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Antislavery.

From The County Gentleman.

Antislavery Forum.

Editor's Country Gentleman. — Seeing in your paper for the month of April, a line of growing sweet potatoes, I send you mine, which has proved very successful when strictly adhered to, and has done well with others as well as myself.

Preparation of Plants.

Take large measure the first week in April and throw it up in a square pile; and let it rest about one week; then turn the pile outside in and let it stand another week; it is then ready to go into the bed. The mature should be fresh and moderately fine when thrown up. Make the bed about 18 inches deep at the lower side and two feet at the upper. An acre of ground takes one barrel of seed, which will take five sashes, three feet by six feet, or a bed six by fifteen feet to sprout them. The manure in the bed should be fifteen inches deep, well beaten with the fork but not trampled, and two inches of earth put on before the potatoe go in; half a bushel of potatoes to the acre. The potatoe is large, always split and spread, vary thin to make strong plants. Cover them one inch deep at first, and when they begin to come up put on one inch more, making two inches in all. I have taken that the measure is well burned before it is put in the bed, so that the heat will be mild, there is no danger of rotting. The potatoe always rot when there is much heat, or no heat at all. Keep the bed moist, but not muddy or wet. Keep the earth on, only in cold or wet weather.

Cultivation.

Many readers who in flower-loving yet hating way, are trying to cultivate house plants this winter. Will thank us for these plain hints about their best culture. We condense from an article by E. L. Hand, Jr., in the Journal of Horticulture.

Dust often clogs the leaves and impairs their vital functions. The pot should therefore be laid on its side in a sink about once a week and both sides of the leaves sponged and syringed. They can be showered with a small water-pot or those with glossy foliage sponged with a bit of flannel. The water should be about the temperature of the room and rain water is much the better.

If plants are very dirty, they may be sponged with luke-warm water. Good garden loam is the best soil for almost all plants. In the bottom of every pot should be an inch of broken stone, charcoal or something of the sort for drainage. In watering, saturate all the earth fully, but do not let the water stand in the plates under the pots. To most other plants that is lingering death. The easiest way of keeping parlor plants to secure this end is to keep them on a hollow table lined with zinc. If that is impracticable, empty the saucers after watering. The room needs thorough ventilation daily.

"Like men they should not be roasted in hot air or poisoned in impure. They do better in rooms not lighted by gas, as it is always escaping more or less, and is injurious. Furnace heat is hurtful if too dry. In such cases evaporate water plentifully.

I blow the ground season in the spring as I can get it dry enough; then put on a heavy coat of manure, which is moderately fine and spread evenly. Just before I want to plant, which is about the 20th of May, I cross plow it and harrow very fine; then take a shovel-plow and mark the ground three foot both ways, straight and true, which makes the hills about three feet square. I make the hills about a foot high and run to a point; put one plant in a hill. When the weeds begin to grow, which is about the middle of June, I run the shovel-plow through both ways. The plow is broad at the point and quite large. It cleans the middle between the rows and the bottom of the hill thoroughly; I then follow with the hoe and scrape off the remainder of the hill clean. In about three days I run the same plow through both ways as before, follow after with the hoe and hoe the hill up smooth. The plants by this time have started six or eight inches; in about two weeks or the first week of July the vines begin to cover the hill; I then go along with the hoe and lift the vines with the hand, clean off all the weeds that may show themselves, and leave the hill and vine clean and smooth. In about two weeks or August 1st, I go through again and pull the vines loose and turn them upside down, which prevents their taking root again. It is well done and all the weeds that show themselves are pulled out, they will want nothing more until digging time.

Market Gardener.

Tea Culture.

The New York Tribune, in a suggestive article on American Tea Culture, gives expression to the following remarks:

"We ought to grow tea. It is an agricultural product, of a climate like a wild bolt of our country; and we already know that it will flourish on our soil. Why should we persist in going around the world for what might be grown at our own doors? The Chinese take very little of us, but all and gold, and there we cannot produce fast as we need them to redress the balance of trade, otherwise heavily against us. It is not probable that the Chinese or Japanese tea-growers receive one-fourth the price that our tea-drinkers pay for it; hence let us grow for ourselves and labor will then receive seven or even more than twenty-five per cent. of the cost of its product to the consumer. Doubtless there will be difficulties to overcome at the outset; but patience and experience will soon overbear them."

Few persons are probably aware that the climate of several of the Southern States has proved its fitness for maturing the tea plant. A South Carolinian, named Smith, once raised a large quantity of tea shrubs, and, if the enterprise of his neighbors had not sunk so low an ebb under the paralyzing force of cotton-growing and slave labor, his project would not have been allowed to perish at his death. But it is not in South Carolina that the tea plant will flourish alone. There is little doubt, we are told, that the tea plant will flourish in many of the Southern States. The New York Sun says:

"The tea plant is in successful cultivation some ten miles from Knoxville, on the farm of Capt. James Campbell, where it has been grown for about ten years. It is said that these tea-drinkers can easily raise their own tea with very little cost or trouble. The plant is a deep evergreen shrub, and grows about five feet high. It is hardy, and needs no protection from

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