

Agricultural.

DURATION OF GRAPE VINES.

By a notice somewhere lately, we saw it stated that a crop of grapes in vineyards cannot be depended on longer than four seasons, thus forming a serious drawback to their culture. If this is so there can be but little doubt it is owing to the severe pruning they receive, to keep them within the prescribed bounds of the vine dresser. As is well known, our native grapes are very luxuriant growers, and to confine their growth to two or three sticks a few feet high is enough to cause any sensible grape to rebel.

One thing is quite certain, no such short-lived fruitfulness is observable in the grape when grown on trellises or "racks" used so frequently east, nor when they have the side of a large building to ramble on. Here they can often be met with many years old, bearing heavy crops of grapes every year.

Cannot a hint be taken from this to construct the supports for vineyard culture, that new space may be given a vine each year, or as its growth seems to require it. This we are confident would help the vines retain their vigor for a number of years.

To grow in this style would require much fewer plants, although at first it might not be amiss to plant moderately thick, cropping those heavy, it might be desirable to take out altogether as the permanent ones might require the room. Always remembering that to over-fruit the permanent ones might defeat the ultimate object, as there can be but little doubt vines are often much injured by early over-bearing.—*Cor. Prairie Farmer.*

SMUT IN WHEAT.

We recently met Mr. C. W. Hollowell, an old subscriber in Pasquotank Co. N. C. who, like many thousands of others, has been separated from us by the war. Among other items he informs us that the "smut" has been greatly detrimental to the wheat crop throughout the State. Three years ago he sowed 120 acres of wheat, as follows: The seed for 40 acres was soaked over night in strong old brine from pork, and then thoroughly mixed with lime by shoveling it over the barn floor. No smut was found in the crop. For the second 40 acres, the treatment was the same as the above, except that the brine was reduced by adding an equal amount of water. This crop contained some smut. For the third 40 acres, the seed was wet with water only, but well coated with lime. The crop was full of smut. These experiments seem to prove that lime was the curative agent. An effectual remedy has been found in blue vitriol (sulphate of copper). For each 10 bushels of seed wheat, 1 pound of the vitriol dissolved in water enough just to cover the wheat. The vitriol dissolves quickly in hot water, but cold water may be used by giving more time and stirring it occasionally. Experiments show no difference in the effects when the seed is simply wet and then sown, or when it is suffered to lie in a heap and soak for 8 or 10 hours. Mr. Hollowell says that during the war little blue vitriol could be got, and that it sometimes cost several dollars a pound; and that those who obtained it had so good wheat that they could readily sell it at a high price for seed, so prevalent was the smut. His soil is a sandy loam alluvial.—*Agriculturist.*

WHEN TO DIG POTATOES.—A gentleman now a distinguished merchant of Boston, was one day planting potatoes on his farm, a dry old fellow stopped to watch the operation. The merchant, more enthusiastic than skillful in his farming, was dropping five potatoes in each hill. "Ah! planting potatoes, squire," remarked Uncle Jerry. "Yes," replied the merchant, "and if the rot does not take them I expect to have a good crop. What time do you think is best to dig potatoes, Uncle Jerry?" "The old fellow looked into a hill, and replied: "Dig 'em now—you'll never get a bigger crop!"

FROM CHINA.—A dispatch to the morning papers, from Washington says: "Commissioner Newton has received from his special agent in China a large and valuable collection of seeds, with specimens of sorgho sugar and molasses, fibre textures, and paper made from straw, bamboo, mulberry wood and other substances; also a large collection of the insects of China, exquisitely preserved and arranged, including butterflies of silk worm. This will be a valuable addition to the museum of the agricultural department."

Common cut nails are easily driven into hard wood if rubbed with a little soft-soap; the saliva is better than lathering for that purpose.

Windows are kept free from ice by painting the glass with alcohol with a brush or sponge.

STATEMENT OF THE FIRE AND TORNADO Insurance Company, or FREEPORT, ILLINOIS.

We, Thomas J. Turner, President, and D. W. C. Turner, Secretary, of the Fire and Tornado Insurance Company, of Freeport, Illinois, hereby certify that said Company is possessed of a capital of at least one hundred thousand dollars, secured by first mortgage on real estate worth at least five times the amount of said capital, and in addition to more than one fourth of said capital.

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY.
To expire on the 31st of January, 1866.
Insurance Department, Office of the Auditor, St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 17th, 1865.
Whereas, T. J. Turner, Esq., Assistant General Agent of the Fire and Tornado Insurance Company, located at Freeport, in the State of Illinois, has in this office a certified copy of the Act of Incorporation of said Company, together with a written statement under the seal of said Company, certifying that said Company is possessed of a capital of at least one hundred thousand dollars, secured by first mortgage on real estate worth at least five times the amount of said capital, and not encumbered to more than one-fourth of said capital value, in compliance with the requirements of the fourth section of a law of the Territory of New Mexico, entitled "An Act in relation to Insurance Companies," approved February 15th, 1864.

Therefore, Be it known that in pursuance of the aforesaid Act, I, William E. Harvey, Auditor of the Territory of Nebraska, do hereby certify that said Fire and Tornado Insurance Company has full authority to transact business of Insurance in the Territory of Nebraska, under the Laws of this Territory, until the 31st day of January, A. D. 1866.

In witness whereof, I have subscribed my name and affixed the seal of the Auditor's Office, at Omaha, this 17th day of October, A. D. 1865.

W. E. HARVEY, Territorial Auditor.

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