

THE FARM AND HOME.

CARROTS DESERVE MORE ATTENTION THAN THEY GET.

Feeding Value of the Roots—Filling the Silo—Four Grades of Hay—Scamps—Poultry Pickling and Home Hints.

The Carrot Crop.

This crop does not receive that amount of attention which we think it ought to, says the Farmer and Stock Breeder. Rich, deep soil suits it best, no doubt as it does most farm crops, but it is by no means a very gross feeder or fastidious with regard to soil. We have seen excellent crops of the White Belgian variety on 7 or 8 in. of soil resting on a substratum of gravel. Every farm ought to have its 1/4, 1/2, or 1 acre plot of carrots, according to the size of the farm. They require the same cultivation as mangels, sown at the same time, and about the same quantity of seed, viz., 6 lb. per acre. In other respects they differ, however. The rows should not be more than 18 in. apart, and the plants in the row when singled out from 4 in. to 6 in.

To get the young plants fit for thinning out before they are overtaken with weeds it is essential that the seed should be almost sprouted before sowing. This is easily accomplished by moistening the seed, spreading it on a dry floor, and turning it daily for a week. If mixed with some screened ashes or fine sand so much the better. We have found the White Belgian the heaviest cropper. It grows pretty well above ground, and the bulbs are generally pretty uniform. With good cultivation and liberal treatment there should be no difficulty in growing 18 tons an acre. We have seen considerably more than this. We advocate the growth of a small area of this important root, not so much on account of its feeding properties, though in this it will stand a favorable comparison with swedes, as will be seen from the following analysis:

	Swedes.	Carrots.
Water.....	87.46	87.50
Albuminoids.....	1.45	1.20
Fat.....	0.20	0.20
Sugar.....	4.60	6.90
Carbo-hydrate.....	2.53	2.08
Insoluble cellulose.....	1.12	1.10
Ash.....	0.62	1.03

For horses they have wholesome medicinal properties, when fed with discretion, and would enable the farmer to reduce his farrier's bill in many instances. They are also indispensable in the feeding of dairy cows where a particularly delicate flavor in the butter is the chief desideratum.

Another point in their favor is that they are not quite so liable to the ravages of insect pests as turnips. Their chief enemy is the carrot louse, which attacks the crown of the plant in the earlier stages of its growth.

When fit to store they should be put into clumps in a dry place, after the manner of potatoes, with difference that the carrots should be placed with the crowns outward, and, if possible, mixed with a little sand. The clumps should not exceed five feet wide at bottom. Storing should not be delayed after the middle of October.

Filling the Silo.

The value of silo goes without question now in progressive dairy regions. The best method of constructing it is practically settled also—build out of wood instead of stone. Wood, being porous and a poor conductor of heat, is far more desirable for the silo. The silo should be built of wood and then painted thoroughly with waterproof paint, making every crack and crevice thoroughly tight.

The farmer has his choice between two kinds of walls—the double-walled wooden structure, with tarred paper between or the single wooden walls

lined inside with matched flooring and covering over carefully with paint. Either one of these answers better than the lathed and plastered silo, which was so universally received a few years ago as the highest perfection of wooden silo walls.

Such a silo built early in the year will be ready for the corn by the time the crop has properly matured, but one must plant for the silo, and not trust to field corn to answer the purpose. One variety of corn cannot be recommended generally, for nearly every locality requires a different kind. Generally one can select the largest variety that grows in his section, for the silo requires corn that will make a heavy growth, and gives a great yield of ears and fodder. Such corn is the ideal one for this work. The biggest crop to the acre is the best for generally such corn will keep as well as the small crops.

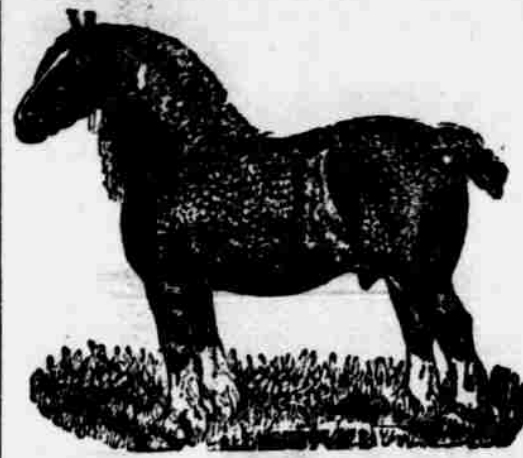
After the proper selection of the variety the corn should be drilled in the field in rows from three to four feet apart, according to its size and yield. Some of the smaller varieties can be planted as close as the minimum distance, while the very large-stalked kinds will need the maximum distance between the rows. In drilling it one kernel should be dropped from seven to nine inches apart in rows, according to the kind.

The cultivation of the silage corn will always produce better results when it is attended to quite frequently during the growing season. It should be surface cultivation however, rarely extending down more than an inch or two. The weeder should also be put to work, and after this has torn up the weeds a crop of clover can be spread between the rows. This will save a year in the rotation, and not injure the growth of the corn. The clover will not grow much during the growth of the corn, but when it is harvested for the silo, the clover will spring up rapidly, covering the whole ground in a short time.

In this way there is no loss in growing the silage on the field, for the land would have to be cultivated for the clover crop if not for the corn. The corn is gathered early in the season, long before the field crops are, and this still leaves a considerable period for the clover crop to grow before cold weather. In one season the amount of corn and clover taken from an acre will be great, and the clover will add to the soil almost as much nitrogenous matter as the corn takes from it.—American Cultivator.

Four Grades of Hay.

A correspondent of the O. J. Farmer says there are four grades of Hay: First, the which is pea green in color, cut before the grass ripens and after the dew has gone off in the morning, allowed to wilt, cocked and covered with caps, let stand two or three days, then spread out so the air may circulate freely, after that, hauled to the barn before night, that no dew should touch it. Such hay will remain green and will be most readily eaten by all kinds of stock. It is cured as nearly as possible in shade, hence its great feeding value and good color. Second, that cut like above but allowed to cure in the sun. It is good hay but not so good as the first described. Third, that cut as above but which has been exposed to dews, rains, etc. This is much reduced in both feeding value and appearance. Fourth, the hay which was allowed to get well ripened before the cutting. The vitality, or that which gives it value as a forage plant, is concentrated in the seed, thus making the stalks of little value as fodder. The best time in my opinion, to cut hay, is when it has completed its growth but before it begins to change color. If cured like that first described and kept from light and rain, it will remain bright green.



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