

The practical farmer,: Or Spirit of the Boston cultivator, containing a collection of valuable essays, on practical agriculture, &c



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CORRESPONDENCE. Mr. Editor, -- I intend to sow one acre with wheat this spring, and I want to know if it is necessary to wash it, or soak it, or do any thing more to the seed than I should to spring rye? I also wish to know how much seed you sow to the acre, and whether any manure should be put on this spring. Z. Marlborough, March 20. We advise our correspondent to wash his wheat perfectly clean, by taking half a bushel at a time, and stirring it about in a large tub full of water: change the water several times till it looks perfectly clean; then turn the wheat into a bushel-basket to be drained; then turn it from the basket into a dry lime-cask; or tub, and mix thoroughly with the wheat two quarts of slaked lime, and stir the whole well until every kernel of wheat is limed. When this is done take another half bushel of wheat, and go through with the same process until all is prepared. This may now stand several days without injury, if the ground is not ready for sowing. Good wheat is sometimes raised without this cleansing, but you run a risk of smut. On the Kennebec river, where they now raise excellent wheat, they were much troubled with smut in their wheat until they prepared it in this way. Their land is more clayey than ours and much better calculated for wheat. Other preparations, such as strong urine, or salt water, may answer the purpose, but lime is effectual, and is as easily applied as any thing. As to the quantity of seed, we commonly sow one bushel and a half to the acre. Old or rotten manure may be used, but you must by no means put on green manure. It will not work soon enough: it will be fit for action about the time when your wheat is most in danger of growing too fast and

bursting open the stalk, letting out the sap
and forming rust, so as t...

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