

[On Ashes for Manure] Samuel Deane

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Author

Samuel Deane

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Places

Nova Scotia

New England

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Description

Instructions for using ashes as a fertilizer and as a pesticide in cabbages, turnips, cucumbers, melons, peas, pulses, trees, and "Indian corn." nn.98_99. Microfilm Reel 8063.

Transcription

ON ASHES FOR MANURE.

[*From a valuable Book lately published, entitled **The New England Farmer.***]

ASHES are commonly accounted a manure most suitable for low and moist lands. A cold and sour spot certainly needs them more than any other. But I have found them to be good in all sorts of soil.

They are not only a valuable manure, but an excellent antidote to the rapaciousness of worms and insects. Therefore they are a more proper manure for all those plants which are liable to suffer by worms and insects; such as cabbages, turnips, cucumbers, melons, peas, and other pulse. They should be spread evenly, and not in too great quantity.

Wood ashes is an excellent nourishment for the roots of trees. They restore to

trees what has been taken from trees; and

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tend at the same time to drive away certain insects which are hurtful to trees.

Ashes of all kinds are a good ingredient in composts which are under cover. But when they are laid upon land unmixed, they should be laid as evenly as possible. They are thought to do better on the top of the surface than buried in the soil; for there is nothing in them that will evaporate. Their tendency is only downwards; and their salts will soon sink too low, if they be put under the surface. If they be spread upon the ground which has tender plants, it should be done just before a rain, which will dissolve and soften their acrimony: For tender plants, when the weather is dry, will be apt to be injured by them.

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Ashes in their full strength are certainly best for manure; and they will not be in full strength, unless they be kept dry; nor will it be easy to spread them properly. And they should not be laid on lands long before there are roots to be nourished by them, lest the rain rob them of their salts. A few bushels on an acre are a good dressing for grass lands that are low, and inclining to be mossy. But ashes from which lie has been drawn have no small degree of virtue in them. The earthly particles are but little diminished; and some of the saline particles remain.

A handful of ashes, laid about the roots of Indian corn, is good to quicken its vegetation. But it should not much of it be in contact with the stalks. The best time for giving corn this dressing, is thought to be just before the second or third hoeing: But some do it before the first, and even before the plants are up. Like other top dressings, it is of most service when applied at the time when plants need the greatest quantity of nourishment. This happens in Indian Corn when the plants are just going to send out ears and spindles.

Annotations

The New England Farmer:

The New England Farmer by Samuel Deane was printed in Worcester, MA in 1790 and 1797.

On Ashes for Manure recipe from Early Modern Maritime Recipes: <https://emmr.lib.unb.ca/recipes/52>