Annals of Agriculture
and
Other Useful Arts
collected and published
by Arthur Young Esq. F.R.S.

Extracted by [insert name]

The farm at Petersham rented by Mr. Buck has now been nineteen years in his possession, and at present is in a most flourishing state, though some of his Produce is not sold on it.

When he first entered on it, all the land, except the meadows appeared to be wholly sandy, and several acres covered with gorse and bramble, which now produce excellent crops of corn.

As his modesty prevents his appearing among your correspondents, I will attempt to describe his mode of cultivation, rather than it shall longer remain unnoticed in your Annals.

His system is a medium between the Old and Drill husbandry, which he practiced six years prior to his coming to Petersham, on a small farm at Esher, and also at the late Duke of Newcastle's Villa of Claremont, where he used his three ploughs, but at that time had not all his corn.

His course of husbandry consists in employing Clovers, Swedes, and Rape as feeding Crops, and intermediate ones between Winter Barley, Oats and Yze, changing these occasionally according to the nature and state of the land. Of these intermediate crops, those which serve only to fill up the Winter interval are of the greatest use for winter and spring food.
food, and these taken from the ground is amply repaid by the
sewing and feeding of the cattle which feed on them, thus his
ground though never at rest is continually replenished by
manure, and with the system of continuous pasture with
Cultivation.

His implements are a trench plough, which requiring four
horses, and when he means to plough very deep with horse;
he ploughs an acre in one day; no additional strength would
be required in strong soils, as they need not be ploughed so
deep.

A two share plough, which with four horses ploughs two
acres in one day.

A drill, which he calls a plough, as at need time it answers
the purpose of one, on which account he prefers it to any
drill of late invention that drops the seed; it requires but
two horses; it will work three acres in one day, although
it makes five drills, it only completes two at every bout.

The first and second plough he thinks answer all
the purposes that can be wanted of ploughs in husbandry.
One deep ploughing with the trench plough to every other or
since this was published Mr. Bullock had added a seed box to
the Drill which succeeds admirably.
every third crop, with very shallow intermediate ploughings with the two share plough, is the best method of using them, and from which he has received the greatest benefit.

The advantages arising from this mode of practice, he thus describes: the deep ploughing brings up fresh earth for the nourishment of the plants; by not repeating it too often, the moisture is retained in the soil; being not too loose to draw off the wet, and yet not too hard to impede the penetration of the roots of the plants into it. The shallow ploughings with the two share plough loosen the soil sufficiently for the seed to take root, until it has sufficient strength to penetrate into the first broken earth. Frequent ploughings, he thinks, bring up the seeds of annual weeds so abundantly, that in a grain crop it is difficult to destroy them. When the land is constantly ploughed to the same depth, the rain water is lodged between the loosened and unmoved earth, where it stagnates and injures instead of assisting the vegetation.

He thinks if he can finish ploughing two or three months before seed-time and harrows it, the land may lay thus to the time of sowing, taking the advantage of rains and other elementary aids.
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Further remarks on Mr. Macfie's mode of cultivation.

The only attention you have given to my attempt of laying before the public through your valuable Channel, Mr. Durkee's system of agriculture, allay not the fear you expect from me a compliance in the request you have intimated, in a note of the 1st of that publication, that a particular account should be given of the course of crop naturally adopted by that original Agriculturist, as well as his sentiments on sowing and his mode of treating a field when all is sown?

Mr. Durkee having heard of crops he seems to think not every farmer ought to study in cropping his land, what Franck will pay him, but which is the only rule he allows us to proceed by in reasons. All he requires is to get a few more sheep between now and Franck, and renew his stock by alternate deep and shallow ploughing. He does not regard crop cropping his land, yet would advise sowing Wheat after Barley, for thinking what after Wheat left in the soil, his does not object to those after Barley, but Barley for Barley and Wheat. Having Barley, he thinks an even crop will increase and that a continuation of such sowing would destroy nothing. On the contrary, Barley after Barley does very well, indeed he has known Barley succeed well in the alternate deep and shallow ploughing and
will answer and if the species of Wheat was so light as to pay better than other
Grain, he would introduce it to practice, but does not imagine this mode of
Culture can be successfully tried with the
Farmers who work his Ploughs and
practice his method of using them.
He recommends the Siberian Wheat as
the only species that will answer to be
thus cultivated, as it is of quicker growth
does not exhaust the soil so much as
common Wheat, and nourishes Grass
roots down among its, equally with
the Spring Grain.
He has reaped Siberian Wheat on
the 24th July, which has given him
good reasons for turning as an
intercourse Grass, which being cut
off by Christmas, he has sown the
ground again in Siberian Wheat,
and by pursuing this method has
taken off the same land three crops
of Siberian Wheat since Winter.
If the harvest is likely to prove
hot he leaves his turnips when the
Wheat is in full bloom and has large
turnips at Christmas. He sow this
seed broadcast among the corn
when there is a prospect of frost which debars it sufficiently in the
Ground to produce Vegetations without
other assistance. His method of alternating
deep and shallow ploughing the ground
with his turnips and double ploughs
Ploughs.
E. but a change of these, turnips when preserved to his mode of culture will repair effectually, the injury which they cause.

The method he constantly pursues for destroying cockles, &c. is by trenching, &c. so as to
the ground, where it lies beneath, &c. dug deep, that left on the
surface is destroyed by hoeing. Ground very rank, &c. grows thus on the trench'd
ground, after a great part of the phosphoric acid, &c. is destructed by

1. Approving and in great

2. A change

We observe that this practice, which he has successfully pursued for many years, is confirmed by many persons, yet he is convinced it answers perfectly, in his experience and quicker than any other method.

I have wished to be as plain as possible in attempting to answer your inquiries which may have
told me into greater length. I

March 5th, 1787.

Ralph Robinson.