing in fall, and crossing in spring. At least a shovel-toothed cultivator should be applied before seeding. The seed-bed must be light and mellow, if we expect full remuneration for our labor. What grain we raise, we must study the peculiarities of that particular grain, in order to be successful in its production. A neighbor has always calculated, every spring, to sow a certain number of acres, at all events, as a consequence, his farm is completely worn out.—Rural New Yorker.

Old Wagons.

As a general thing, a new wagon is very much preferred to an old one. A very old one is sometimes during the first year after its purchase a great deal more expensive than a new one. Better pay \$85 for a new one which will run five or ten years, without costing a cent for repairs, than to pay \$40 for an old one which it will take ten dollars a year, and cause a great amount of inconvenience, and the loss of much valuable time to keep in order; and which by the time the new one would need its first and inexpensive repairs, will be utterly worn out and useless. Better run in debt a little for a new one than to buy such an old one as that. Indeed, very old wagons are generally expensive property. No reliance can be placed upon them. They break down when mostly needed for use, and it is an almost constant expense to keep them going at all. I lived in the house with a man who repairs farm wagons, and I must say, that it is astonishing how often they break-down. When one part is mended so as to be strong and durable, something else is sure to give way. I have sometimes thought that before I would pay out as much as some men do in the fruitless effort to keep old wagons in repair, I would make them into fire-wood, and either hire or buy something which would prove more substantial.

Wayne county, N. Y., produces about two-thirds of the peppermint crop of the country. It is grown on black ash swamps which have been thoroughly underdrained, from roots, which are planted as hops are. When cut, it is partially dried taken to a still, where the oil is extracted. The oil sells from \$2.50 to \$5 per pound and when it brings \$3 the crop is a paying one. About 70,000 pounds are used annually in preparing medicines, manufacturing candies, and making cordials.

The farmers in Switzerland consider liquid manure as the most efficacious of any, and hence after the manure is fermented they dilute it in water, and the liquid alone is carried to the field, and scattered over it. The earth immediately imbibes the liquid, which soon reaches the roots of the plants and cause a rapid vegetation. The straw that remains after the manure has been washed is applied as manure for potatoes.

An excellent cement for foot-walks may be made by mixing enough of Portland cement or good hydraulic lime in a warm solution of glue to make a thick paste. The mixture must be applied when it is warm. Walks made of it are very durable, and keep in good condition under exposure to great changes of temperature. This cement is useful also for uniting portions of fountains, etc.

When bad, rainy weather comes so you can't work out of doors, cut, split and haul your wood, make your racks, fix your fences or gate, and patch the roof of your barn or house, is the comic advice given by a cotemporary.

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