

Miscellaneous.

THE CULTURE AND MANAGEMENT OF TOBACCO.

BY SAMUEL C. SHELTON, TREASURER, VA.

Tobacco has for some years past attracted the attention of a large portion of the agricultural community of this State and the Southern States...

THE KINDS OF TOBACCO.

We have no hesitation in asserting that there is a very great difference in crops managed in the same way, arising from the different kinds of tobacco planted.

The two kinds most used in this section are the broad and narrow leaf Orinoco. The latter, though rather an uncertain crop, owing to its liability to spot, is by far the finest tobacco, and will ripen at least two weeks sooner than any other article grown in this section.

The broad leaf is very desirable for wrapping, and when not too large, will make a very pretty article; but its texture is decidedly coarser than the other, even on the same land. The leaf is thinner, the veins coarser, and it is to a certain degree lacking of that oily richness which the narrow leaf possesses.

The earliest and most promising plants should be turned out for seed. These should be pruned of everything except the large leaves, and only the two topmost branches left to bloom.

The plant should be carefully suckered as the rest of the tobacco, and about the first of October every pod not thoroughly ripe should be picked off and the seed cut off and put in a dry place to cure.

SELECTION AND PREPARATION OF PLANT. We prefer a gentle slope, with a southern or southeastern exposure, a rich, gray soil, remote from any field or other opening if it is possible.

Avoid land that is too wet, for on it your plants, though they may eventually come, will very generally be too tall. On a hill-side damp enough, if it is in the wets, the plants will be at least three weeks earlier.

After a piece of land has been found, let a dry time from the first of December to the first of February—the sooner the better—and after raking off the leaves lay down a bed of three inches in depth.

After the land has been well burnt, it should be allowed to lay until the first or second week in February, so that the rats and frosts may have the effect of pulverizing the soil as much as possible.

We have seen the most carefully prepared beds without burning, by the side of well-burnt beds, and receiving double the attention of the other, prove worthless, while the burnt beds were good.

We think that, for every ten thousand hills to be planted, there ought to be at least ten yards square of plant-land. A bed ten yards square will plant more than ten thousand, if it is good, but it is much better to have some for your neighbor than to be under the necessity of begging plants.

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We think a large table-spoonful of seed to the ten yards square is fully enough. The seed should be carefully mixed with fine sifted ashes, about half the seed sown over one way, and the other half sown by walking across the first sowing.

After the seeds are sown, the land should be lightly raked and rolled or trampled until it is smooth—and now is the time to manure.

Along in the fall there should be some stalls in the stable close to the field, and the horses kept in them should be fed on corn and fodder, and no litter of any kind be put in.

It should then be clipped and sprinkled with fine manure. The manure should not be sown until it is well rotted, and the spring is very dry, and then a light top-dressing once a week would be beneficial.

As to the use of guano on plant-beds, we are not prepared to recommend it as highly as stable manure. It has been used for us as well, and we see no use in trying it, when we can easily get a better article out of our stables.

By the middle of September, if your crop has been planted early, it will be fit for cutting. Never cut immediately after a rain, if you can possibly help it.

When all the tobacco near the spot is set up in this way, have the stack covered with bushes, so that the sun cannot burn the outside, and as soon as it is packed up have it hauled to the barn-door and sealed.

When the weather is favorable for yellowing on the scaffold, it will generally take from three to five days, according to the color of the plant on the hill.

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On the 20th of June, it ought to be "plunged" by the first of August. Plunging is a smooth new land once (at the last working) of a series, built if it is rough and stumpy, keeps a plough out of it altogether.

Old land should be planted as early as the 20th of May, if possible. It requires more work than new land. As soon as the plant roots sufficient hold, it should be ploughed and worked with hoes, and should never be allowed to remain more than two weeks without working until it gets in the top, and the work every time should be well done.

This should begin as soon as there is a sufficiency of plants large enough to make a respectable topping. An early crop large plants may be topped to ten and twelve leaves, from about the 20th of July to the 1st of August; but after that time an plant should be topped more than eight leaves, to make fine tobacco.

The leaves will never ripen with the top ones. In many sections of the State the very mistake is made, probably that yellow tobacco is necessarily fine. It is known to all good tobacco makers, that a half-ripe plant is an early cured yellow, as a fully ripe one, and it is also known that it is the means of obtaining tobacco that ever was made.

Tobacco topped to just so many leaves as each leaf may grow fully ripe, and when cured, of a rich yellow color, possesses bristly, sweetness, and flavor. It will please the sight, smell, and best of all, it will give entire satisfaction to the chewer. It is also a very mistake to think that fine tobacco can be made on rich bottom land by topping high.

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If the tobacco is to be yellowed in the house, it will be best to build a small fire in the house one day, so as to create about sunset heat, and never more until just before it is to be cut.

It is well managed. This will insure a crop of about 2000 pounds in the land, which, with a moderate crop of other things, is very good work.

We believe in small barns for any kind of curing. A house built 10 feet inside and outside four feet, and six feet high in the body, is the preferable size for any kind of curing.

The door should be always between the fire and the end of the house, to prevent the drip from falling before the door and the eyes of the flies.

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RESOLUTIONS OF WILLIAM WIRT.

The distinguished William Wirt, within six or seven months after his first marriage, became addicted to intemperance, the effect of which operated strongly on the mind and health of his wife, and in a few months more she was numbered with the dead.

We have said all that time, and space will allow. We hope it may be of benefit to some, and if the price be not awarded to it, we hope, at least, we have lost nothing by writing it.

From the Rural New Yorker. PNEUMONIA IN CATTLE—REMEDY. Hon. D. D. T. MOORE. In an article in your valuable paper, I noticed under the caption of "Cattle Disease in Virginia," a request that those of your readers who were posted, etc., would confer a favor by letting their light shine through the medium of the Rural. Hence this brief article.

About eight years since we had in our county a few herds affected by a disease called "Pneumonia," from which quite a number died. In the month of January I purchased a new milch cow, in high condition, and had her driven in a very cold day thirty miles to my barn, soon after dropping her calf.

A burn of this size will cure 800 sticks of common-size tobacco, which will weigh about 1200 lbs. The proper construction of flues is of great importance; they should be built of any stone that will stand fire without bursting—white sandstone, bastard sandstone, or any other that does not contain lime. The size of the flue, for a sixteen-foot barn, is generally about 12 inches wide by 14 inches inside.

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