[Method of Making Pot Ash] Philanthropy

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Contributors
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Publication Format
Print

Type
Agriculture

Ingredients
seaweed
seathong
sea lace
rushes
reeds
sedges
cardus
bens
centory
hops
southernwood
wormwood
tobacco
dandelion
celandine
sow thistle
bean stalks
bean pods
peas straw
wood ashes
tartar

Places
Halifax
Nova Scotia

London

Source: Royal Gazette and the Nova Scotia Advertiser.
Institution: Nova Scotia Archives | **Source Origin:** Nova Scotia Newspapers on Microfilm | **Reference:** Consult the Nova Scotia Archives' "Nova Scotia Newspapers on Microfilm" list (Royal Gazette) for a complete account of microfilm reels for this paper. EMMR includes recipes from Microfilm Reels 8162, 8163, 8165, and 8167.

Description

Instructions for making fertilizer from wood ashes and plant salts. Vol. 3, No. 148. Microfilm Reel 8163.

Transcription

Mr. Henry,
Please do insert in your respectable Paper, the following method of making Pot Ash--it may be very profitable to the industrious farmers of Nova-Scotia, as this method of making Pot Ash differs materially from that process generally known and practiced, by its yielding more salts from the same quantity of Ashes--and by a strict attention to the rules here laid down, they may be able in a short time to make the sharpest and most refined Pot-Ash, such as will sell at the London market for the highest price--and by application in the business among the farmers, it may produce a great quantity of that article, which will make a large exportation, that may be very condusive to our Wheel, &c.

IN the first place it will be necessary to mention the various sorts of materials, which may be collected in most places, from which the sharpest salts may be extracted from their Ashes--and then to shew the process to make Pot-Ash.

The first article to begin with is sea-weed, sea-thong or sea-lace, and all herb or plants which abound with a good Quantity of alkatious salts will serve for this purpose, rushes, reads and sedge, which growes in mashes, poole and ditches of water; all sorts of bitter herbs as cardus, bens, centory, hops, southern-wood, worm-wood, as also tobacco, the body of the plant and its stalk, with all sorts of milky plants, as dandelyons, celandine, sow-thistles, and leguminous plants abound with abundance of this salt, as bean-stalks and pods, peas-straw, &c. very sharpe salt is extracted from fern, it grows in great abundance all over the Country, all these materials must be cut down

when in their full prime, --because then they yield more, better and whiter salt, and dried by the heat of the sun, then gather them on heaps and burn them on iron grates; the Ashes falling through into a pit made underneath with a stone hearth to receive them, these Ashes when cold, must be carried into a dry place, and may be mixed with the Ashes of hard wood, all hard wood trees, if cut down in their prime when most fullest of sap, they contain a larger quantity of alkatious salt, then those that are cut in the fall of the year, because then the sap leaves the tree and of course the less salts from their Ashes--great care should be taken in the burning of hardwood for the sake of their Ashes--that way of burning them in piles on the ground is a great loss of their salt, they ought to be burnt on iron barrs or grates as mentioned above, and their Ashes carried to a dry place. In order to undergo the process, now to be mentioned--wo iron kettles well be necessary, one of them to be cast with a spout about three feet long to be fourteen inches in the side above the bottom, this kettle when set, is to make the lye in; the spout is for the convenience of drawing off the lye in wooding fats or tubs, the other kettle is to boil the pure clear lye in, to evaporate the water and produce the salts.--All

in, to evaporate the water and produce the salts. --All our Ashes being well made fill up your long spout iron kettle with fair water, and make a fire with dried wood, when the water begins to boil, put in ten-pounds of Tarter calcined to a whiteness to every hundred pounds of Ashes, stirring it with a long wooding ladle in the kettle till all the Ashes is incorporated with the water and the salts extracted, the water being one third part boiled away, fill the kettle again with fresh water, and continue the boiling till half be consumed--when the lye is thus made, slack your fire and empty your lye into wooden fatts or tubs prepared for this use, let it stand so six days that the Ashes may settle to the bottom and the lye become clear, pour that lye into other tubs leaving the Ashes behind, and let it stand two days longer the lye will become very limped and clear, all the earthly faces precipitating and settling at the bottom, continue thus three times, and you will have a clear and limpid lye which will yield a very fine and perfect salt--this being done fill the other kettle with this refined and clarified lye in your tubs, gently boiling it to evaporate the water till it begins to thicken and shoot its salt which it commonly does in about twenty four hours time, so that the salt begins to appear on the surface of the kettle;

let the fire be gentle and easy as soon as the salts begins to shoot, for fear the salt should stick to the kettle, which a great fire will cause it to do and so burn it, which often happens to those that do not take such precaution, take a scimmer full of holes and take out the salts, letting the lye drop from it, and put this salt in a dry wooding tub, the better to dry out all the moisture, and then put it into well glazed earthen pans and moderately heat in an oven or furnace till it is perfectly dried, take it out and keep it in a covered vessel from the dust and air; and the matter it compleat.

N. B. In mixing such a proportion of the Calx of Tarter with the Ashes, is to make the greater quantity of salt, because it makes a stronger attraction of the salt out of the Ashes, and also makes the salt whiter, and by this means may be got seven or eight pound weight of salts out of fifty weight of good Ashes, without which, such a quantity could not be extracted, and to notice that the Tarter ought to have five or six hours calcination, for so it becomes whiter and more easily dissolveable in water.

PHILANTHROPY.

Halifax, Jan. 17, 1792.

Method of Making Pot Ash recipe from Early Modern Maritime Recipes: https://emmr.lib.unb.ca/recipes/129