

# [A Ferment to Manure an Acre of Land] Benjamin Marston

**Date:** 1791/04/01

Contributors

Contributor Role

Compiler

Contributor Name

Benjamin Marston

Publication Format

Manuscript

Type

Agriculture

Ingredients

plaster of Paris

mould

Places

London

Bristol

New Brunswick

Pennsylvania

England

**Source:** Winslow Papers

**Institution:** University of New Brunswick Archives and Special Collections | **Source Origin:** Winslow Papers |

**Reference:** UNB MG H2 (original) and MIC-Loyalist FC LFR .W5E3P3 (microfilm)

Description

[Letter from Benjamin Marston to Edward Winslow](#). 3 April 1791. [Winslow Papers](#), vol. 7-85. Original correspondence is held by University of New Brunswick Archives & Special Collections. This digital image is provided by agreement that it will not be reproduced or redistributed without the express permission of UNB Archives & Special Collections. For more information, contact [archives@unb.ca](mailto:archives@unb.ca).

Transcription

London April 3. 1791

My dear Ned

The following information I think may be of some worth to you in NB -- A farmer from somewhere about Bristol sometime last year gave notice to all the farmers in G Brittain & Ireland that he had discovered a Ferment (as he called it) a few bushels of wch would most effectually manure an acre of Land & would produce a most exuberant Crop -- I was told by a Gentleman who saw them of some Oats the produce of this new manure of a most extraordinary size -- What this ferment was he did not explain to the public at that time -- But I have since been informed It is nothing more than the Lime of the Plaister of Paris reduced in it's unslaked State to a perfect powder by either Grinding or pounding & y<sup>n</sup> strewed over the Land in the Broad Cast way about 6 bushells to y<sup>e</sup> Acre -- & I suppose must be then ploughed in -- Whether it would be best to mix this powder with some fine mould before strewing it on the land I don't know -- Experiment will readily decide that I had seen before I had this information an aw<sup>o</sup> from America of the beneficial effects of manuring wth plaister of Paris pulverized as experienced in some parts of Pensylvania -- It would produce 2 tons good English hay paire from the most miserable Land

I think twill be worth making the experiment &

I heartily wish it success -- For it would afford me a very  
great satisfaction to be in any way instrumental to the im  
provement of NB -- altho I am not so fortunate as to be able  
to come among you --

A Ferment to Manure an Acre of Land recipe from Early Modern Maritime Recipes:  
<https://emmr.lib.unb.ca/recipes/480>