TEASEL, or TEAZEL, in *Botany*. See DIPSACUS.

Beſide the common wild ſpecies of this plant, there is a large kind of it, the heads of which are of ſingular uſe in raiſing the nap upon woollen cloth, for which it is propagated in great quantities in many parts of the weſt of England.

The ſoils moſt adapted to the growth of this plant are thoſe of the more ſtrong and deep kinds, but which are not too rich; as loamy clays, and ſuch as have ſtrong marly bottoms, and are fit for the growth of wheat crops.

The moſt favourable ſituations are thoſe that are rather elevated, open, and incline a little to the ſouth; and the higher grounds, particularly where the country is incloſed, are the moſt advantageous.

For the preparation of the ground, where it is a lea, it ſhould be ploughed up deeply in the early part of the year, as in the beginning of February; and where it is inclined to moiſture, it ſhould be executed in narrow ridges of not more than three bouts each, the furrow ſlices being laid over in as even and regular a manner as poſſible, the fine mould from the furrows being raiſed by the plough or ſpade ſo as to cover the ſurface. But in lands that are ſufficiently dry, and which are broken up from ſtubble, the ploughing may be deferred to a later period, and be laid in ridges of much greater breadths, and in a more flat form.

Mr. Billingſley, in his Agricultural Report of Somerſetſhire, has remarked, that in the providing ſeed, it ſhould conſtantly be taken from ſuch plants as are the moſt perfect of their kind, and the moſt productive in heads; as there is much difference in the quantity that is afforded by different plants, ſome producing nearly a hundred, while others do not afford more than three or four. It ſhould be ſuffered to remain till it becomes perfectly ripened, and be uſed while freſh.

With reſpect to the proportion of ſeed, that which is moſtly employed on the acre is from about one to two packs, according to the above writer; but ſome make uſe of a larger quantity, as two pecks, or more.

It may be noticed, in regard to the ſeaſon of putting in crops of this ſort, that it is commonly about the middle of March or beginning of April. The common method of putting this ſort of crop into the ground is the broad-caſt, it being ſown evenly over the ſurface, in the manner that is practiſed for turnips, ſown in this way. But before this is done, the land ſhould be well harrowed down, in order to afford a fine ſtate of mould as a bed for the ſeed. It is then to be covered in by a ſlight harrowing with a light ſhort-tined harrow, ſuch as is uſed for graſs-ſeeds. Some, however, prefer a light buſh-harrow for this purpoſe.

However, this ſort of crop may be ſown in rows in the drill method, at the diſtance of eight, twelve, or more inches from each other, in the ſame way as that of the drilled turnip. But this method is not, we believe, yet much employed by thoſe who are in the practice of raiſing crops of this nature.

In the after-culture of crops of this kind, much depends on the land between the plants being kept perfectly clean and free from weeds; in having them ſet out to proper and ſufficient diſtances, as about twelve inches; and in having them well earthed up. Some cultivators perform frequent diggings, that the ground may be rendered cleaner and more mellow, conſequently the growth of the plants be the more effectually promoted. This buſineſs has uſually the name of ſpaddling, or ſpittling, and is executed with great diſpatch by labourers that are accuſtomed to perform it. When theſe diggings have been finiſhed, nothing further is neceſſary till the period of cutting, which is generally about the end of the month of July in the ſecond year, which is known by ſome of the uppermoſt heads beginning to blow; as when the bloſſoms fall, they are ripe, and in a ſtate to be cut and ſecured.

This cutting is moſtly executed at three different times, at the diſtances of about ten days or a fortnight from each other. It is performed by means of a knife, contrived for the purpoſe, with a ſhort blade, and a ſtring attached to the haft. This laſt is done, in order that it may be hung over the hand or wriſt, when the leaves are to be ſtripped from the ſtem parts. A pair of ſtrong gloves is likewiſe neceſſary. Thus prepared, the labourer cuts off the ripe heads along the rows or lines, or otherwiſe, with about nine inches of ſtem, and ties them up in handfuls with the ſtem of one that is more perfectly ripened, or otherwiſe. And on the evening of the day on which they are cut, they ſhould be put into a dry ſhed; and when the weather is fine, and the air clear, they ſhould be taken out and expoſed to the ſun daily, till they become perfectly dry. As ſoon as they are completely dried, they ſhould be laid up in a dry room, in a cloſe manner, till they become tough and of a bright colour, and ready for uſe. They ſhould then be ſorted or ſeparated into three different kinds, by opening each of the ſmall bundles. Theſe are diſtinguiſhed into *kings*, *middlings*, and *ſcrubs*, according to their different qualities. They are afterwards, the author of the above report ſays, made into packs, which, of the firſt ſort, contain nine thouſand heads; but when of the ſecond, twenty thouſand; the third is a ſort of very inferior value. By ſome, before forming them into packs, they are done up into what are termed ſtaves, by means of ſplit ſticks, when they are ready for ſale.

The produce in crops of this nature muſt be very uncertain, there being ſometimes fifteen, or ſixteen, or more packs on the acre; and at other times ſcarcely any. The produce is diſpoſed of to the cloth manufacturers in Somerſetſhire, Wiltſhire, and Yorkſhire.

It has been ſtated, that formerly an acre of land, if well grown, and what is deemed a full crop, often produced nine packs of *kings*, nineteen of *middlings*, and two of *ſcrubs*.

In the county of Eſſex, they have a ſingular practice of cultivating and growing teaſel crops with ſeeds, ſuch as coriander and carraway, producing thereby a ſort of treble crop. It is ſtated, that the ſeeds of theſe ſeveral plants are ſown together, very early in the ſpring, upon a ſtrong old lay, once ploughed; and generally yield very conſiderable returns.

It is noticed, that the head of the teaſel is of a conical form, two or three inches in length, and one or one and a half in diameter at the bottom, or largeſt end; armed on every part with ſmall ſtrong points, turned a little downwards; and are bought by the woollen manufacturers, who fix them upon frames, calculated to cover a cylinder, which is made to turn round, and ſlightly catch their ſays, bays, and other ſuch articles, which another part of the weaver's machine draws againſt them; by which means the knap is raiſed to almoſt any length the manufacturer wiſhes.

The largeſt burs, and thoſe moſt pointed, are eſteemed the

the beſt, and are now called *male* teaſels; they are moſtly uſed in the dreſſing and preparing of ſtockings and coverlets; the ſmaller kind, properly called the *fullers'* or *drapers'* teaſels, and ſometimes the *female* teaſel, are uſed in the preparation of the finer ſtuffs, as cloths, rateens, &c. The ſmaller kind ſometimes, called *linnots heads*, are uſed to draw out the knap from the coarſer ſtuffs, as bays, &c.

The leaves of the common wild teaſel dried, and given in powder or infuſion, have been commended by ſome as a powerful remedy againſt flatuſes or crudities in the ſtomach.