
OBSERVATIONS AND EXPERIMENTS ON TREES
AND OTHER VEGETABLES.

THE physical study of Vegetables is one of those sciences which require a multiplicity of observations and experiments beyond the capacity of one man, and must consequently be a work of time; even the observations themselves are seldom of much value till they have been repeatedly made, and compared in different places and seasons, and by different persons of similar ideas. It was for this purpose that Buffon united with M. Du Hamel, to labour, in concert for the illustration of a number of phenomena, which appeared difficult to explain, in the vegetable kingdom, and from the knowledge of which may result an infinity of useful matters in the practice of agriculture.

The frost is sometimes so intense during winter, that it destroys almost all vegetables, and the scarcity in the year 1709 was a melancholy proof of its cruel effects. Seeds, and some kinds of trees, entirely perished, while others