

THE
WISCONSIN FARMER,
AND
NORTH-WESTERN CULTIVATOR;

DEVOTED TO
AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, THE MECHANIC ARTS, AND RURAL ECONOMY.

Embellished and Illustrated with Numerous Engravings.

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J. W. HOYT, : : : : : : : : : : EDITOR.

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Work for May.

May is the month of sunshine, of green grass and springing flowers—the poet's month. But it is also the farmer's month—the season of labor. If its days are not filled full of the work of preparation—of plowing, seed-sowing and planting, but little may be expected in the golden autumn but bitter disappointment.

The preparation of the soil for crops of every kind should be thorough; no work on the farm pays so good an interest in the investment. A third more labor expended in plowing, harrowing and rolling, will often double the yield of the crop.

Manures—Don't be sparing of them in garden or field. Let some of the precious foods they offer to the plant vanish in them and escape to neighboring fields—that is unless you exceed the measure of Scripture benevolence and love your brother farmers better than yourselves.

Corn has proven a good crop, better than all wheat. Don't fail to give it its just proportion of area and labor. In many localities the Dent succeeds perfectly; others, the Webster, King Philip and kindred varieties do better. Read article in last number in relation to hastening germination and preventing destruction of the seed by gophers. All things considered, check-rowing or planting in hills is better than drilling. It allows the sun to do its work more effectually and admits of more thorough cultivation, without which it would be better not to plant at all.

Give the potato crop your waste ashes. It will pay you well for the trouble. Our experience favors the use of the best for seed—but

little difference whether whole or cut. Plant in drills so as to dig with potato digger. The Carter, the Pinkeye and the Meshannock are favorite varieties. The Prince Albert ranks No. 1, wherever known, and is sure of a wide popularity, when more generally introduced.

Beans will be in great demand, at least so long as the war lasts. Brain-recruiting and muscle-forming are superior diet for persons whose nervous force is subject to severe tax. They can be grown on a poor quality of land and pay well.

Horses.—It is inevitable that they should be in greater demand than for years before the war. Immense numbers will be killed, crippled and used up, while the uses to which they have been accustomed to be put will be, in no respect, diminished. It would be well to breed extensively—and from horses of the best blood. The policy which prompts so many of our farmers to employ cheap “stock horses” is of the same class with that which would recommend an inferior quality of seed because of a less price. It costs no more to raise a fine animal than a mean and worthless scrub.

Other stock.—The same course of reasoning is applicable to stock of all other kinds. Now is the time to think of it, and now is the time to act upon our suggestions.

Trees—Evergreen, Fruit and Shade—Now is the time to plant them. Don't omit it. Secure the best and plant in the best manner.

The Garden.—Who is not fond of the vegetables and fruits which are properly grown in the garden—the lettuce, the radishes, fresh and earthy, the asparagus, the spinach, the beets and onions, the summer squashes, cucumbers and melons, the early green peas, potatoes and

allow of cultivation between the rows during growth. The plan of double rows, 9 or 10 inches apart, with an interval of 18 or 20 inches between them, is advisable because of the greater facility for cleaning the land, and the greater support which the peas gain from the neighboring row. Three bushels of seed to the acre is the usual quantity sown.

"GRASS AND CLOVER SEEDS.—These seeds are small in size, and proportionately weak in their powers of growth; for which reason they require the greater care to secure their healthy germination. A depth and condition of soil which may be suitable for larger and more vigorous seeds is really destructive to their growth. Experiments prove that seeds of this class should be laid as near the surface as possible, so that the covering of the soil shall be of the thinnest character. A slight covering, however, is desirable for the purpose of retaining moisture; for seed placed upon the surface is naturally subject to the drying influence of the air, which, after germination has commenced, may so check the growth as to prove destructive to its existence."

Sugar from the African Imphee.

PROF. HOYT,—*Dear Sir*:—Seeing in your valuable paper a kind of general invitation to tillers of the soil to communicate their experience for the benefit of the public when it possessed any of the requisites for so doing, and believing in the principle, I enclose a few hasty remarks on my experience and views of cane culture. I have raised crops of cane for five consecutive years, and after succeeding beyond my most sanguine expectations, I fully believe, that with proper information, the general cultivation of cane may be carried on as safely as any of our now staple crops, subject of course, like wheat and all others to partial failures in unfavorable seasons.

If every one who has succeeded to any considerable extent, would freely communicate, through some generally available medium, to the public his experience, such information would soon be obtained by all so disposed. I may, perchance, have discovered something that others have not happened to, and others again something that all, except the discoverers, remain in ignorance of, and although each and every one embarked in the investigation might ultimately attain the highest perfection, yet how much toil and perplexity, as well as

time, might be saved by a free interchange of experience. I realize this by my own experience—by the days and weeks of untiring effort to succeed in some point that five words from one who had learned it before, could have saved and made the problem as easy as Columbus making the egg stand on end.

I believe our syrups and sugars can be produced at home, of good quality, and hundreds of thousands of dollars saved by so doing, saying nothing of the extra comfort, and the ladies thousand sweeter smiles occasioned by the plentiful supply; and also that it can be manufactured without any expensive machinery, bringing it within the reach of all of common means and capacity.

This I regard as a very important feature; anything like an ordinary sugar refinery involves so much expense as to be useless to the masses. So far as we can to advantage, we should produce all articles of common necessity, and especially at this time, which will probably try men's purses as well as "souls." By making the production of cereals for export our main business, we are by degrees exhausting our rich soil, and in some degree overstocking the markets, thereby depressing prices.—By cultivating cane, or any new crop we can produce to advantage, the direct tendency would be, by pressing a smaller quantity on the market, to advance the prices. Perhaps if only half the wheat and pork had been produced in the Northern States, the past year, it would have sold for about the same amount; and if so, and the labor of producing the other half had been expended in producing something else of equal value, what an immense amount would have been gained. At this critical period we more than ever need to know and avail ourselves of all our resources to be, as far as God and nature vouchsafe the means, Independent.

Having been a citizen of Wisconsin for 26 years, hoping it to be my home for life and the repository of my ashes after death, I feel an interest, and, still further, a pride in seeing the State A No. 1, in every useful and honorable

branch of business that nature has fitted her for.

The past season I have made sugar that would compare, for color and flavor, favorably with the best qualities of New Orleans sugars. Every one who has tried it knows that syrup capable of producing good sugar, without any refining, is of good quality, and when we make the syrup right, it will form sugar itself, as it often does in considerable quantities in Southern syrups. I know, by sad experience, the effect of publishing some person's theory of cane culture; all plausible and honest, and undoubtedly designed for the public good, but unfortunately not proved; and when you had eagerly swallowed it all and prepared every thing according to rule, and every thing was ready for the production of the beautiful sugar, the fondly cherished hopes must be dashed to the ground with what ought to have been nice sugar, but was not and could not be hired, driven, or coaxed to be. That was all the difference, and the deluded operator voted unanimously that cane culture was a humbug. I have been there, and seen the tarry black mass containing the last quivering, flickering hope, poured on the ground with unmistakable unction. Such was too much the character of the earliest information.

We want to know what a person has done and what were the results. I read in your March No. a communication from Mr. Plumb, on the subject, which I fully endorse, so far as I have tried. I scald my cane seed before planting, but have not tried coating with flour, &c. For the success of cane culture, we want first to find the particular species best adapted to our soil and climate, and I doubt not hundreds have been deterred from success by sending away for seed and happening to obtain some kind not adapted to their locality. The early kinds of African Imphee have succeeded the best and surest with me; in fact, I may call it as complete a success as any kind of crop. I have cultivated several varieties, and presume there are many more that I have not been able to obtain, some perhaps considerably superior to any I have raised. Free inter-

change of views and comparing notes, may inform all as well as the successful cultivator which are the most profitable kinds for our State.

I will enclose a sample of the best sugar I have now on hand, but not by any means the best I made. This was made from syrup poured by mistake into a sour cask, thereby almost ruining it for graining; still by working it up fine with a knife blade you can form a good idea of what it would have been with a free, firm grain and dry, which of course would make it much whiter. The same syrup that was not put into sour casks produced sugar full forty per cent. better, but I have none of it now. This sample, when it reaches you, will become so compact you will need to work it up well with a knife blade to see what it ought to be.

Accept my thanks for the FARMER if I did wait till the second year after subscribing before receiving it. CYRUS CLARK.

Moscow, Iowa Co., Wis., March 26, 1862.

[The specimen of sugar sent by our correspondent was of a bright color. Although it was compacted into a mass, it was easily worked with a knife, producing a very light colored grain of a quality equal to the best refined cane sugars. With such results as Mr. Clark exhibits, we feel sanguine that the raising of sugar in this latitude will become a fixed fact. Will Mr. Clark give us his experience in the matter?—ED. FARMER.]

Receipt for Curing Meat.

The *German Town Telegraph* gives the following receipt for curing meat, and says that "after using it for about twenty years, and comparing the hams so cured with others cured by a dozen different processes, we are more than ever convinced of its superiority." It is this:

"To one gallon of water take 1½ lbs. of salt, ½ lb. of sugar, ½ oz. of saltpetre, and ¼ oz. of potash. In this ratio, the pickle to be increased to any quantity desired. Let these be boiled together, until all the dirt from the sugar rises to the top and is skimmed off. Then throw it into a tub to cool, and when cold, pour it over your beef or pork, to remain the usual time,