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RATEKIN'S

SEED BOOK

U.S. Dept. of Agr. Wash. D.C. 1907

1907 23rd Year



Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa, U.S.A.
LARGEST SEED HOUSE IN THE WEST.

READ THIS PAGE BEFORE YOU ORDER



Are Ratekins Reliable

First of all, a prospective buyer desires to know something of the reliability of a firm and of its business policy. You desire to learn whether the firm is doing business for one year, or is working to build up a lasting patronage. You want to know whether we will send you what you order, and whether Ratekin's seeds will grow. We realize that you have a certain amount of money to use for the purchase of seeds, and you are after the greatest possible results for this expenditure. Read the first few pages of our catalog and you will get a glimpse into our business and know more of our methods. Be sure to read first pages, as it gives you our business policy.

Our Standing That we are reliable, and to let strangers know our standing, we will refer you to some of the parties mentioned below; to any other business man in Shenandoah.

NO. 2679

The Shenandoah National Bank.

UNITED STATES DEPOSITORY
Shenandoah, Iowa.

GEORGE BOGART, PRES.
R. M. GWYNN, CASHIER
C. J. ALDEN, ASST. CASH.
F. M. SCHNEIDER, ASST. CASH.

June 1, 1906.

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with pleasure that we testify to our good opinion of the integrity, responsibility and business ability of Mr. J. W. Ratekin, proprietor and business manager of the "Ratekin's Seed House" of this City, and to say that we have personally been well acquainted with Mr. Ratekin for many years, during which time this house has, by an honorable business record, built up a large wholesale and retail mail order trade, second to no other like business house in the west.

Anyone can, in our judgement, feel perfectly secure in sending their orders and money to this house, as we understand they ship all their seed agreeing that anything not proving satisfactory on receipt and examination may be returned at their expense and money paid will be immediately refunded, and we believe this house can be relied upon to do exactly as they agree.

Very truly yours,

George Bogart
Pres.

25 CENTS WORTH OF SEEDS EXTRA is allowed on each ONE DOLLAR sent for Seeds by the PACKET and OUNCE.

Thus, anyone sending us \$1.00 can select seeds in packets and ounces to the value of \$1.25; for \$2.00, to the value of \$2.50; for \$3.00, to the value of \$3.75; for \$4.00, seeds in packets and ounces to the value of \$5.00, and so on; or, in other words, we give you a **discount of twenty per cent** on our prices by the **PACKET** and **OUNCE**. To illustrate—should an order amounting to \$3.00 contain \$2.00 worth of seeds in **packets and ounces**, you are entitled to **deduct twenty per cent** or one-fifth on these, which would be 40 cents, and you would therefore send us \$2.60 net; while, should the entire order be composed of **packets and ounces**, you would deduct 60 cents, remitting only \$2.40 net.

FOR COMPLETE INDEX SEE LAST INSIDE COVER PAGE.

ALWAYS ADDRESS **RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE, SHENANDOAH, IOWA.**

To Our Friends and Customers.

*It is with a feeling of the utmost gratitude to our thousands of customers everywhere that we hand you herewith at the beginning of the year 1907 a copy of our **Twenty-third Annual Seed Catalogue**, and with it our best wishes for a prosperous year to all who receive it. This book has been carefully revised and enlarged and will be found up-to-date in every respect as a guide to the farmer and truck grower, and will pay you well to read it carefully. We believe it will merit your approval upon everything it treats within its covers.*

*It is needless to say, the past year was a record breaker and by a long distance the most successful one in all our **twenty-three years' career** in the seed business. From coast to coast, and from Manitoba to the gulf, as well as every civilized country on the face of the globe, "**Ratekin's Reliable Seeds**" were in demand, and at the present writing we are in receipt of hundreds of gratifying reports from all quarters that insures us this year a two-fold growth in business over any preceding year.*

We have greatly enlarged and otherwise improved our plant and other facilities during the past season, which before ranked as the largest Seed House in the West. In addition we grew larger seed crops the past season than ever before, and are in a position to assure all our old and new customers, who favor us with their patronage and orders the coming season, that they will have the same care and be executed with the same promptness that has always characterized our business in the past, and that they can positively rely upon getting the purest and best seeds that can be grown.

We handle but one grade of seeds; the best and highest grade that can be grown—all new crop—thoroughly tested before sending out. In fact, we aim to make every transaction absolutely satisfactory in every respect and to treat every customer just like we would like to be treated were conditions reversed and we were the customer and you the merchant.

*We shall not only continue to give the same liberal values that we have in the past, but will this year give you **cheaper prices and better values** than you have been paying other seedsmen in the past. Our facilities are the best to be found in the world, and such that our seeds are all grown and handled with the utmost care at the least possible expense, and that we are thus enabled not only to save you money on cost of seeds but to make you money in the large increased results from your crops.*

In making up our catalogue we have tried to make it as plain and comprehensive as possible, avoiding exaggerated descriptions and overdrawn pictures and illustrations, and to tell you the plain, simple truth about all our seeds, which you can positively rely and depend upon.

*In our infancy in business and during all our twenty-three years experience in the mail order seed business, the **fundamental principles and keystone** to our great success has been in treating our customers fairly and honestly; making lowest prices possible consistent with quality of **best seeds that can be grown**, and always guaranteeing everything as represented with privilege of returning seeds **at our expense**, on receipt and examination, if not found entirely satisfactory. On this platform and basis, we cordially solicit your orders either large or small.*

Very truly yours,

RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE,


Manager.

Guarantee: We exercise the greatest care in the growing and selection of all our seeds and send out nothing but pure varieties and of the strongest vitality and if any seeds received from us are not fully satisfactory on receipt and examination, they may be returned at our expense and money paid for them will be immediately refunded, but we give no warranty, expressed or implied, and will in no way be responsible for the crop.

Suggestions to Customers

and

Simple Rules for Ordering.

Order Early The best time in the world to order is just as soon after you receive this catalogue as you can conveniently make up your order. We can always give your orders our special personal attention if they come in early and before the rush of the spring trade.

Please use the order blank enclosed in this catalogue when you can, but if it has been misplaced or not handy just use any sheet of plain paper and make out your order or list of requirements from the catalogue.

Always write your name and address plainly; give your full name, Post Office address, County and State; Street No., Box or Rural Route as may be necessary. Always give shipping point; if different from your Post Office address, also name of your railroad. State plainly how much money you enclose and in what form, whether Post Office or Express Order which you can get at the Post Office or Express Office, or if a Bank Draft which you can get at your Bank. If you live on a Rural Route you can just give your letter and money to the rural Route Carrier and he will get Post Office Money Order for you, put it in your letter and mail it. If you desire you can put the money in the letter and have it registered at the Post Office. We, however, recommend the Post Office or Express Money Orders as the best form of sending money.

Our Terms Our terms are strictly cash with the order. We send nothing C. O. D. We are reliable and responsible (See Bank and other references on first inside cover page.) We don't believe in C. O. D. order shipments when a firm you order seeds from is known to be responsible. You are caused inconvenience and unnecessary expense in obtaining your seeds and paying return charges on the money. The system is a nuisance and offers no advantages to you when dealing with a reliable firm. We **GUARANTEE PERFECT SATISFACTION** in every transaction, and if seeds are not as represented or entirely satisfactory on receipt and examination they can be returned at our expense and money paid for them will be refunded.

Charges Prepaid We prepay postage or express charges on all vegetable, flower and other seeds quoted by packet, ounce or pound and guarantee safe delivery. If such seeds, however, are to be sent with shipments of heavy or field seeds to go by freight or express at purchasers expense you may deduct at the rate of 8 cts. per pound from our regular catalogue prices.

Charges Not Prepaid All seeds sold by peck or bushel or other than at pound prices including farm, field and grass seeds, etc., etc., are sent by freight or express at purchasers expense. See freight rates quoted to many points elsewhere in this book, from which you can estimate within a few cents per cwt. of what the rate will be to your station. Express rates are about three times as much as by freight; therefore we recommend that you order in time so heavy seeds may be sent by freight.

Prepaid Stations Many of our customers live at points or what is known as prepaid stations, where there is no agent. In such cases unless the money is sent to prepay freight charges through to such points, we ship seed to the nearest point to such stations where there is an agent, as we never pay charges on heavy seeds unless charges are advanced.

Shipping Facilities We are located on the C. B. & Q. Ry., the Omaha & St. Louis line of the Wabash Railroad and the Keokuk & Western Railroad, and have excellent fast through freight accommodations and facilities and are able to reach about any railroad station in the United States in from 5 to 10 days from time of starting shipment.

Rush Orders If you have neglected to order early, or in cases of emergency and time is limited and you want seeds quick, go to your Banker, Postmaster or Express agent and deposit the money with him to our order, and have him wire or telephone us what seeds you want and you may be assured always that **SEEDS WILL BE STARTED ON THE FIRST TRAIN**, and acknowledgement will be made by first mail.

Discounts We offer the following inducements to those purchasing seeds in packets: Select packets to the value of \$1.25, send us \$1.00; for \$2.50, send us \$2.00; for \$3.00 send us \$2.25; for \$4.00 send us \$3.00; for \$5.00 send us \$3.75; for \$10.00 send us \$7.50; for \$20.00 send us \$15.00. These seeds will be sent by mail post paid; but these low rates apply to seeds in packets only, and at catalogue prices, and not seeds by weight or measure. We advise the formation of large clubs, and the above discounts will certainly pay anyone for some trouble in that direction.

Small Orders If you only want a single packet, do not hesitate to send for it. We take as much pains to fill small orders promptly and correctly as we do large ones.

Order Number Every order we receive is given a number, if you have an occasion to write us, please mention your order number; it will facilitate handling your inquiry.

STAMPS.

Owing to the magnitude of our seed business and because we spend thousands of dollars annually for postage stamps, we are in a position to accommodate our friends and patrons who may find it inconvenient to send us money, or express orders, or drafts, in payments for seeds. We will accept postage stamps in payment for seeds to any amount from those who may find it inconvenient to send us the money in the other approved forms.

In Conclusion Remember in ordering your seeds from us you take no chances or risk whatever. **WE POSITIVELY GUARANTEE OUR SEEDS TO BE SATISFACTORY**, otherwise seeds may be returned at our expense and your money will be cheerfully returned. We are not in business for this year alone, but have been in business growing and selling seeds for the past twenty-three years, and hope to remain in the same business that many years more.

Again thanking our past and present customers for their patronage and other courtesies shown in their assistance in bringing our seeds to the notice of their friends in almost every community in this broad land, we are,

Yours very truly,

RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE,
J. W. RATEKIN, Manager.

It is Easy to Order Your Seeds by Mail.

Ordering by mail is not a difficult task. The following points are sufficient ninety-nine times out of a hundred.

1st. Take our catalogue and select your seeds, using our blank order sheet if you have one. If not any kind of plain paper will do.

2d. Give name and price of each article.

3d. Write your full name and Postoffice address, as well as shipping point if different from your Postoffice.

4th. If seeds are to be sent by packet, ounce, pound, pint or quart, we prepay all postage or express charges, and you will receive your seeds sent that way within a week from the time you mail your order at your home Postoffice. If seeds are to be sent by freight or express at your expense, give name of your shipping station and name of Railroad. If seeds are to be sent by express, give name of your shipping point and also name of your Express Co. If there is no freight agent at your station, remit extra to cover the freight. Always send good and plenty to pay the charges and if any left we will return excess by first mail.

5th. Enclose Post Office Money Order, Express Money Order or Bank Draft, or send money by registered letter with your order.

6th. Don't waste time by writing to ask if we have a certain kind of seed, except it may be some variety of seed corn not listed by us—as we carry a complete stock of every kind of farm and garden seeds grown that is worth planting.

Don't Be Afraid of Making a Mistake.

For 23 years we have been handling orders from all classes of people, "old and young," and have learned how to handle their orders in a manner that always pleases them. Don't be afraid you will make a mistake—we make them, so does everybody, but are always glad to correct them. Write your name and address plainly, and if there is any thing wrong about your order we will either correct it or notify you. Talk natural to us; tell us what you want in your own language. Long experience has taught us how to understand our customers. We have tried to explain and make every thing plain on second and third pages of this catalogue, under head of "Suggestions to our Customers" and "Simple Rules For Ordering." But if there is any thing else you want to know write us.

About Claims for Damages and Overcharges.

We carefully pack and deliver all our seeds in good condition, on board the cars here. We take a receipt from the railroad or express company, as case may be, showing that they received them in good order, and it rarely happens that any seeds are received in bad order. If it should ever happen, however, that bags are torn, boxes broken open or are otherwise in bad order; short in number of bags or in any way defective be sure to have the railroad agent make notation of such shortage or defection on the freight receipt (expense bill) he gives you. You can then present your claim for damages to the railroad agent from whom you receive the seeds, it being his duty at that end to take the matter up with the officials of that road and collect for you any damage or for shortage that may have occurred. This is a duty required of any agent and he will willingly comply with it if you will attend to the matter at the time of the transaction. If he fails for any reason to collect for loss or damage, in reasonable length of time write us and we will take the matter up for you from this end.

FREIGHT RATES.

Don't Let the Question of Freight Charges Worry You.

Because whether you buy from us, your home dealer or elsewhere you pay the freight and usually a profit on that. Just so you make up an order to weigh one hundred pounds or over you will get the benefit of the hundred pound freight rate and as low as any local merchant can get any where in the United States. Less than one hundred will be charged same as if there was that much, but all shipments above one hundred pounds will be charged pro-rata on hundred pound basis. The savings we make you on new high grade seeds added to the increased yields and results of your crops will pay you a hundred times over, as first cost of good seeds is nominally nothing as compared with planting old run out or inferior seeds.

You will find it to great advantage many times to induce your neighbors to join with you in ordering seeds for your farm and garden. We have many customers hundreds of miles away who club together and send their orders to us for seeds, thus getting their seeds cheaper and still further reducing freight rates and we would be very glad to have you and your neighbors take advantage of our lowest quotations in larger amounts.

Freight on Seeds in one hundred pound quantities and over is a small item, and by referring to this table of rates and finding the nearest point or town in the table below you can calculate almost exactly what the freight will amount to. It may be a few cents more or a few cents less, but it will give you an idea of what it will amount to.

(Continued on next page.)

List of Freight Rates from Shenandoah, Iowa, to Po ints Below Named.

ALABAMA		Goshen..... .45	Derry..... .53	Bloomfield..... .32	TENNESSEE		
Birmingham..... .52	Indianapolis..... .45	Ruston..... .53	Broken Bow..... .56.01	Bristol..... .60	Chattanooga..... .55	Clarksville..... .55	
Brewton..... .52	LaFayette..... .45	MARYLAND		Clinton..... .55	Greenfield..... .54	Jackson..... .50	
Decatur..... .48	New Albany..... .45	Baltimore..... .76	Baltimore..... .76	Oxford..... .35	Memphis..... .50	Grand Junction..... .50	
Gadsden..... .48	Terre Haute..... .45	Brandywine..... .73	Elkton..... .70	Superior..... .35	Sparta..... .52	Nashville..... .64	
Mobile..... .52	Valparaiso..... .45	Finksburg..... .73	Hagerstown..... .73	Wymore..... .32.01	TEXAS		
Montgomery..... .52	Greencastle..... .39½	MICHIGAN		Abaline..... .62	Amarillo..... .62	Austin..... .62	
Tuscaloosa..... .55	Martinsville..... .41	Adrian..... .45	Bay City..... .41	Beaumont..... .95	Dallas..... .95	Dennison..... .95	
Selma..... .55	Covington..... .40	Sheboygan..... .40	Detroit..... .40	Floesville..... .82	Cisco..... .82	Henrietta..... .82	
ARIZONA		Huntington..... .42	Jackson..... .42	Houston..... .82	Lufkin..... .82	Palestine..... .82	
Phoenix..... .85	Vincennes..... .37½	Grand Rapids..... .40	Grand Rapids..... .40	San Angelo..... .82	Ballinger..... .82	San Antonio..... .95	
Prescott..... .85	North Vernon..... .41	Kalamazoo..... .40	Lansing..... .38	Waco..... .95	Georgetown..... .95	Temple..... .95	
ARKANSAS		Muncie..... .45	Milan..... .45	Georgetown..... .95	Temple..... .95	Ft. Worth..... .95	
Bentonville..... .60	IOWA		Dundee..... .45	Greenfield..... .95	Hillsboro..... .95	Paris..... .95	
Arkansas City..... .60	Audubon..... .18	Bedford..... .12	Ann Arbor..... .45	Jamestown..... .64	Coriscana..... .95	Flordia..... .95	
Brinkley..... .60	Bedford..... .12	Burlington..... .22.44	Owasso..... .46	Bellefontaine..... .47	Chillicothe..... .47	Cincinnati..... .47	
Camden..... .60	Burlington..... .22.44	Carroll..... .25	Clare..... .47½	Cleveland..... .47	Columbus..... .45	Dayton..... .52	
Devall Bluff..... .60	Carroll..... .25	Cedar Rapids..... .29	Clare..... .47½	Defiance..... .52	Lima..... .52	Portsmouth..... .58	
Ft. Smith..... .65	Cedar Rapids..... .29	Davenport..... .27	Clare..... .47½	Toledo..... .58	Xenia..... .58	Youngstown..... .58	
Fayetteville..... .65	Davenport..... .27	Council Bluffs..... .10.8	Clare..... .47½	Eldorado..... .42	Savona..... .42	Alexis..... .45	
Helena..... .60	Council Bluffs..... .10.8	Centerville..... .15.63	Clare..... .47½	Savona..... .42	Alexis..... .45	Canton..... .50	
Little Rock..... .60	Centerville..... .15.63	Des Moines..... .15.98	Clare..... .47½	Zanesville..... .51	OKLAHOMA		
Pine Bluff..... .60	Des Moines..... .15.98	Keokuk..... .21.8	Clare..... .47½	Alva..... .84	El Reno..... .84	Guthrie..... .82	
Texerkana..... .85	Keokuk..... .21.8	Mulkern..... .08.5	Clare..... .47½	King Fisher..... .82	Oklahoma..... .84	Tecumseh..... .84	
Hoxie..... .67	Mulkern..... .08.5	Ottumwa..... .17.61	Clare..... .47½	Woodward..... .82	OREGON		
CALIFORNIA		Albia..... .15.96	Clare..... .47½	Portland..... \$1.90	Salem..... 2.05	PENNSYLVANIA	
Los Angeles..... 1.00	Albia..... .15.96	Red Oak..... .04	Clare..... .47½	Bedford..... .80	Blairsville..... .80	Erie..... .80	
Redding..... 1.00	Red Oak..... .04	Creston..... .08.2	Clare..... .47½	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75	Pittsburg..... .75	
Sacramento..... 1.00	Creston..... .08.2	Chariton..... .13.98	Clare..... .47½	Scranton..... .75	Philadelphia..... .75	RHODE ISLAND	
San Jose..... 1.00	Chariton..... .13.98	Osceola..... .12.33	Clare..... .47½	Providence..... .72	Woonsocket..... .72	SOUTH DAKOTA	
San Francisco..... 1.00	Osceola..... .12.33	Oskaloosa..... .18	Clare..... .47½	Aberdeen..... .62	Armour..... .62	Canton..... .62	
COLORADO		Marshalltown..... .28	Clare..... .47½	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Denver..... .71	Marshalltown..... .28	Brighton..... .25	Clare..... .47½	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75	Pittsburg..... .75
Greeley..... .70	Brighton..... .25	Newton..... .25	Clare..... .47½	Scranton..... .75	Philadelphia..... .75	RHODE ISLAND	
Kit Carson..... .70	Newton..... .25	Algona..... .30	Clare..... .47½	Aberdeen..... .62	Armour..... .62	Canton..... .62	Chamberlain..... .58
Pueblo..... .70	Algona..... .30	INDIAN TY.		Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Sterling..... .70	Atoka..... .42		Greenville..... .62	Providence..... .72	Woonsocket..... .72	Prairie du Cuien..... .32	Sparta..... .32
Trinidad..... .70	Atoka..... .42	Red Fork..... .42	Riverside Junct..... .64	Salem..... 2.05	SOUTH DAKOTA		Wausau..... .32
Leadville..... 1.45	Red Fork..... .42	S. McAllister..... .42	Vicksburg..... .62	Aberdeen..... .62	Armour..... .62	Canton..... .62	Chamberlain..... .58
CONNECTICUT		Vinita..... .42	Natches..... .62	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Bridgeport..... .72	Vinita..... .42	Wyandotte..... .40	Jackson..... .62	Scranton..... .75	Philadelphia..... .75	WEST VIRGINIA	
Hartford..... .72	Wyandotte..... .40	Ardmore..... .40	Durant..... .62	Aberdeen..... .62	Armour..... .62	Canton..... .62	Chamberlain..... .58
New Medford..... .72	Ardmore..... .40	Paul's Valley..... .38	Aberdeen..... .60	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Waterbury..... .72	Paul's Valley..... .38	KANSAS		Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Litchfield..... .72	Atchison..... .32		Greenville..... .62	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
New Haven..... .72	Atchison..... .32	Council Grove..... .32	Riverside Junct..... .64	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
CANADA		Dodge City..... .32	Vicksburg..... .62	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Chatham..... .47	Dodge City..... .32	Garnett..... .32	Natches..... .62	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Bothwell..... .47	Garnett..... .32	Ft. Scott..... .32	Jackson..... .62	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
St. Thomas..... .47	Ft. Scott..... .32	Great Bend..... .32	Durant..... .62	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Toronto..... .47	Great Bend..... .32	Hartland..... .32	Aberdeen..... .60	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
DELAWARE		Leavenworth..... .20	Grenada..... .64	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Dover..... .72	Leavenworth..... .20	Beloit..... .32	Yazoo City..... .64	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Farmington..... .72	Beloit..... .32	Parsons..... .34	MISSOURI		Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75
Newark..... .72	Parsons..... .34	Wichita..... .32	Bolivar..... .35	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Wilmington..... .72	Wichita..... .32	Winfield..... .55	Mountain Grove..... .32	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
GEORGIA		Topeka..... .32	West Plain..... .32	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Atlanta..... .70	Topeka..... .32	Manhattan..... .32	Potompan..... .32	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Brunswick..... .70	Manhattan..... .32	Emporia..... .50	Desota..... .38	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Cairo..... .70	Emporia..... .50	Olathe..... .35	Boonville..... .40	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Macon..... .70	Olathe..... .35	KENTUCKY		Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Savannah..... .70	Alexander..... .48		Higginville..... .40	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
IDAHO		Ashland..... .52	Marshall..... .40	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
American Falls..... .95	Ashland..... .52	Burnside..... .52	Kansas City..... .20	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Boise City..... .95	Burnside..... .52	Cynthiana..... .52	St. Joseph..... .15	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Spencer..... .95	Cynthiana..... .52	Campbellsville..... .52	Hannibal..... .27	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
ILLINOIS		Frankfort..... .52	Maryville..... .15	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Belvidere..... .32	Frankfort..... .52	Henderson..... .52	Conception..... .17	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Cairo..... .32	Henderson..... .52	Hickman..... .55	Brunswick..... .20	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Bloomington..... .32	Hickman..... .55	Louisville..... .42	Moberly..... .27	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Monmouth..... .32	Louisville..... .42	Bowling Green..... .55	Mexico..... .27	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Galesburg..... .27	Bowling Green..... .55	Owensville..... .55	St. Louis..... .27	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Peoria..... .29½	Owensville..... .55	Paducah..... .55	Kirksville..... .27	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Beardstown..... .27	Paducah..... .55	Pembroke..... .45	Bethany..... .26	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Rock Island..... .27	Pembroke..... .45	Versailles..... .45	MONTANA		Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75
Rockford..... .27	Versailles..... .45	Lexington..... .55	Billings..... 1.00	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Freeport..... .27	Lexington..... .55	LOUISIANA		Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Joliet..... .38	Alexandria..... .50		Helena..... 1.00	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Lawrenceville..... .25	Alexandria..... .50	Ashland..... .50	MASSACHUSETTS		Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75
Quincy..... .27	Ashland..... .50	Crowley..... .50	Fall River..... .72	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Jacksonville..... .29½	Crowley..... .50	Lake Charles..... .53	Springfield..... .72	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Decatur..... .29½	Lake Charles..... .53	Monroe..... .53	Worcester..... .72	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Chicago..... .32	Monroe..... .53	Leeville..... .55	Boston..... .72	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Shawneetown..... .42	Leeville..... .55	New Iberia..... .53	NEBRASKA		Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75
Springfield..... .29	New Iberia..... .53	LaFayette..... .38	David City..... 30.01	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Streator..... .32	LaFayette..... .38	Baton Rouge..... .35	Hastings..... 39.01	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Champaign..... .32	Baton Rouge..... .35	Ruston..... .35	Lincoln..... 24.01	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Murpheyboro..... .48	Ruston..... .35	Winfield..... .32	Beatrice..... 32.01	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
INDIANA		Winfield..... .32	Dakota City..... .35	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Evansville..... .45	Winfield..... .32	Bastrop..... .32	Omaha..... .11	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
Ft. Wayne..... .45	Bastrop..... .32	Winnboro..... .50	Plattsmouth..... .15	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
	Winnboro..... .50		Grand Island..... 39.01	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
			Kearney..... .38	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
			Aurora..... 37.01	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
			Seward..... 29.01	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
			Tecumseh..... 29.06	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75
			Norfolk..... .30	Chamberlain..... .58	Gettysburg..... .58	Harrisburg..... .75	Lewisburg..... .75

A FEW WORDS ABOUT OURSELVES AND BUSINESS.

The public and those with whom you have business transactions always like to know something about you: Who you are, what you are and how you came to be in business. For these reasons I make my bow and will speak my piece as briefly as I know how.

I am a native of Iowa, born here near where the City of Shenandoah is now located—on a farm, and was early trained how to plow and to hoe; to plant and to sow. Under these environments it was but natural that I took up the vocation of farmer; the business of all others the most charming to me.

HOW I BEGUN.

From practical experience on the farm, long before engaging in the seed business, I learned that there was such a thing as breeding corn, same as there was in stock, and that it was as easy, if not much easier to increase the yield of corn from 30 to 50 bushels per acre to 60-70 and as high as one hundred bushels per acre, as it was to increase the weight of thoroughbred stock over the scrub from 1,000 pounds to 2,000 pounds. Inspired with this belief I spared no effort or pains in the selection and improvement of my seed corn, which is the real foundation from which we must all begin. My ideal of the best and most profitable corn to grow was a variety of good medium or large size; deep grain and as small cob as consistent to contain 16 to 24 rows, well developed and carried out well at both butt and tip ends, and corn that would mature in the shortest possible length of time, and in this I have never had reason to change my mind. In 1884, in the early part of the year it developed that there was a genuine seed corn famine on, one extending all over the central and western states. Seed corn, or corn that would grow was sought after in every locality and neighborhood all over the corn growing belt of Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska, and commanded as high as two and three dollars per bushel in many places. At that time I had in crib something over 5,000 bushels of just such corn as I have described and on investigation and inspection found almost every ear of it would grow. As soon as this became known, and it was not long, for it spread like a prairie fire, farmers, corn growers and seedsmen from far and near began to draw on my corn cribs for their seed, one SEED HOUSE alone taking three car loads or 2,400 bu. at \$1.25 per bushel, furnishing their own bags to put it in. This proved and demonstrated to me that it always paid to plant the best, and was an incentive that led to engage in the growing of seeds. While there always has been and always will be some that will continue to raise scrub stock and scrub crops, there are many more of the progressive thrifty class who are always on the look out for the best that is going, and this is the class we have naturally looked to and have not been disappointed in building up a trade second to no other seed house in the west, and of the very best class of farmers the country could afford. In fact, it now requires the product of over twenty thousand acres to supply our trade, including all kinds of seeds. The climate and soil of Southwestern Iowa is without doubt the best seed corn growing district to be found in the WORLD; also all kinds of small grain-cereal crops as well as clover, timothy, blue grass and other similar seeds, still there are some varieties which will produce better seeds in other localities, and we spend a large part of our time in the summer and fall in traveling around among our growers, as WE GROW ALL OUR SEEDS OURSELVES or have them GROWN UNDER SPECIAL CONTRACT, from SEED STOCK FURNISHED BY US, and when you order your seeds from us you have the satisfaction of knowing that you are getting your seeds direct from first hands. "From Grower to Planter," that they are all fresh and new, NEW CROP GROWN, and have been handled all the way through by experienced men; experts in the business, many of whom have been with us from ten to fifteen years. We know how to plant and grow the best seeds and are doing our best in that direction and when you PLANT RATEKIN'S RELIABLE SEEDS you get the benefit of RATEKIN'S QUARTER OF A CENTURY'S EXPERIENCE IN THE SEED BUSINESS as well as the benefit of other long years of experience on the farm and in the garden. As proof of our great success and the reliability of our seeds and our house we beg to point to a few only of the thousands of letters and testimonials received from our customers, and contained in this book and other auxiliary matter.

Now, dear friends; allow me to say that if we are favored with your orders for seeds the coming season, as I hope we may be, I will see to it that you are served in a manner that will please you, whether your orders be large or small, REMEMBER THAT YOU TAKE NO CHANCES OR RISK IN ORDERING YOUR SEEDS FROM US. WE GUARANTEE OUR SEEDS TO PLEASE YOU, and if on receipt and examination they are NOT FOUND ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY THEY CAN BE RETURNED AT OUR EXPENSE AND YOUR MONEY WILL BE IMMEDIATELY RETURNED.

Very truly yours,

RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE.



Manager and Prop.

Buy Your Seeds from the Grower.

The Seed House that grows its own seeds and sells them direct to those who plant them without passing through the hands of the dealer or "middle-man" is unquestionably in better position to serve his customers with pure seed than anyone else. He watches the progress of his crops with an interest and is able to improve his strains by careful selection and absolutely knows what he is selling, which is something the City seedsmen and dealers who buy their seeds cannot do.

ONE PROFIT SAVED: Every time seeds or any other commodity changes hands there is an expense and profit to be added to the price. In addition to this, when you buy direct from the grower you not only buy your seeds cheaper but you get the best he has. It's to his interest to send you the best as he expects to make a permanent customer out of you.

We are located in the best seed growing district to be found in the world, and we grow a larger per cent of our own seeds perhaps than any seed house to be found in the country, and when you buy your seeds from us you know where they were grown and that you are getting new seeds direct from first hands; seeds that are pure to name and that will grow. If you have never planted our seeds, we want you to try them this year and see the difference. Once tried and you will never plant any other kind.

RATEKIN'S THOROUGHbred SEED CORN.

**It will pay you to read this book carefully. It tells you
how to grow bigger and better corn crops.**

Intelligent farmers and corn growers everywhere now recognize that the same care should be exercised in the selection and purchase of his seed corn as though he was laying the foundation for a pure bred herd of stock.

The breeding of seed corn is no new experiment with us. We were the pioneers in this business. Others may and do claim much in this line, but we do not recall one who was in the business when we began agitating the improvement of seed corn, and first advertised improved varieties of seed corn in the Iowa Homestead and Prairie Farmer. We have learned the practical methods of corn breeding and improvement and have heard the theoretical side discussed. We have devoted forty years or more of labor and thought to the improvement of corn. It has always been our ambition to **GROW** and to **SELL ONLY THE BEST SEED CORN AND VARIETIES THAT COULD BE GROWN**. That we do sell more seed corn throughout the United States than any **TEN OTHER GROWERS**, Seed Houses or Seed Firms combined, is sufficient proof that our seed corn commands the confidence and gives the best results everywhere. In fact, wherever our thoroughbred varieties have been introduced and planted it has created a demand that has multiplied many times over and in many places where we sold but a few bushels here and there only a few years ago we are now selling hundreds of bushels, and in some instances in club orders of full car loads, and especially is this so where crops have been lost or destroyed by some unavoidable casualty. This great success, however, has not been crowned without our best thought and efforts; for as enthusiastic as we have felt at times, we have always given that same careful-conservative attention to every detail of our business, and always given our every customer "a fair square deal," however large or small his order might be. We are not only confident, but absolutely know that our seed corn will give you the same good results it has given others, and that any investment you make with us in a trial order this year will prove a satisfactory and profitable investment to you. You can positively depend upon our seed and varieties maturing in any locality or latitude within the time it is recommended for. If you are in doubt as to which variety you want for your climate or soil, or want our advice on this or any other seeds of crops for the farm or garden we will thank you to write us fully asking any questions you are not clear upon. In addition to ourselves we have in our employ one of the most experienced seedsmen and seed growers to be found anywhere; an expert in this line and his services with a stenographer are always at the command of our customers, and we will cheerfully give you any desired information we can or have derived from our long experience. We are here to please you and to help make your every investment with us a profitable one.

The World is Interested in the Corn Question.

Thoroughbred Seed Corn Our Specialty.

There is perhaps at this time no question of greater interest or of more vital importance to the corn grower in the Central, Western and Southern States than that dealing with **AMERICA'S GREATEST STAPLE; THE CORN CROP**. Its annual value in dollars and cents for the whole United States now runs above the Billion dollar mark.

With many years of practical experience on the farm as a corn grower, we have in addition made the breeding and growing of thoroughbred Seed Corn a specialty for the past twenty-three years, during which time we have perhaps grown, sold and sent out more seed corn than any other Seed Corn Grower, Seed House or Seed Firm in the world, and are now recognized as **AMERICA'S GREATEST CORN INTRODUCERS**, and why not? We have originated more new successful varieties during our past twenty-three years experience than any other half dozen growers combined, and now grow suitable varieties for about every locality where corn is grown at all, or to any extent. In fact for the past six or eight years we have been shipping our seed each year to every state and territory in the Union besides to every country where corn is grown. We are located on the "**GREAT NISHNABOTONA VALLEY**" of Southwestern Iowa, which is the center of the best corn growing district in the world and has become "famous" throughout the United States for the corn it grows. The climate, soil and location all combine to the most perfect growth and maturity of the best quality of seed corn that can be produced on earth. This small county of Page, with an area of but 22 X 24 miles square has the distinction of producing over **SIX AND A HALF MILLION BUSHELS OF CORN IN ONE YEAR**, which is not paralleled by any other county of the same size in the United States. Our seed corn grown here is so sound and well matured that it possesses a vitality that always produces a strong vigorous growth, and combined with our thoroughbred varieties will produce from 10 to 40 bushels better yield any where than corn grown in any other locality to be found.

IF YOU WOULD BE PROSPEROUS, DON'T PLANT YOUR OLD WORN OUT HOME VARIETIES, but send to us this year of 1907 and get some of our new thoroughbred seed and commence anew to grow crops that will give you a yield of 100 bushels per acre. In fact, we have reports and testimonials from a considerable number of our customers who planted our seed corn last year that made a record of over (200) **TWO HUNDRED BUSHELS PER ACRE**. No talk is necessary to convince the intelligent farmer the necessity of planting our new offerings if he contemplates bigger crops and better yields than heretofore. We are in better position than ever before to supply you with the most choice hand-picked thoroughly dried seed corn, and know when you have once tried our famous new varieties listed on the following pages you will never plant any other. **REMEMBER OUR SEED IS GUARANTEED TO PLEASE YOU, and if NOT ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY IT CAN BE RETURNED AT OUR EXPENSE AND MONEY PAID FOR IT WILL BE REFUNDED, and NO QUESTIONS ASKED.**

The cost of our choice varieties is simply nothing as compared with the big increased yields you will get. Especially is this so when one bushel of seed corn will plant from six to eight acres of ground, and should produce from four to seven hundred bushels. An increased yield of one bushel per acre will pay for the seed required to plant the crop. Let us work together. We will supply the seed. You plant it, and get the results and profits.

RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE

Largest Seed Corn Growers in the World.

It is an admitted fact that we are the oldest and largest Seed Corn Growers in the World—that more farmers plant Ratekin's Seed Corn than is sold by any ten other growers in the United States. We have more drying capacity, more floor room for storing and better capacity for curing than any other seed corn growers in the United States.

HOW OUR SEED IS HANDLED.

Direct From Field to Drying House.

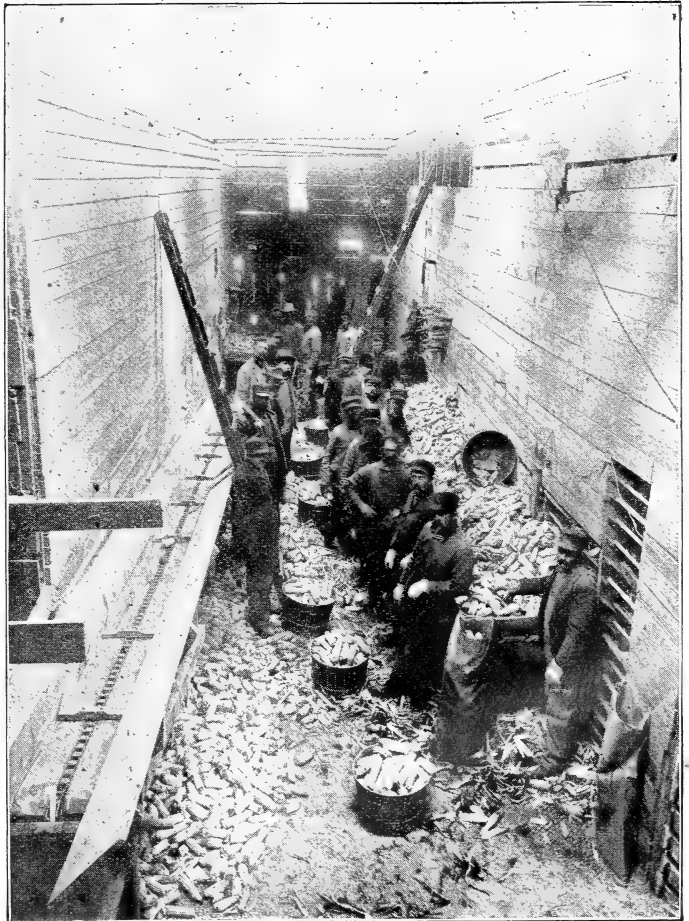
Naturally every interested or prospective customer is anxious to know how our seed crop is handled and kept after it is grown. This is a very important factor.

First of all, our crops are allowed to remain in the field on the stalk as long as conditions will admit—in order that the ears may have the full benefit of nature's process of drying, which is decidedly the best method of curing corn in the world. Then when the time comes to get it in quickly and as rapidly as possible; every thing else is made a secondary matter to that end. Every bushel is placed in our sorting house under shelter the day it is harvested. As fast as it comes in it is shoveled into sorting bunks with slatted bottoms, built especially for this purpose so that every ear can be observed. Here an army of men, experts in the business, go over and hand pick all of it, selecting only well developed and well matured ears for seed. This is thrown or carried in baskets to one of our regular repositories. The refuse, culls, shelled corn, including all silks and husks stripped from the select corn, is cleared out—shelled and sold on the market. Thus we are able to economize space and all the room for choice ears only. Ordinarily we use from 10 to 20 per cent of the original product from the first selection.

The construction of these seed repositories is such that they hold from 500 to 700 bushels each and have ventilators in an A shape running lengthwise at the bottom, or on the floor, and each has ventilators on all sides and an air shaft running through the repositories and lateral ones connected at bottom and middle and extending out at the top. This insures perfect circulation of air and under such conditions all moisture in the corn is consumed or swiftly carried away, leaving the seed in splendid condition for winter temperature. In addition to this we have hot air furnaces in the basements for use in extreme cold weather or damp changes and in this way prevent the liability of damage to the vitality of the seed.

We can and have repeatedly handled from 100 to 200 wagon loads of corn per day—coming in as we have mentioned.

When time for shipping out comes on, **THE SEED CORN IS AGAIN ALL RIGIDLY INSPECTED AND RE-SORTED** and Butt and Tip ends all taken off by hand before shelling for shipment; that which goes in the ear is carefully packed in bushel boxes or crates. Thus you will readily see the way we handle our seed you will always get a superior quality of corn from us that you do not get when you buy seed from some of our competitors, who buy crib corn on the market and select it only as it passes over the drag to the sheller.



One of Our Sorting Rooms.

WHAT IS FIRST CLASS SEED CORN?

Inherited Quality of Corn Gives the Largest Yields.

To be first class seed corn it should be a standard variety of superior quality in yield and sound maturity; corn that has demonstrated its ability to outyield other strains of the same variety. It should have a high per cent of germination, thus insuring an even and perfect stand. It should be purchased from a corn breeder a practical and scientific knowledge and experience in the growing, judging as well as the preparation of the seed in all its details.

The Possibilities of a Bushel of Seed Corn.

The best has produced a thousand fold. Five hundred fold should be an average return. The farmer who plants the best seed corn and varieties obtainable harvests 100 bushels per acre while his neighbor who plants common varieties from his crib corn gets but 20 to 25 bushels, and in addition runs the risk of losing his entire crop.

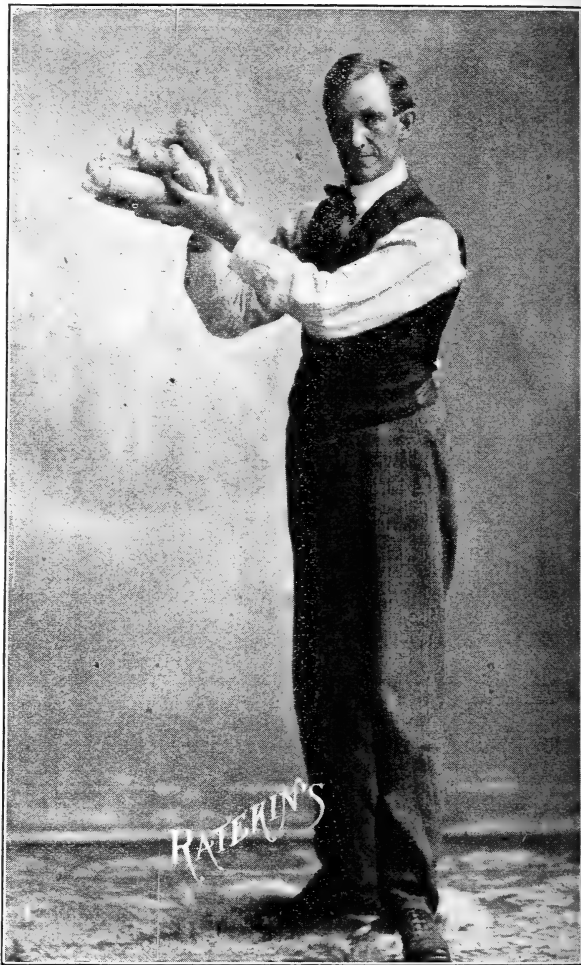
Actual Results.

Prof. Holden, of the Iowa State Agricultural College, in the best corn state in the Union, and he who is one of the highest authorities on improved seed corn in the United States, planted 100 samples of "good corn," as the farmer terms it, taken from the corn planters in the fields of 100 farmers in the vicinity of Ames, Iowa, near the College. All planted in trial grounds on the College farm and sub-stations in various parts of the state and were given the same care and cultivation. The variation in yield was a surprise to all. Some of the corn produced less than 20 bushels per acre, while other lots yielded almost 100 bushels per acre. **THIS WIDE DIFFERENCE HERE SHOWN WAS WHOLLY IN THE SEED PLANTED.** The land and methods of cultivation being identical.

The expense of growing per acre was the same. The **BEST SEED** produced **FULLY FOUR TIMES AS MUCH CORN PER ACRE, AND OF BETTER QUALITY** than did other lots of inferior corn and varieties taken from "good" corn—good because it made a crop, even though a small one. The best seed inherited qualities that had been established and so fixed that big yields were a natural result. The poor yield was also due to an inherited tendency to produce nubbins and barren stalks.

Does it Require a Mathematician to Figure it Out?

A bushel of our best seed corn grown from pedigreed stock with inherited qualities to reproduce itself in big yields costs you from \$1.50 to \$3.00 per bushel. This will plant from 6 to 8 acres, making the cost for the best seed from 25 to 50 cents per acre. The common sorts of crib stock which yields 20 bushels per acre will cost you half or two thirds as much as the best, so we have a difference in yield of from 25 to 75 bushels per acre for an extra outlay of only 12½ to 25 cents, without mentioning the additional profit and satisfaction of growing a record breaking crop. An increase of one bushel per acre would much more than pay for the additional cost of good inherited seed stock. But here we have 25 to 75 times that amount as a possible gain. Who can afford to jeopardize a corn crop by planting poor, inferior or questionable seed and varieties? The farmer who owns land worth from 60 to \$125 per acre surely cannot, neither can the tenant who grows his crop to sell.



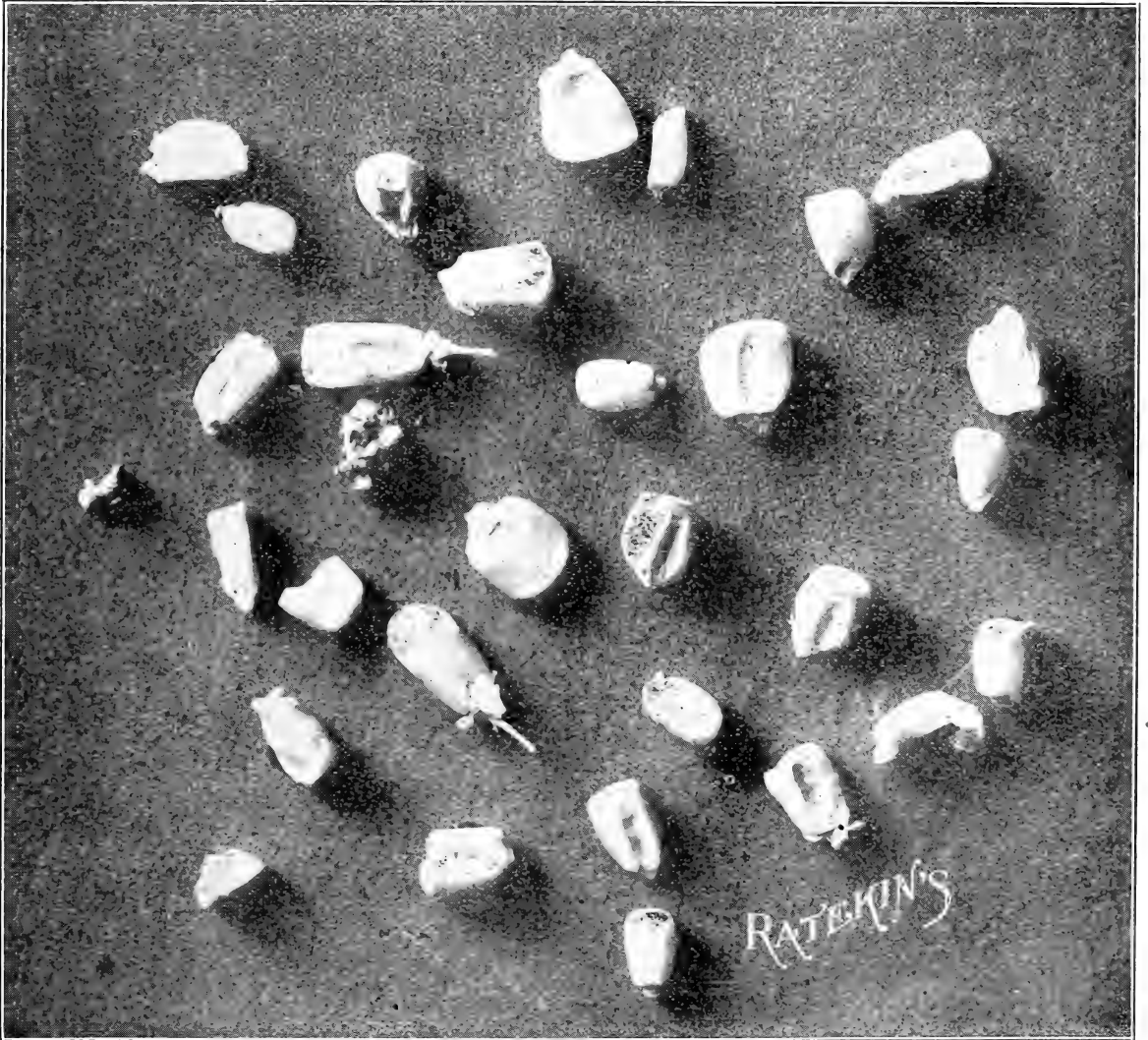
"This is the Way Our Corn Looks:"

Growing Improved Pedigreed Corn.

Pedigreed corn is originated from single ears of special merit in both stalk and grain. These ears are planted in double rows, one of which is entirely detasseled to avoid in-breeding. In the other row all barren stalks are detasseled or pulled out. This work is done in blocks where 25 or more ears may thus be tested. Those which reproduce in type of stalk, ear and grain most perfectly are used for further planting. It frequently occurs that one ear will produce 50 or even 75 per cent more corn with no barren stalks or nubbins than other ears. This method of improvement results in selections that will eliminate in time non-productive plants and preserve only such as inherit power to reproduce abundantly. Thus we continue this valuable work year after year to maintain the high quality of our stock. The average farmer will not take the time to do this progressive breeding. He must therefore depend upon the specialist; the corn breeder and grower for improved or thoroughbred seed corn if he is to keep abreast of the times and grow the best and largest yields.

OUR SEED CORN IS GRADED AND OF SUPERIOR QUALITY.

After thorough-bred seed corn of inherited qualities there is no other one thing of more vital importance than the properly grading of all kernels to a uniform shape and size. It is impossible for any planter to drop uniformly the correct number of grains if the seed is ungraded and of uneven size and shape. In fact, it has been repeatedly demonstrated that carefully selected **GRADED SEED CORN** often produces from 10 to 25 bushels **MORE PER ACRE** than **UNGRADED SEED** of the same variety. By planting such seed you plant only good, healthy kernels of robust character, thus not only insuring an even stand but also a good strong healthy growth from the start.



The accompanying illustrations on this and following pages tell their own story better perhaps than any words we could find to draw the contrast. They were made from photographic pictures, and you know the camera does not lie as the drawings from the skilled hand of the artist sometimes do. The one on this page culls and uneven grains separated and graded from what might ordinarily be termed "good seed corn;" corn that has been hand picked and butt and tip ends taken off before shelling. The other one—on the following page—represents our graded seed corn after it has been milled and graded on our grading machine. You would hardly think when you have gone to your corn crib or garret where you keep your seed corn and after you have nibbed and tipped it first and then shelled it, that it contained any thing like the imperfect grains shown here. But that is just where you are mistaken. You would be surprised to see what a separation and what a lot of imperfect grains would come out of it in being run over and through our grader.

OUR CLEANING AND GRADING EQUIPMENT

The Best that Money Can Build.



To do the work of cleaning and grading, as here illustrated, requires machinery specially built for this purpose. This we have, and when we say we have the best and most complete equipment for cleaning and grading seed corn to be found in the world we do not believe we are overstating the facts. This new process machinery makes five different separations; the extra large or oversized grains; the smaller or undersized; the extra thick and extra thin, and fifth the graded seed corn as you see it illustrated in the last illustration; a combination of the four other separations appearing in the first picture. We have been told a thousand times that the way we graded our seed corn, it alone, made it worth twice as much as ungraded seed of the same kind—graded in the ordinary way. But it's our ambition to make our seed the **BEST IN QUALITY AND GRADE**. It's grown from thorough-bred inherited stock, and is carefully selected, sorted and handled all the way through from start to finish in a scientific manner. In short it is our aim to make our seed profitable to the man who plants it. There is nothing so pleasant, that we value so highly or appreciate so much in the seed trade as to please our customers.

What the Newspapers and Agricultural Press say:

Ratekin's Seed House Pioneers in Seed Corn Improvement.

PRIDE OF NISHNA. MADE SHENANDOAH FAMOUS.

From ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH.

Southwestern Iowa is the natural and most favored home of corn where it attains its greatest perfection. This is no idle boast. The claim can be easily established. The Nishnabotna Valley is wonderfully productive. Bayard Taylor, the famous poet, author, journalist and traveler, crossed this part of the country years ago, before Shenandoah existed and when this part of Iowa was an unbroken prairie occupied only by Indians, prairie chickens, wolves and deer. Standing upon a hill top four miles southwest of the site of the city, Mr. Taylor gazed across the valley of the Nishnabotna river and declared that the landscape was the most beautiful he had ever seen. He called it the garden spot of the world. The rich soil extends four, six and even eight feet in depth, full of life giving qualities that make the monster crops of corn. Mark out a square of 50 miles eastward from the banks of the Missouri River and ten miles south to 40 miles north of the state line and there is not another such productive spot in the world.

While there has been no regular organization among the corn growers of that section there has been a rivalry that has stimulated and made possible greater improvement in the production of a higher type, better quality and larger yields perhaps than if such an organization had existed. Among the choice and favorite varieties in greatest favor is what is known as "Ratekin's Pride of Nishna." It is one of the best and most distinct types of corn in existence and is becoming the main crop of the corn belt. It is a medium sized variety of yellow corn possessing a marked degree of superiority over other varieties or corn grown elsewhere, and in addition has uniformly given the most uniform large yields. This variety of corn is grown with great success from the Dakota's to Texas and other distant states, but after two or three years it deteriorates and a new supply of better seed from the Nishnabotna Valley must be supplied.

For 25 years pioneers in the seed corn business as the Ratekin's have talked "the breeding up of corn." At first they were laughed at for their pains but their advice and persistence has resulted in the raising of unheard of crops. One hundred bushels to the acre is no uncommon thing. But such crops are secured only by carefully selected seed and varieties and by a mixture of brains with its cultivation.

Year after year these men urged the careful selection of the seed corn, advised taking off the butts and tips, advised the grading of the grains to a uniform size, the testing of their germinating power, preached pollination, illustrated the increased yield if a good stand was obtained which was only possible if seed with full germinating power was planted, and at same time advised as to the cultivation of the crop.

The Iowa State Agricultural College first had its attention called to the possibility of the great increase that could be made in the corn growing districts by experiments made in this section. Year after year it has experimented with the seed corn obtained from this locality, south western Iowa, and year after year the best results and largest yields have been obtained from Shenandoah seed. Missouri Agricultural College has found the Shenandoah seed the best. Nebraska's college has made the same discovery.

In Illinois a new standard has been called for with which to judge the superior sorts grown from Iowa seed.

In South Dakota, Iowa grown seed has won honors, and indeed two years ago the first honor at the Ames Agricultural College was awarded a South Dakota man on corn grown from Nishnabotna seed, and that man attributed his prize to the fact that he has secured the best seed obtainable.—St. Louis Dispatch.

By the above it will be seen that Page County, Iowa, has made an unparalleled record area compared with any other county in the United States, or same amount of territory covered in the wide world, and is justly proud of the name and banner she bears, "The Kingdom of Page, that Grows the Greatest, Most and Best Corn in the World."

From BREEDERS GAZETTE:

RATEKIN'S FARM ANNUAL for 1906 is especially strong on the seed corn side, yet it illustrates and describes all kinds of seeds for the farm, field and garden. The Ratekin Seed House is located at Shenandoah Iowa and is an immense establishment. They have built up their large and rapidly growing business by "making good" that declaration, "They sell seeds that grow." The seeds grow because they have been well grown, intelligently and properly cured. Seeds thus handled possess strong germinating power. They are full of constitutional vigor, to use the words of a plant breeder. Extreme care is exercised in the selection of seeds, especially the farm seeds offered, and the Ratekin people believe they can supply a grade of farm seeds that cannot be excelled in freshness, soundness and freedom from trash, foreign seeds or disease.

COLEMAN'S RURAL WORLD—

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa.

We extend to you our appreciation of your continuous patronage of our advertising columns since 1885, and judging from the high manner in which our readers have always endorsed your business methods and the good you have done for the farmer you will certainly reap a reward. We have yet the first complaint to receive from any reader where they have not had the best of treatment from you.

We pledge you our hearty support in the good work you are doing, and wish you continued success and prosperity.

Very truly yours,

Coleman's Rural World,

L. M. EIDMAN, ADV'T MGR.

THE FRUIT GROWER—(St. Joseph, Mo.)

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa.

The Fruit Grower desires to say that its business relations with you have always been very satisfactory and we have yet to hear of a customer who has any complaint to make of the treatment he has received from you.

Yours respectfully,

FRUIT GROWER Co.

FARMER'S TRIBUNE—(Sioux City, Iowa.)

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa.

We have carried your advertisement for a good many years and we are pleased to say in this connection that we have yet to receive the first complaint from any reader who has dealt with you. The fact that you were pioneers in the growing and breeding of improved varieties of seed corn has given you prestige, and this opinion is the main reason why your business has grown so rapidly in recent years,

Very truly yours,
JOHN THOMPSON—Editor.

PRAIRIE FARMER—(Chicago Ill.)

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to say that for many years we have watched with considerable interest the splendid growth of your seed corn business. During this time you have supplied many thousands of our subscribers with seeds, and that you have treated them well and given them good value is evident from the fact that in all these years we have never received a single complaint. It is always a pleasure, therefore, to recommend you to our readers, and we hope when you have cast up your accounts for this season that you will find such treatment of customers has won its reward in making this the largest and most profitable season you have ever had. Thanking you for past favors, and hoping in future we may be able to serve you further, we remain,

Very truly yours,
PRAIRIE FARMER, A. G. Sullivan,
Adv't. Mgr.

From 20th CENTURY FARMER:

When the Ratekin's Seed House of Shenandoah, Iowa, sends the seed you can plant it without any worry as to results. Twenty-three years in the business of growing and selecting field and garden seeds means a lot of experience; much more than many realize. It means that poor varieties have been thrown out and only the prolific and hardy kinds have been retained. A visit to that Seed House would be worth money to any farmer in the West. It would open his eyes and sharpen his wits. He would begin to understand why selected seed is worth having and planting. He would be surprised at the careful tests, the sorting and picking and shipping. The Nishnabotna Valley of Southwestern Iowa seems particularly favored as a corn growing section. In short it is the Egypt of the world. Long ago the Ratekin's discovered that they could literally beat the world on corn. They were the pioneers in the seed corn business. Their Pride of Nishna was in demand far and wide more than twenty-five years ago. The Ratekin's Seed House was established in 1884 to meet the demand. It was a farmer who founded it. Others tried to imitate in this line but they have come and gone. The man who founded this business knew how to raise good corn and knew the difference between seed corn and elevator corn; a great business has been built up by the Ratekin's Seed House. Each year their business has spread and increased until thousands of farmers throughout the corn belt states look to this house for their seed. They know it is absolutely reliable, just as represented, just as good as can be grown.

FARMERS MAIL AND BREEZE.

62,000 Circulation in Kansas and Oklahoma.
Topeka, Kansas. 1906.

RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE, Shenandoah, Iowa.

You have used space in the Farmers Mail and Breeze for several years and we have frequently seen letters from our subscribers complimenting your seed house upon its promptness and satisfactory manner in which you transacted your business with them.

With best wishes for your further success, we are,
Very respectfully,
FARMERS MAIL & BREEZE,
By ARTHUR CAPPER, Publisher.

RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE has become well-known to the farmers of the Western Central States. The house has been selling field and garden seeds to our readers for many years past, and so far as we know with uniform satisfaction of those using them.

INDIANA FARMER CO,
Indianapolis, Ind.

JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE—(St. Louis, Mo.)

RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE:

Gentlemen:—It is said that he who plants a tree is a public benefactor. It can be truthfully said that he who improves, and contributes to the improvement of the products of the farm and garden in quality and quantity is more entirely a benefactor—as these products sustain life, add to its comforts and pleasures, and assist materially in putting the business of Agriculture on a higher plain. You are entitled to this distinction. As the publishers of a standard journal of agriculture we have deemed it a part of our duty to our great farming constituency to guard his interests in the matter of implements and seeds and to recommend to him that which will do him good and advance his interests. We have had many an occasion these twenty years of our acquaintance to recommend to him your products and you have at no time abused the confidence we reposed in you or inspired in others. You have, to use a trite phrase "delivered the goods," and such as have met expectation and been satisfactory. We rejoice in your success, thus honestly won, and with best wishes for your future, we are,

Yours very truly,
JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE,
L. H. THOMPSON, Sec'y & Gen'l Mgr.

OHIO FARMER—(Cleveland, Ohio.)

RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE,

Gentlemen—It is with much pleasure that we state that during the many years advertising you have done in our paper we can find record of having received complaint from only one of our many thousands of readers who patronize you, and you at once settled that complaint promptly, and more generously than the complainant had any right to expect. We therefore can honestly endorse your methods of doing business.

Wishing you the very best success during the coming season, we are,
Very truly yours,
LAWRENCE PUBLISHING CO.,
By M. W. LAWRENCE, President.

NATIONAL FARMER AND STOCK GROWER.—(St. Louis, Mo.)

We desire to say that Ratekin's Seed House, of Shenandoah, Iowa, stands high in this office as a well equipped reliable seed house. After carrying their advertisement for several years we have every reason to believe and certify that our patrons are well satisfied with seeds bought of them and results obtained. We have received words of commendation but never a word of complaint.

PHILIP H. HALE, Ed., Nat'l Farmer & Stock Grower.

From FARM AND RANCH.—(Dallas, Texas.)

It may be of interest to you to know that although FARM and RANCH has always guaranteed every advertisement in its columns, it has not during the many years you have advertised with us, had a single complaint against your house. In view of the fact that you have done an enormous business in this southwest it ought to be gratifying to know that while we have heard many complimentary things as to the methods and way you do business, we have never had a single complaint. In view of the large amount of business you have from this section, the above facts are the strongest possible endorsement of your firm. Personally, we hold you and your firm in the highest esteem, and do not hesitate to recommend you to our readers.

Yours very truly,

TEXAS FARM AND RANCH PUB. CO.,
Frank P. Holland, Pres.

From KANSAS FARMER.—(Topeka, Kansas.)

Ratekin's Seed House,

Gentlemen:—We are pleased to say that for twenty years the Kansas Farmer has been favored with your seed advertising, and we are gratified to state to you that during this time we have never had a single complaint. This tells a significant story in your behalf. Evidently your system and methods of doing business are thoroughly up to date and satisfactory to all concerned.

Yours very truly,

KANSAS FARMER PUBLISHING CO.,
By S. A. Heath, Manager.

FARMER AND STOCKMAN.—(Kansas City, Mo.)

For many years the Ratekin Seed House of Shenandoah, Iowa, has been a free user of advertising space in the Farmer and Stockman. As a result of this many of our readers have had business dealings with this firm. We believe that we voice the sentiments of practically all customers of this firm when we say that all seeds sent out by the Ratekin Seed House are not only up to the standard in germination qualities and in purity, but they are above the standard in excellency of varieties offered for sale. This is especially true as applied to farm crops, and notably of seed corn. The locality where they are situated is recognized to be one of the best corn growing localities in the United States, and by a system of co-operation with good corn growers a large number of varieties are grown under the very eye of the officers and managers of this house, so that when such corn is sent out it does not turn out to be a hybrid but produces like the parent corn. Any endorsement that we might give to the methods adopted by this firm in caring for their corn might with equal force be applied to their plan of handling all seeds.—FARMER AND STOCKMAN.

WISCONSIN FARMER.

Ratekin's Seed House of Shenandoah, Iowa has become exceedingly well known by a great many of our readers, and this acquaintance, which begun in a business venture involving the purchase of some kind of seeds, has in most cases ripened into real friendship. During recent years this well-known firm has made corn a specialty, and many a man who is growing thousands of bushels of corn to-day got his start in the purchase of only a bushel or two years ago. The Ratekin Seed House is located in one of the best corn localities in the United States, and by adopting the plan of having corn grown under special contract from seed furnished by the firm, this house has been able to build up a large trade, and to build this on a substantial foundation. As a result of this they have on their books to-day the names of thousands of good farmers who are willing to give the strongest kind of endorsement.—WISCONSIN FARMER.

Successful Seed House.

IOWA HOMESTEAD.—(Des Moines, Iowa.)

Many farmers have become a little bit excited during recent years about their seed corn, this being due to the agitation that emanates from Agricultural Colleges. As a result of this agitation there has sprung up a large number of so-called corn experts. Many of these were "grown over night"—a hot-house production, as it were. It is not so with the Ratekin Seed House of Shenandoah, Iowa. Twenty odd years of experience count for more than mere reading of a bulletin or two. As a result of this long experience the Ratekin Seed House has acquired the whole combination that must be called into being if one's customers are satisfied. The success of this firm, as indicated by the growth of their business, should be a matter of great pride to the manager, J. W. Ratekin, but the reputation of having started thousands of men in the corn belt with a supply of good seed is, after all, the most substantial monument to its success.—HOMESTEAD.

A WORD ABOUT OUR PRICES.

Many people who have never tried our seed corn write us to the effect that they would like to try some of our seed corn but they can get corn "cheaper elsewhere," but if we will accept the same price they will send us an order, and will be glad to try our seed the coming season. Our aim is to supply the best seed and best varieties that can be grown: Seed every kernel of which has within it that power and general characteristics that tend to make a perfect crop. Our work of detasseling alone, to say nothing of any other treatment, and care given our seed stock is worth the price in lessening the percentage of barren stalks, and increasing the yield. In addition to this the Ratekin Seed House is constantly trying new varieties of corn and whenever any of these new varieties prove of special merit we propagate it and place it before our customers and they get the benefit. If you want to improve your corn and increase your yield, don't fool away your time sending to amateurs for seed because they offer it but a little above elevator prices. Cheap prices may seem attractive to some, but it's better and cheaper to pay FIVE DOLLARS PER BUSHEL for good seed corn; thoroughbred, of inherited productive qualities than to plant some seed even as a gift.

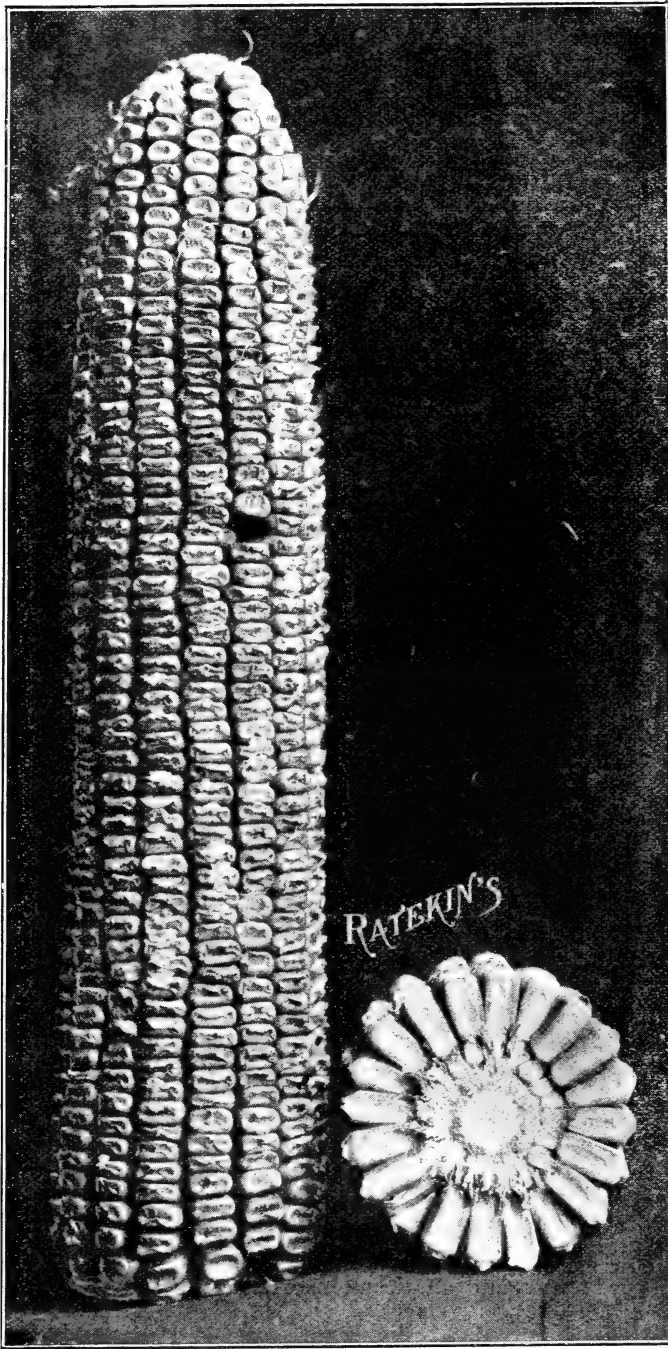
Ratekin's Yellow Dent.

This magnificent new 100 day corn introduced by us two years ago, is another distinguished variety introduced by us that has won laurels for the length of time it has been offered. Pedigreed Seed Corn, like pedigreed stock, must have a record, and this new offering has a proud one—making the almost unbelievable record of 232 bushels per acre in 1904, the first year of its introduction, in Washington County, Iowa, in a prize contest of \$200.00. It is the largest eared extra early yellow dent corn grown in the Central Western States, and is noted for its marked superior qualities, early maturity and wonderful yields.

DESCRIPTION.

It is a golden yellow color, as bright as gold itself, and very uniform in size, shape and color, and all the ears resemble one another very closely. It was grown from pure pedigreed and inherited stock, thus maintaining its similarity. The ears run from 9 to 12 inches long, 16 to 20 rows of deep grains solidly set on small red cob. It is well dented but not of that roughness on outer surface of grains sometimes found in other sorts. It usually matures in ninety days' good corn weather beyond danger of frost, but we list it as a 100 day corn, for this length of time will put it beyond danger of frost anywhere in the latitude of the south half of Minnesota—even in backward or unfavorable seasons. It is especially well adapted to thin or poor soil, but on good corn ground it will be found at the head of all other varieties. Every corn grower should try some of this new variety of corn the coming season as you will take no risk or make any mistake.

PRICE:—One ear 30c, 1 pound 30c, 3 pounds 75 c, 7 pounds, enough to plant 1 acre \$1.25, postpaid to any place in the United States. By freight or express, at purchaser's expense, peck 90c, $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel \$1.60, 1 bushel \$2.50, 2 bushels \$4.50, 5 bushels and upward \$2.00 per bushel. Bags free f. o. b. here. If wanted in the ear, crated, add 75 c. per bushel to above prices.



A MOST PLEASANT VISIT.

Recently while one of our old customers, one of the big corn growing farmers, of North Dakota was on a brief business trip at Omaha, but fifty miles away, he concluded to run over to Shenandoah and make us a visit. At that time our seed crops were garnered and our storage house was full to the rafters; the wheels were turning and a small army of our men was making a second inspection and re-sorting our mammoth supply of seed corn. He was shown through our seed and drying houses where our seed corn was stored and the methods employed in growing, selecting and curing were explained to him. He said, "as you know I live in North Dakota, but have bought and planted your seed corn for five years past—always with good results and satisfaction. My neighbors have tried it and are all equally pleased." As a result he placed his order with us for 800 bushels of our extra early varieties, regardless of the bug-a-boos of some of the dealers and seed houses much closer to his home. He said, "I have tried your seed year after year with a number of so-called Minnesota and Dakota varieties, and usually get about twice as many bushels per acre from your extra early varieties and don't see but what it matures fully as early as any of them and much earlier than some." I now have orders from my neighbors for almost enough to consume this car load, and I hope to be able to use another car before planting time arrives.

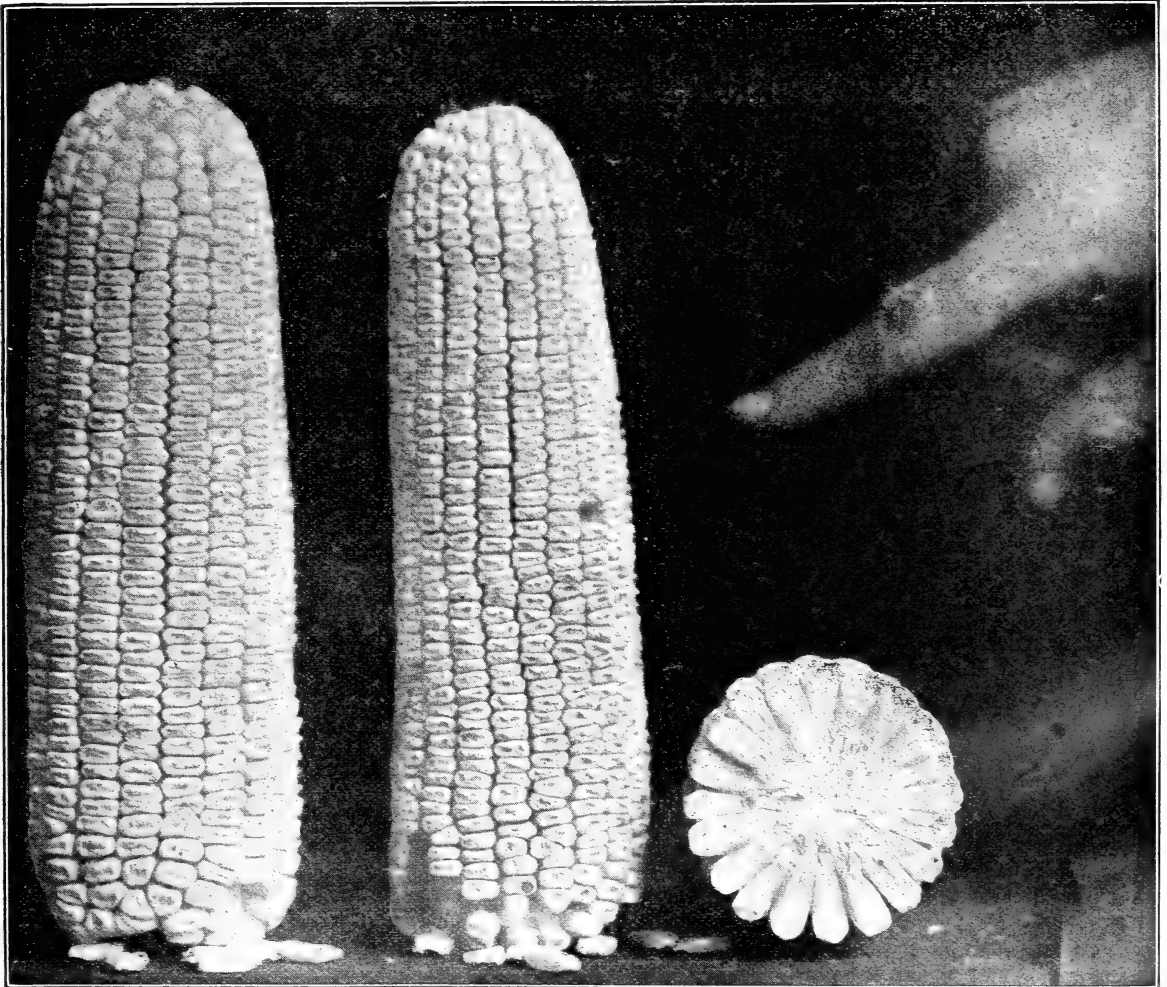
DIAMOND JOE'S BIG WHITE

THE BEST WHITE CORN IN THE WORLD.

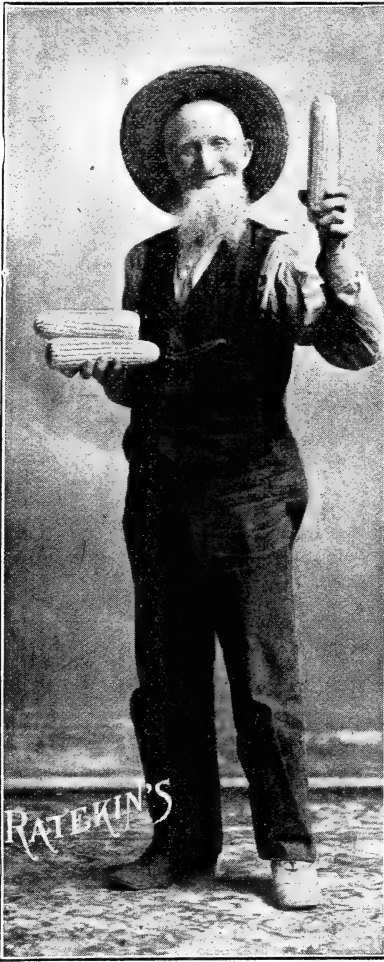
The introduction of Diamond Joe's Big White Corn last year marked a NEW ERA IN CORN GROWING, and won the hearts of more than FIFTY THOUSAND CORN GROWERS LAST YEAR.

THE EARLIEST BIG WHITE CORN IN THE WORLD.

Little did we think when we offered this Big Early White Corn last year that it was going to create such wild admiration throughout the corn-growing world. Orders came pouring in on us from almost every state where corn is grown, and we were kept busy night and day for awhile, as it seemed like everybody wanted some of it; enough to plant a few acres if no more. Reports we are receiving at this writing are simply astonishing. From 150 to 225 bushels per acre seems to be a common yield everywhere. It has proven itself a most marvelous and extraordinary variety.



Diamond Joe's Big White.



DESCRIPTION:—We claim for **DIAMOND JOE'S BIG WHITE** that it is more uniform in every sense of the word than any corn in existence. It is a large-eared corn running about a fourth larger in size than the famous Iowa Silver Mine, and will yield more big bushels of good, sound, well-matured corn per acre in 100 days than any other variety in existence. The plant is a strong, robust, vigorous grower, with luxuriant growth of foliage; the stalks growing to a height of 8 to 10 feet; ears grow from 3½ to four feet from the ground. It being of large, strong, deep roots it reaches down deep into the soil, always standing up well and also withstanding drouth to a remarkable degree. **EARS** average 10 to 12 inches in length and are very symmetrical in shape, and a very large majority of them are well filled out over the butt and tip ends with grains. Ears contain 16 to 24 rows, very deep grains, solidly set on white cob, and every stalk contains at least one good ear and many of them two well developed ears of corn; not a barren stalk to be found in a thousand. This seed stock was grown from thoroughbred and inherited corn. This corn is not only good for certain sections, it is good for any climate where corn will grow, North, East, South or West; for high or low lands it is the best.

Don't hesitate to send us your order for a few bushels of this corn. The more you plant of it the better pleased you will be. We **GUARANTEE YOU TO BE PLEASD WITH THE SEED.** Otherwise it may be returned at our expense and purchase price paid for it will be refunded.

PRICE:—Sample ear, postpaid 30c; 1 lb., postpaid, 30c; 3 lbs., 75c; 7 lbs., enough to plant one acre, \$1.25, postpaid. By freight or express at purchaser's expense, one peck, 80c; half-bushel, \$1.50; 1 bu., \$2.50; 2 bu., \$4.50; 5 bu. and upwards \$2.00, bags included, f. o. b. here. If wanted in the ear, crated, add 75c per bu. to foregoing prices.

Mahaska County, Iowa, 10-24-'06.

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa.

Gentlemen:—I am pleased to say that the Diamond Joe's Big White seed corn bought from you last spring has proven a great success for me. I have 20 acres of it and it is estimated by all who have seen it at above 100 bushels per acre.

Respectfully yours,
JOHN W. HIGGENBOTHAM.

Saline County, Mo., Dec. 1st. 1906.

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa.

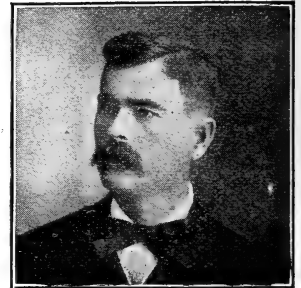
Gentlemen:—Replying to your favor of recent date would say that the 10 bushels of Diamond Joe's Big White seed corn I got from you last spring grew almost to a grain and I had a most perfect stand. It was planted on good rich clover sod, and I have just finished gathering fifty acres that made an average yield of 106 bushels per acre. Of course I have no kick coming. I might say also that this corn matured fully 10 days earlier than our common native sorts.

Very truly yours,
JAMES W. CLINE.

Lafayette Co., Mo.

Please send me copy of your catalogue. I shall want some seed corn and other seeds, and as I have ordered seed corn from you several times and always got good seed, also always been treated nicely, fairly, and right by you, will order my seeds from you this season.

Very respectfully,
F. L. SHELBY.



F. L. Shelby

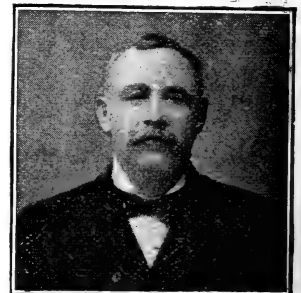
Norman Ochsner, Breeder Hereford Cattle.
Madison, Nebr., Oct. 5th, '06.

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa.

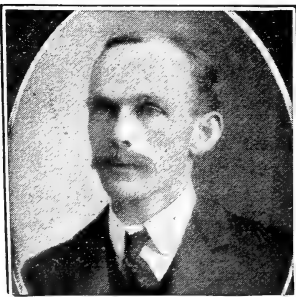
Gentlemen: With regard to the seed corn obtained from you last spring, I wish to say I was well pleased, and now since my crop is made I am better pleased than I expected. My crops from this seed are indeed highly satisfactory, and I am pleased to recommend your house to the seed buying public, as my experience has been very satisfactory.

Respect.,
NORMAN OCHSNER.

Bascon, Ohio.



T. F. Haugh



Norman Ochsner

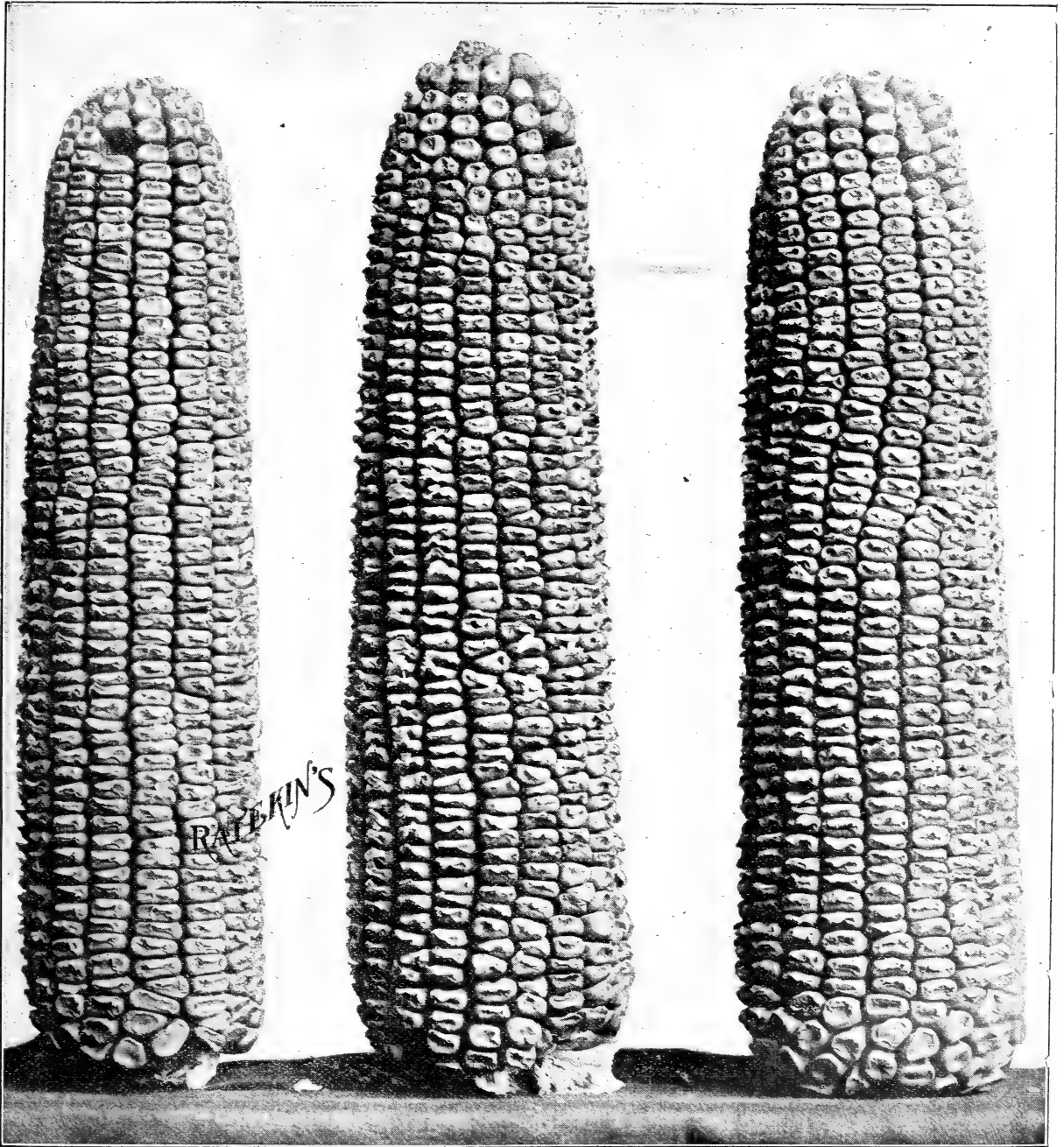
Ratekin's Seed House.

Dear Sir: The seed corn and speltz ordered from you have done splendidly, they grew well and promise to be the largest yield I have ever had. It pays to change seed and plant improved varieties; I shall do so in the future.

T. F. HAUGH.

RATEKIN'S PRIDE OF NISHNA

A Yellow Dent Without a Rival.



This famous variety of corn, known the world over where corn is raised, was originated by the Ratekins more than a quarter of century ago, and has been before the public now for more than twenty years. During all this time we have constantly improved it by careful selection and inherited breeding and have made wonderful improvement during the past few years. We have bred out all barren, weakly and sickly stalks and now have a corn that stands pre-eminently above any other field variety for solidity, uniformity and extraordinary yield—together with its great feeding value, it is incomparable with any other corn. Its inherent qualities are so firmly fixed and its reproductive power so strong that neither wet nor dry weather makes any noticeable influence with its growth and maturity.

RATEKIN'S PRIDE OF NISHNA==Continued.

DESCRIPTION:

It grows to a height of 8 to 10 feet; the stalk is strong and vigorous; deep, heavy root giving it great vitality and strength to resist dry weather and drouth. The ears are very uniform in size, of golden color, containing from 16 to 24 rows of deep grains solidly set on medium small red cob. This corn is undoubtedly the earliest large-eared corn in existence and matures in from 95 to 100 days good corn weather. It is adapted to a wider range of conditions, including climate and soil, wet or dry weather than any yellow corn in existence. During the past 20 years it has been grown more extensively and successfully in every corn-growing state than any other known variety. For ten years past we have received orders from and sent seed each year to every county in the state of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Missouri, and also every county in Kansas and Nebraska where corn is grown. During the same time we have sent thousands of bushels to the eastern states, and to the southern states, including Oklahoma, Indian Territory, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky, and everywhere it has proven the largest yielder, the earliest to mature and the most uniform in every respect. We have more than ten thousand unsolicited testimonials and letters from our customers from everywhere: East, West, North and South—all extolling it as the best and surest cropper in existence. In short, recommending it as the best all-round yellow corn for general field crop in the world.

This corn, like all other varieties, grows best on rich corn land. It is here that it attains its highest perfection, producing the highest yields and finest quality of corn, and very frequently makes a yield of 100 bushels and over per acre. It shells more to the 70 pounds of ears than any other corn, often making 62 to 64 pounds of shelled corn to 70 pounds in the ear.

PRICE:—Postpaid, by mail, sample ear, 25c; 1lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant one acre), \$1.00. By freight or express, at purchaser's expense, peck, 40c; $\frac{1}{2}$ bu., 75c; 1 bu., \$1.35; 2 bu., \$1.30 per bu.; 10 bu. and over, \$1.25 per bu., bags free on board cars here. If wanted in the ear, crated, add 75c per bushel to above prices. (5 bu. lots at 10 bu. prices.)



Hon. Wm. Fenton

Ratekin's Seed House.

Gentlemen: I have been planting your "Pride of Nishna" Corn several years and find it O. K. The farmer who does not try to improve his seed from year to year should quit business, yet there are some who continue to grow cobs instead of corn. As to the seeds ordered last spring, they were all better even than represented. Am sorry I did not order more of the seed oats, for they are much earlier and will yield double our common varieties.

Respectfully,
WM. FENTON.

Haddam, Kan.

Clay County, Mo., Aug. 6.

Dear Sirs: I am well pleased with the Seed Corn purchased from you last spring. The Texas Rust Proof Oats purchased from you made a field of three times as much as other oats in this locality, and they are very nice quality.

Very truly,
S. F. COLLINS.

Chatham, Ontario, Sept. 1st.

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa.

Dear Sirs: The "Pride of Nishna" and "Queen of Nishna" seed corn I bought from you last spring grew almost to a grain and made a splendid stand, and is looking fine, with favorable prospects of an assured yield of 100 bushels per acre. The seed I got from your house was the only lot that came through in first-class condition. The seed I bought of you two years ago gave perfect satisfaction and proved all you claimed.

Very truly yours,
WALTER BENNETT.



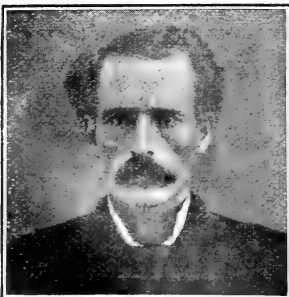
Walter Bennett

McLean County, Ky., Sept. 19.

Gentlemen: The seed corn and garden seeds I purchased from you last spring did fine and I am well pleased with my crop.

Very truly,
C. W. MURPHY

Lavonia, Mo., April 8th, 1906.



J. S. Davis

Ratekin's Seed House.

Gentlemen: The catalogue I sent for is received and I have sent you an order for seed corn and other seeds, which have also been received in good order and I am well pleased. Allow me to thank you for promptness, and to say I like your way of doing business.

Truly yours,
J. S. DAVIS.

Washington, Iowa, Sept. 3d.

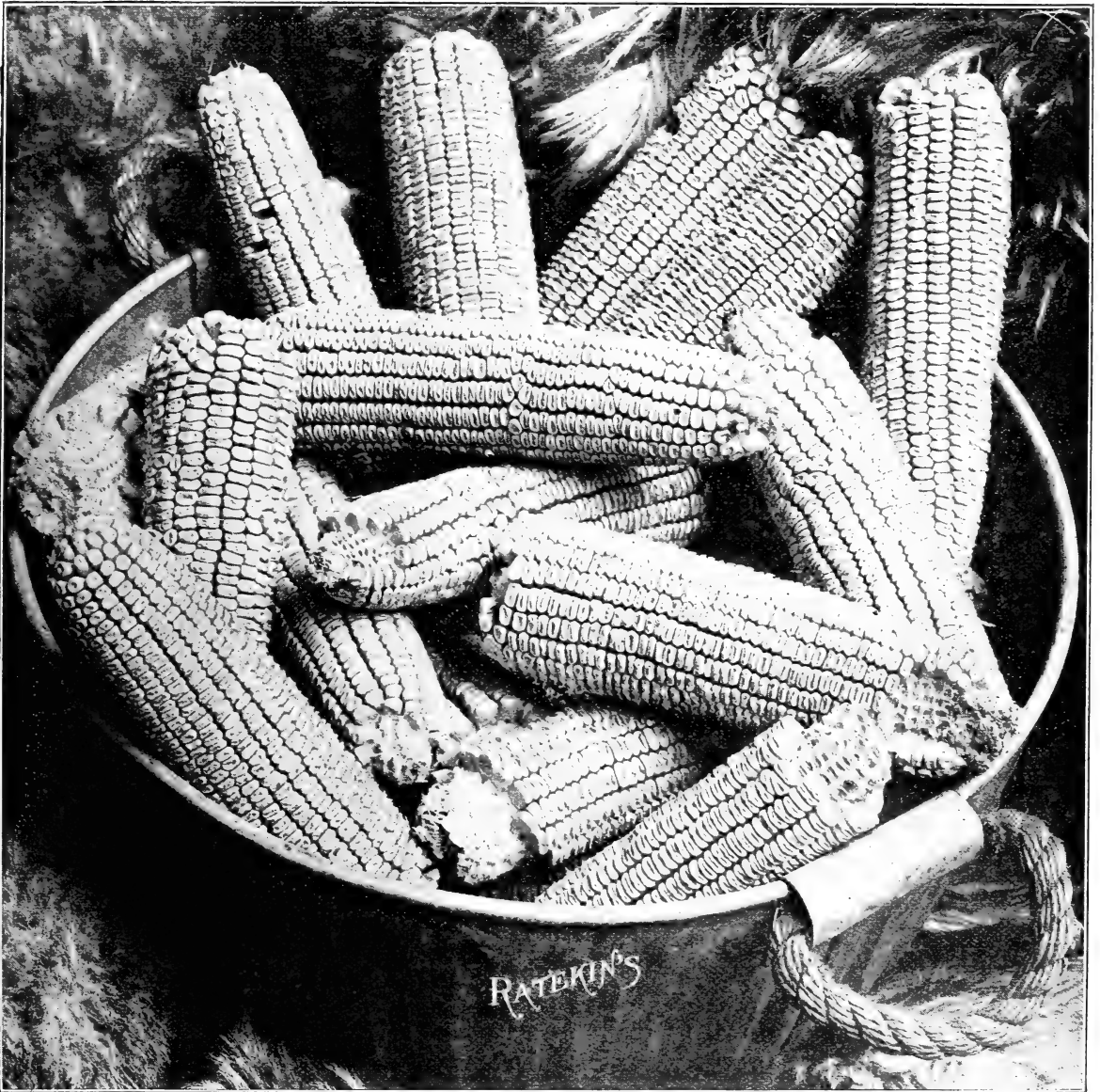
Ratekin's Seed House.

Gentlemen: We have had such wonderful good success with our oats which we purchased from you last spring that I have decided to try some of your winter seed wheat this fall. It's remarkable how they ran from the machine. They were sowed on the poorest ground I have. What is the name of these oats? So many of my neighbors want to know, and I have forgotten.

Yours,
A. R. MILLER.

Ratekin's Iowa Silver Mine White Corn.

THE GREATEST RECORD OF ANY WHITE CORN IN THE WORLD.



RATEKIN'S IOWA SILVER MINE—We have made the growing of Seed Corn a specialty for many years, and have now been making this wonderful variety of white corn our leader and specialty in white varieties for the past ten years, and have sold tens of thousands of bushels of this corn, in fact have never offered any thing that has so completely captured the hearts of every farmer who has tried it as Ratekin's Iowa Silver Mine. Thousands and tens of thousands of corn growing farmers have tested it along with other favorite varieties, East, West, North and South, and from everywhere comes endorsement on top of endorsement, claiming there is no other variety of white corn on earth that equals it for large yield, early maturity and a sure crop.

Our seed from this wonderful variety was grown from pure bred inherited stock, retaining all the valuable characteristics of the original parent ear, and when you buy your seed from us you have the satisfaction of knowing that you are getting pure stock. By reason of the wonderful record the Iowa Silver Mine Corn has made in every contest, as well as every field where it has been planted, there are thousands of bushels of common white corn, in some cases mixed varieties of white corn from elevators, that are sold and palmed off for Iowa Silver Mine, when in fact it was not worthy of a place in the same field with Silver Mine.

If you could see a field of pure bred Iowa Silver Mine once it would convince you of our claims concerning its superiority over other white varieties, and would be its greatest possible recommendation. It may justly be crowned the queen of all white corn.

DESCRIPTION.



The stalk grows strong and rugged, usually from seven to eight feet in height, and sets its ear about three feet from the ground just the right height for easy husking—always standing up well. One peculiarity of this corn is that it is noticeable in going over a field of it that you scarcely if ever see a barren stalk. Every stalk, almost without exception, bears at least one and many of them

two well developed ears. This is characteristic of its high breeding, inherited. The type is very even. Ears measuring TEN TO TWELVE INCHES LONG and weighing one and one-half pounds are often found. The ears are uniform in size and shape, with 16 to 20 straight rows (usually eighteen rows) of pure white kernels set on a medium small white cob, and ears well filled out over tips. It is early, maturing in 95 to 100 days. The cob dries out early and the corn is ready for market, feeding or husking before other varieties are. In yield it surpasses all other white corn. Seventy pounds in the ear will make from 62 to 64 lbs. shelled. It is adapted to a wider range of soil and climate than any other white corn in existence. From Minnesota to Florida, from Massachusetts to California it will yield a paying crop where other varieties are grown at a loss. It is in every way a distinct type of corn and possesses many of the features which have made our "PRIDE OF NISHNA" so popular. In fact when you PLANT THESE TWO VARIETIES you will get the BEST OF ALL THAT IS GOOD.

Its Prize Record Everywhere the "Iowa Silver Mine" captures the prizes over all other varieties. At one fair ten of the largest ears took first prize, ten of the smaller took second prize. Afterwards the same ten ears took sweepstakes over all other varieties, both white and yellow, making a total of \$95.00 in prizes taken at one fair by twenty ears of the "Iowa Silver Mine" Corn. At Illinois State Fair it took first premium for the best bushel of corn, any color or sort; first for best white corn in the state, and Grand Sweepstakes for the Best Corn of any color, competition open to the world. In 1899 the Illinois State Agricultural Society offered three large prizes for the largest corn crop grown on an acre, and the "Iowa Silver Mine" captured all three of them with crops of 196, 176, and 154 Bushels per Acre. No other corn of any color can compare with it in wonderful productiveness.

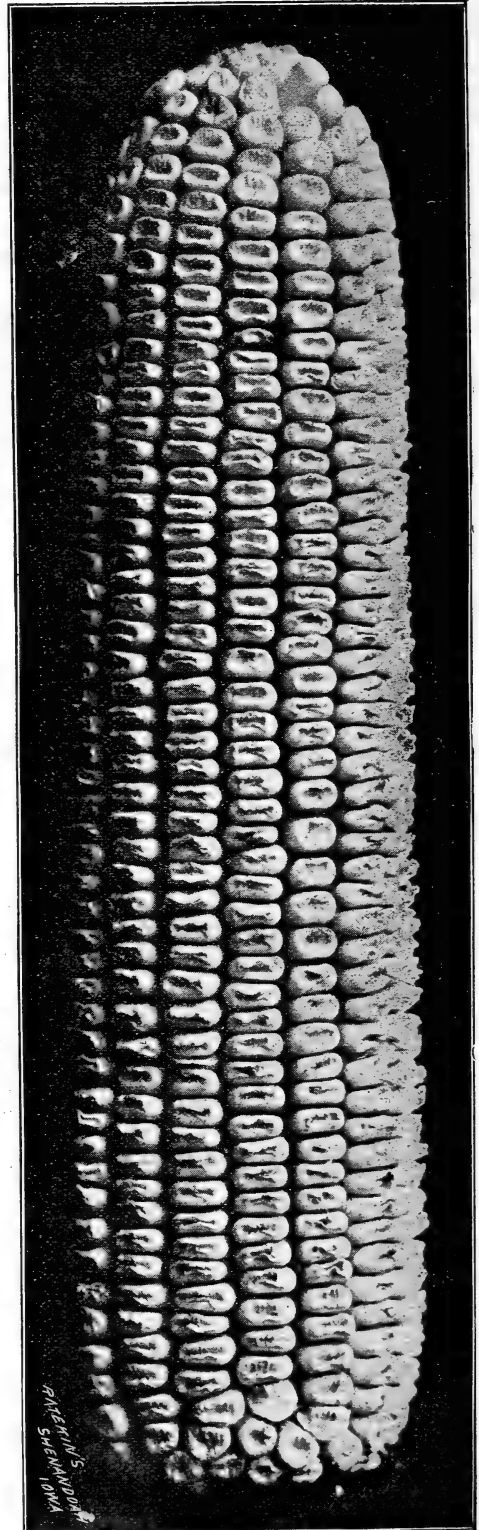
Price: 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant an acre) \$1.00; sample ear, 25c, postpaid by mail. By freight or express at purchaser's expense, peck, 40c; $\frac{1}{2}$ bu. 75c; 1 bu. \$1.35; 2 bu. \$1.30 per bu.; 10 bu. and over \$1.25 per bu., bags free on board cars here. If wanted in the ear, crated, add 75c per bu. to above prices. (5 bu. lots at 10 bu. prices.)

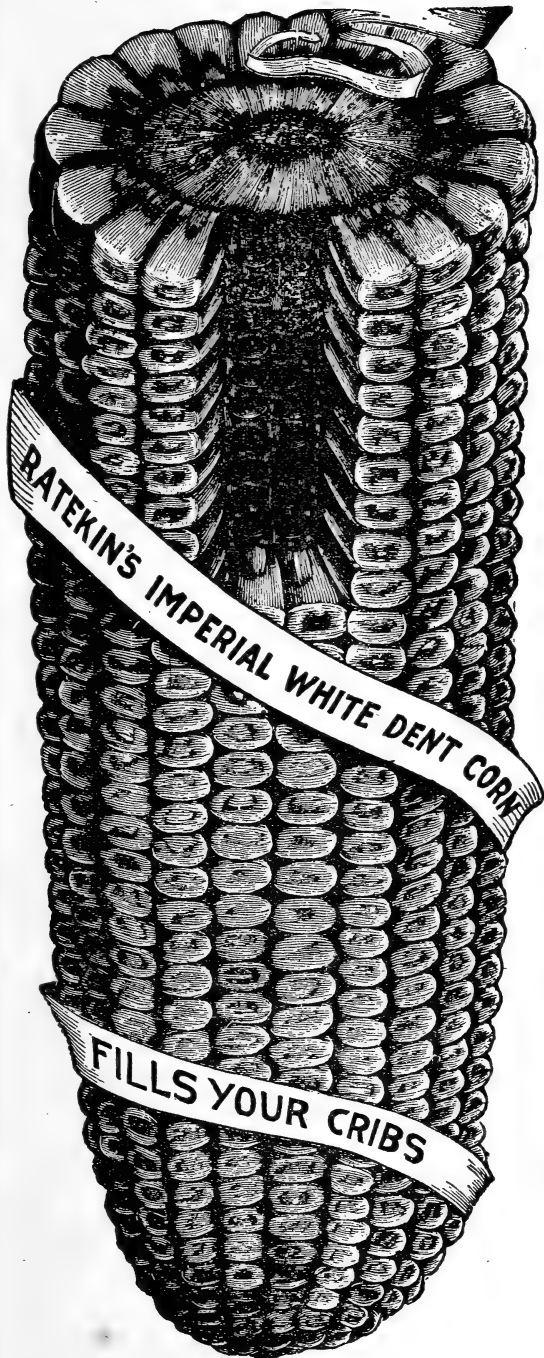
Telegram—Kansas City, Mo., March 18th.

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa: Ship to Belvidere, Kan., via Santa Fe from nearest connection, four hundred bushels Sensation Seed Oats.

(Signed) F. ROCKEFELLER.

Mr. Rockefeller is numbered as one of the Standard Oil Co.





Ratekin's Imperial White.

Ratekin's Imperial White: This excellent and superior variety of corn was introduced by us some seven years ago, and has proven one of the very best varieties of corn we have ever before introduced. We prophesied at the time of its introduction that it would prove a leader in its line of white corn, and our prophecy has been fulfilled in that we have had hundreds of endorsements and testimonials from our customers everywhere testifying to its wonderful merits, and in many places they will plant no other.

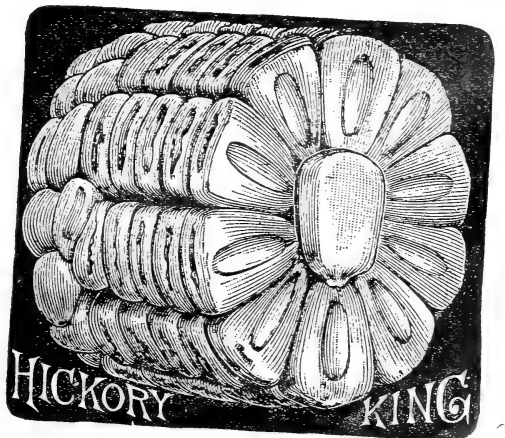
Description. Imperial White is a pure white corn with red cob—a sign in itself of great vitality; ears run from 9 to 12 inches long, measuring 7 to 8 inches in circumference; 16 to 24 rows deep grains solidly set on a small red cob. The stalk grows from 7 to 10 feet high and sets ears about three and a half feet from the ground; matures safely and soundly in from 90 to 100 days. One of the peculiarities or characteristics of this corn is that it is so solid and compact that it weighs out from 3 to 4 bushels more per wagon load than almost any other variety. We cannot too strongly urge our customers to plant at least a part of their crop to this variety of corn. In short, it is a sure cropper, withstanding dry weather and drouth to a remarkable degree. It's a big yielder; early to mature and can always be depended upon as an all round field corn, and will give you more bushels per acre on poor, thin or old land than any variety grown.

PRICE—Postpaid by mail, sample ear 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant one acre), \$1.00. By freight or express, at purchaser's expense, peck, 40c; $\frac{1}{2}$ bu., 75c; 1 bu., \$1.35; 2 bu., \$1.30 per bu.; 10 bu., \$1.25 per bu. If wanted in the ear, crated, add 75c per bu. to above prices, (5 bu. lots at 10 bu. prices.)

HICKORY KING.

Hickory King is a white variety of field corn which has the largest grains with smallest cob of any other corn in existence. The grains are so large and cob so extremely small that when the ear is broken in two pieces a single grain will cover completely the cob section. This corn is of very vigorous habit and is a splendid and sure cropper, and is especially well suited to light or thin soil and is a very desirable variety and largely planted in many of the southern states. It, however, does well in all the northern and central western states, but is not as early to mature as our "Pride of Nishna" and "Iowa Silver Mine."

PRICE—Postpaid by mail; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs., \$1.00; By freight or express, at purchaser's expense, peck, 50c; $\frac{1}{2}$ bu., 90c; 1 bu., \$1.60; 2 bu., and upwards \$1.50 per bu., 10 bu., \$1.40; bags included, f. o. b cars here.



It Pays to Buy Reliable Seeds

above all else. They cannot be bought at half price. Good seed lay the foundation for a good and perfect crop, and they cannot be produced or sold at half price. Cheap seeds are dear at any price, even as a gift. If you are acquainted with the cost of production and the market value of high grade seeds, an examination of this book will show that seeds of equal quality cannot be had anywhere at lower prices. In our extensive business it is our constant aim to please and satisfy every customer, and no one can do it with cheap and inferior seeds.

BOONE COUNTY WHITE.

Boone County White Is a highly bred variety of white corn of extra large size containing a high percentage of oil. It is late maturing, but with good long seasons and favorable conditions it is a splendid yielder. In many places it is a great favorite with some. The ears are from 8 to 11 inches long, $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches in circumference, containing 18 to 24 rows, weighing from 12 to 18 ounces. The cob is medium large and pure white in color. The ears are quite uniform in size, shape and appearance. The kernels are pearl white, quite rough, very deep, with fine large germ. This variety grows a large stalk from 10 to 12 feet high with an abundance of foliage, and like other white varieties is the best for old thin, or poor soil. They gather more plant food from the air and less from the soil than does yellow corn. With favorable seasons in localities where it has plenty of time to mature it is particularly valuable: say the southern half of Indiana, Illinois and Missouri. Matures fully in about 120 days. Our seed stock of this variety was grown from pure bred inherited stock and can be relied upon to give the best possible results that can be obtained from this variety.

PRICE:—By mail, postpaid, sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant one acre), \$1.00. By freight or express, at purchaser's expense, peck, 40c; $\frac{1}{2}$ bu., 75c; 1 bu., \$1.35; 2 bu., \$1.30 per bu.; 10 bu. and over, \$1.25; bags free. If wanted in ear, crated, add 75c per bu. more. (5 bu. lots at 10 bu. prices.)

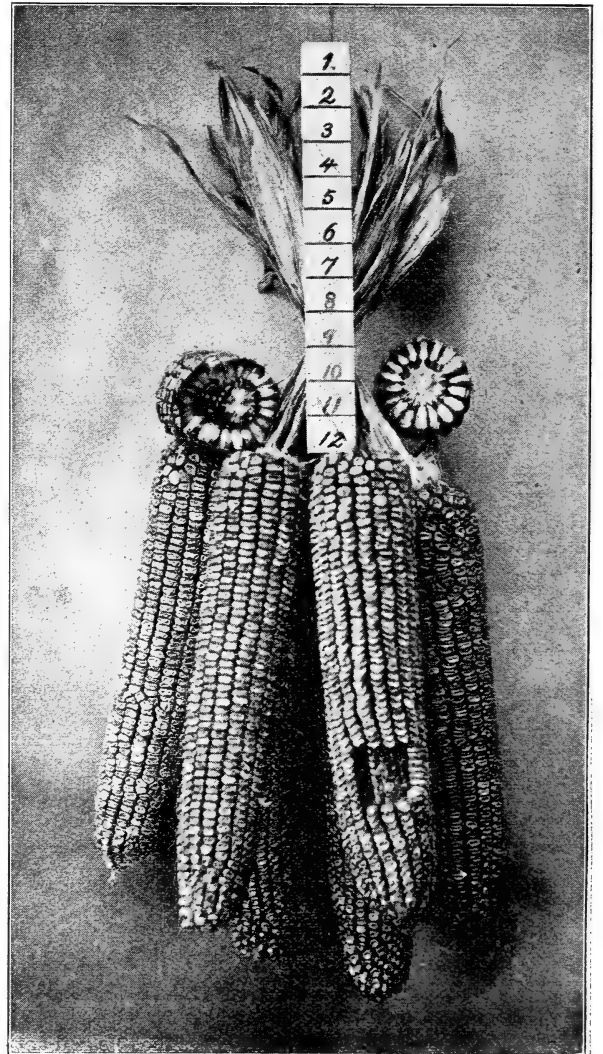
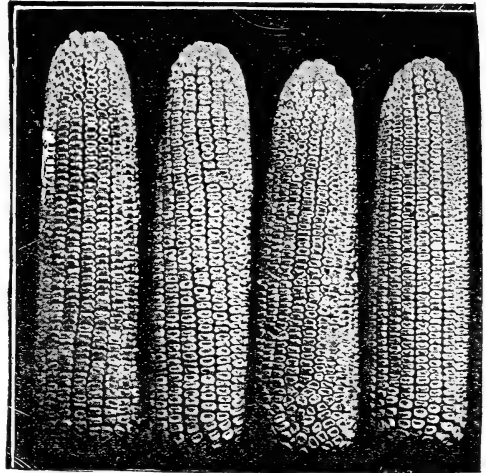
LEGAL TENDER.

Legal Tender This is now one of the most prominent varieties of large medium late varieties, and those who have tried it speak very highly of the splendid results obtained from it. It is a very productive corn where seasons will permit of its maturity, and it's no uncommon thing to find ears 12 inches long that weigh from 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds each. The stalks grow 10 to 12 feet high with very heavy foliage, which makes it valuable fodder corn. Legal Tender has been a great premium taker, and to those who want a large late variety of corn we firmly believe you will find it a most splendid variety and that it will become a permanent fixture on your farm. Under favorable conditions this variety will mature in 115 to 120 days and seems to be well adapted to the central southern states. Our seed stock of this variety is pure bred of inherited stock, and you can depend upon it giving you the best possible results.

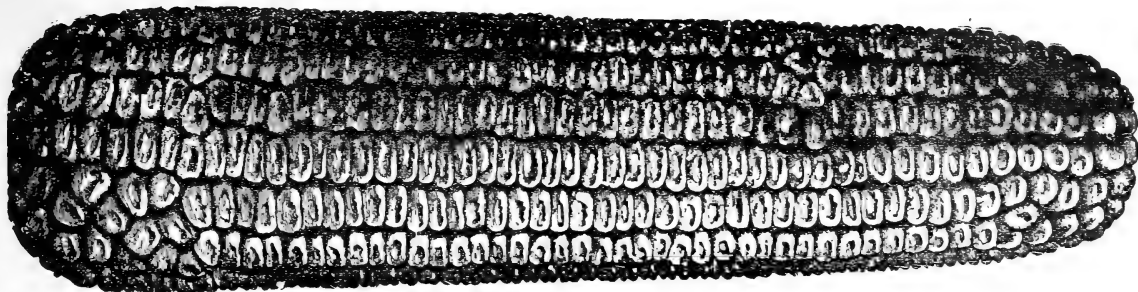
PRICE:—Postpaid by mail; sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant an acre), \$1.00. By freight or express, 1 pck., 40c; $\frac{1}{2}$ bu., 75c; 1 bu., \$1.35; 2 bu., \$1.30 per bu.; 10 bu. or more, \$1.25 per bu.; bags included. If wanted in the ear, crated, add 75c per bu. more than above prices. (5 bu. lots at 10 bu. prices.)

Corn is King and the Raising of Corn is Science.

Start right by planting seed that will grow and varieties that will produce the largest yield and biggest crops. Every ear a thoroughbred; every kernel a live one and every grain the same size. The farmer who will follow our advice on this point in the beginning of his crop will find it a wealth producer, and nuggets of gold at harvest time. To illustrate: Notice the progressive farmer who has planted our seed corn; read what he says of results obtained, and compare his experience with the man who has not. See the difference in the yield of his crop as well as the quality of corn he grows. To illustrate, brother farmer, will you stop a moment and count the cost of enough of our thoroughbred seed corn to plant 10, 20, 30, 50, or 100 acres. One bushel will plant from 7 to 8 acres of ground. The seed will cost you from \$1.25 to \$3.00 per bushel, or from 20c to 40c per acre. Thus the increased yield cost you less than a cent a bushel by planting our seed, as compared with planting common varieties and scrub sorts. There is not a farmer or corn grower in the United States who cannot afford to plant our thoroughbred varieties. Thousands of farmers have made money by planting it, while thousands have lost money by not planting it. Will it not pay you to consider these points for yourself; count the cost of seed and consider the comparative results and profits to be derived from a small investment, by planting our thoroughbred varieties.



REID'S YELLOW DENT.



This variety was originated by Robert Reid and his son, J. L. Reid, and is a very popular variety in many places throughout the corn belt and has taken many prizes at various corn shows and fairs; it being especially a great show and exhibition corn, by reason of its uniformity which is very remarkable.

DESCRIPTION: It is a light golden color, the ears running from 8 to 11 inches long, 7 to 8 inches in circumference; 18 to 24 rows of kernels. The ears are of cylindrical shape from butt to tip. The cob carries a large amount of corn, shelling 85 to 88 per cent grains. The butts and tips are particularly well filled.

This corn is a vigorous grower, with stalks 8 to 12 feet high—having an abundance of foliage and makes excellent ensilage, producing a heavy tonnage to the acre.

We obtained our original seed from the very best strains to be found, and since we have been growing it for five years past, we have bred it up in oil and protein until it cannot be beat for a balanced ration. By careful selection we have entirely eliminated barren stalks and greatly improved the yield. On good soil carefully managed and cultivated it can be relied upon for a yield of 60 to 90 bushels per acre.

PRICE: By mail postpaid, sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c.; 7 lbs. (will plant an acre), \$1.00. By freight or express, peck, 40c; $\frac{1}{2}$ bu., 75c; 1 bu., \$1.35; 2 bu., \$1.30 per bu.; 10 bu. and upward, \$1.25 per bu.; bags free on board cars here. If wanted in the ear, crated, add 75c. per bu. to above prices.

“Ratekin’s Improved Calico Corn.”

CALICO CORN. The old fashioned kind; it has always been popular as a feeding corn, and for a number of years we have had quite an extended inquiry for a good strain of this variety. In fact so great has been the inquiry and demand for it that we secured last year an extra fine strain of this corn, and have grown an abundance of it the past season to supply any ordinary demand that may be made for it. The strain we grew is of the large eared kind, deep grain and small cob, thus insuring early maturity.

DESCRIPTION. It is in every respect almost identical with our “Pride of Nishna,” yellow, except in color. The ears run from 9 to 12 inches in length and measure about $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 inches in circumference deep grain and small cob, and last year made a yield on our trial grounds of $108\frac{1}{2}$ bushels per acre. It is a combination in color of red-white and yellow stripes. It is full of protein and very rich, and stock like it in preference to any other corn, except yellow corn; the grain is somewhat softer and stock digest it better than white corn. It is a further fact that in feeding it with other corn, stock will pick out the Calico ears in preference to other sorts; this probably because of its being easier masticated. To all those who want the genuine Calico corn, we would say that we are in position to supply you with your seed; seed from the very best and most prolific strains that are grown; seed that will grow almost to a grain. Try a few bushels of this corn this season. It will not disappoint your best expectations.

PRICE: \$1.35 per bushel; 10 bushels and over \$1.25 per bushel. Bags free on board cars here.

Bloody Butcher Corn.

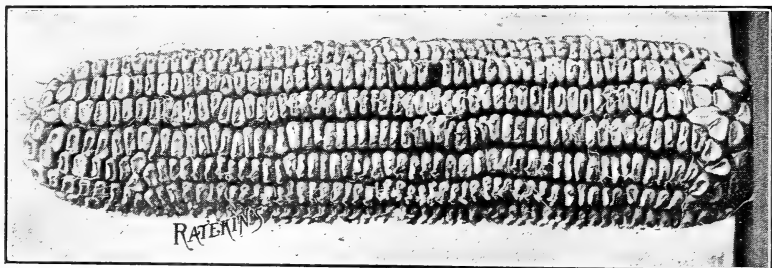
The genuine “Old fashioned Bloody Butcher” or big red corn. It is a big, rough, deep grained corn, a vigorous grower and a great yielder, and a superior feeding corn. The ears are large, grains very deep; runs from 16 to 20 rows to the cob; matures in about 100 to 110 days. It is a fine corn to grow for exhibition purposes and always attracts attention wherever shown. **PRICE:** \$1.35 per bushel; 10 bu., and over \$1.25; $\frac{1}{2}$ bu., 70c.; $\frac{1}{4}$ bu., 40c.

Ratekin’s Extra Early White Corn.

This corn is exactly the same type of corn as our “Queen of Nishna,” and is equally as early, maturing in from seventy to eighty days from planting time. It is in great request and demand everywhere for grinding and milling purposes early in the season and before other field varieties are dry enough to grind into corn-meal. It will bear planting somewhat closer and thicker than later and larger varieties; thus it often yields as much as the larger sorts, besides every pound of it is as solid as lead, our crop this season yielding full fifty-five bushels per acre. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs., \$1.00, postpaid; per bu., \$1.50; 2 bu., \$2.90; 10 bu. and over, \$1.40 per bushel.

RATEKIN'S QUEEN OF NISHNA.

The Earliest Yellow Dent Corn in Existence.



We first introduced this splendid early variety of corn in 1890, since which time we have been breeding and improving it both in yield and early maturity. In fact, we have never been able to find any extra early yellow corn that has uniformly given as good results and large yields as this corn. During the past ten years our average yield of this corn has been above 60 bushels per acre, and we have frequently picked seed from it in 80 days from the time it was planted, and it can always be relied upon to mature

fully 20 days earlier than the common ordinary earlier varieties. It is adapted to a wider range of usefulness than any other one variety of corn grown, being suited to northern climates where seasons are short and where frost comes early; and to the south where corn is often planted late—after small grain crops have been harvested. It ripens in Minnesota, Wisconsin and the Dakota's as early as many of their flint varieties and yields twice as much per acre. In the central corn growing states it's the best early corn for late planting and in the South it takes the place of the Mexican June corn and is preferred to that variety by all who have tried it.

DESCRIPTION.

The ears run from 7 to 10 inches long, with sixteen to twenty rows of deep compact grains solidly set on small red cob and yield from 50 to 65 bushels per acre on good land with fair or good conditions. It is of vigorous nature and seed is always of the strongest vitality and germination, and can be depended upon to grow when good seed of other varieties fail under similar conditions. We have sold hundreds of bushels of this seed all over the Dakotas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and that latitude, and one season sold this seed in a strip of country five counties wide—from central Minnesota to the coast in southern Texas—in every county without exception. In fact we have never sold a bushel of this variety of corn but gave entire satisfaction. It's the corn for the North and for the South, and the corn to plant everywhere, where early varieties are wanted for any purpose. We cannot too strongly recommend it to our customers who want an extra early variety.

PRICE—1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant one acre), \$1.00, postpaid. By freight or express, peck, 40c; $\frac{1}{2}$ bu., 75c; 1 bu., \$1.40; 2 bu., \$1.35 per bu.; 10 bu. and over, \$1.30 per bu. Bags free on board cars here.

St. Charles White Corn This variety is quite popular with some of our customers in Missouri and makes a good crop in southern Iowa, though we do not recommend it north of Des Moines. It is a handsome pure white corn, set on a red cob, and the corn appears to be much clearer white than most of the white cob varieties. It is such a transparent enamel white color that it makes a high grade of corn-meal and it is therefore highly valued by the millers. The ears are usually eight and one-half to ten inches in length, sixteen rowed, and the kernels are quite deep and broad, the upper corners of the kernel rounding. Stalk grows to medium height but has quite broad, succulent leaves, and is, therefore, desirable for fodder purposes. We believe that our customers throughout the south will be well pleased with this corn as a grain crop, and it is of superior value everywhere, even in Manitoba and the far north, for fodder and ensilage. It has made many friends and each year adds to the number.

PRICE—Postpaid by mail. Sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs., \$1.00. By freight or express, at purchaser's expense, peck, 40c; $\frac{1}{2}$ bu., 75c; 1 bu., \$1.40; 10 bu. and over, \$1.25 per bu.; bags free, on board cars here. If wanted in ear, crated, add 75c per bushel to above prices.

PRIDE OF THE NORTH.

This variety originated with A. L. Goddard, of Kossuth County, Iowa, about twenty years ago, and sprang at once into prominence as the earliest of all yellow dent corns. The ears are 7 to 8 inches long, with small cob and kernel; seventy pounds of ears will make sixty pounds of shelled corn; color bright orange and very uniform. Will ripen in ninety days, and matures in this latitude when planted in June. Farmers after having two or three favorable years for medium crop varieties of corn, are very apt to overlook the advantage of planting a few acres of an extreme early variety each year, and the past two seasons have proved the necessity of doing this. Our crop of Pride of the North was planted the 18th of May and was ripe Sept. 1st, which is the average time it requires. Ordinarily it will ripen by the middle of August. Good soil is capable of producing four or five good stalks to the hill, and many stalks have two ears each. This will enable one to get as large a crop of corn as with a large-eared variety, and much more fodder.

PRICE—Pk., 40c; bu., \$1.40; 2 bu. or more at \$1.35 per bu.; 10 bu. or over, \$1.30 per bu.

I purchased from you 10 bushels of Pride of the North corn for planting and am very much pleased with the variety and its yield—S. W. Callanan, Kossuth County, Iowa.

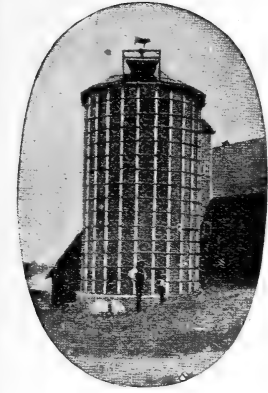
Fill Your Silo With Giant Ensilage Corn.

Beyond doubt the best fodder corn, either to feed green right from the field, to put up for the silo, or to cure and stack away, cropping as high as forty-five tons of fodder per acre. It is sweet, tender and juicy, and furnishes more nourishment than any other variety; has short joints, and therefore an abundance of leaves, and grows to a fair height, but not over-large and coarse-stalked as some varieties. It is adapted to every section of the country; although it does not ripen here, usually it matures enough to come in full milk, which is just the right state to cut. Quite popular with dairy farmers. Per pkt., 5c; lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; postpaid; by freight, per pk., 30c; bu., \$1.00; 2 bu. or more, 95c per bu.; 5 bu. or more, 90c per bu.

Evergreen Sweet Fodder Corn We consider this one of the most valuable fodder plants in existence, and stock farmers should all devote some land to it. The stalks are sweet, juicy, rich, tender and very nutritious. The leaves, which are very numerous, are large, broad, succulent, and greatly relished by all kinds of stock, being far superior in every respect to all other kinds of corn. On strong soil it will grow 10 to 12 feet high and produce an almost incredible amount of fodder which, when well cured, is quite equal to hay, besides being wonderfully cheaper. It is claimed by dairy farmers that this fodder will increase the milk and cream production greatly and keep the animals in the best condition. It has the further merit of being so sweet and palatable that cattle eat every part of the stalk and leaves. As a green fodder for cutting in the summer, one acre is worth as much as eight acres of ordinary pasture. Of high value also for hogs, and an excellent plant to plow under for soiling. Sow thickly in drills, or broadcast at the rate of two bushels per acre. Pk., 60c; bu. (measured), \$2.00; 2 bu. or more, \$1.90 per bu.

Early Fodder Sweet Corn Will make feed much earlier than the above and is very nice to feed when in roasting ear. Not as large a yielder. Pk., 60c; bu., \$2.00; 2 bu. or more, \$1.90 per bu.

Pop Corn for the Market The increasing demand for pop corn the past few years has made it a very profitable crop to grow and it will pay one to grow a sufficient quantity to ship by the carload. The fodder is excellent for stock. One can cut it with a binder after it is sufficiently matured, shock it up and when dry have it husked out with a shredder,



thus also getting a large crop of fodder of best quality in addition to the corn crop. The shredded fodder is often baled up the same as hay and sold on the market. The yield of pop corn is better than field corn, and it being so early is seldom injured by frost. It will bear planting much thicker than field corn and will produce from two to six ears to the stalk. The demand for market purposes is principally for the Monarch White Rice variety. It is very early and will parch by December 1st. We grow our own seed and take great care to have it pure, which is very essential, as it will mix with field varieties, which would decrease its value for market purposes. The following are best varieties:

MONARCH WHITE RICE—The very best white variety. Per qt., 35c, postpaid; by express or freight, pk., 85c; bu., \$3.25.

QUEEN'S GOLDEN—Color a rich, golden yellow. Per qt., 40c; postpaid; by express or freight, pk., 90c; bu., \$3.50.

SNOWBALL—Per qt., 65c; by express or freight, pk., \$1.75; bu., \$6.00.

	CONDENSED PRICE LIST OF SEED CORN					
		SHELLED CORN		EAR		
	pk.	3/4 bu.	bu.	2 bu.	10 bu.	bu.
Ratekin's Yellow Dent.....	\$.90	\$1.60	\$2.50	\$2.25	2.00	\$4.00
Diamond Joe's Big White.....	.80	1.50	2.50	2.25	2.00	3.50
Ratekin's Pride of Nishna.....	.40	.75	1.35	1.30	1.25	2.00
Ratekin's Iowa Silver Mine.....	.40	.75	1.35	1.30	1.25	2.00
Ratekin's Imperial White.....	.40	.75	1.35	1.30	1.25	2.00
Boone County White.....	.40	.75	1.35	1.30	1.25	2.00
Reid's Yellow Dent.....	.40	.75	1.35	1.30	1.25	2.00
St. Charles' White.....	.40	.75	1.35	1.30	1.25	2.00
Legal Tender.....	.40	.75	1.35	1.30	1.25	2.00
Ratekin's Queen of Nishna.....	.40	.75	1.40	1.35	1.30	2.25
Pride of the North.....	.40	.75	1.40	1.35	1.30	2.25
Hickory King.....	.50	.90	1.60	1.50	1.40	.....
Stowel's Evergreen (Sweetcorn).....	.60	1.10	2.00	1.90	.....	.....
Giant Fodder Corn.....	.30	.55	1.00	.95	.90	.....

The above prices include Bags Free on board cars here.

FODDER CORN.

1906 Yields of Corn on Our Trial Grounds.

Varieties that Have "Made Good" in Breeding Blocks.

Our trial grounds the past season consisted of two measured acres to the block, and tests were made of all the following varieties, from pure bred inherited seed. The ground was clover sod that had been broken and thoroughly worked, pulverized and put in the best possible order last fall, and thoroughly prepared again before planting last spring. The planting was all done on the 14th day of May. These blocks were planted in rows 3 feet, six inches apart, sufficiently thick to allow one stalk every 12 inches in the row. The stand was perfect. It was first harrowed ten days after planting, just as it was coming through the ground, after which it had the very best cultivation we were capable of giving it with a six-shovel walking cultivator, going over it four times; thus giving it shallow cultivation and keeping the ground in a thorough state of "dust" or loose mulch all the time. It was laid by June 23d just 40 days from the day it was planted. Each plot was picked and weighed separately, the corn being harvested on 5th to 10th of November and we allowed 75 pounds for a bushel.

All the work required in the growing of these plots, including all the details in selecting the seed, the strains, preparing the ground, planting the seed, cultivation and the harvesting of the crop and weighing the product, required a great deal of painstaking work, but can be depended upon as being absolutely correct.

Variety.	Bu. per Acre.	Time of maturity.	Variety.	Bu. per Acre.	Time of maturity.
Diamond Joe's Big White.....	146 bu.	100 days	Boon County White.....	107 bu.	120 days.
Ratekin's Yellow Dent.....	138½ "	100 "	Legal Tender.....	93 "	120 "
Ratekin's Pride of Nishna ...	132¼ "	100 "	Funk's 90 day yellow.....	84 "	95 "
Large Calico.....	114 "	100 "	Pride of the North.....	83 "	90 "
Iowa Silver Mine.....	136¼ "	100 "	Ratekin's Queen of Nishna .	94 "	85 "
Imperial White.....	132 "	100 "	Ratekin's Extra Early White	92 "	85 "
Reid's Yellow Dent.....	110¾ "	105 "	St. Charles White.....	98 "	110 "

These yields may seem large to some, but it must be remembered that the ground was in the very best possible condition; the seed was perfect, and that it had better and more careful attention than the ordinary farmer gives his crop. Yet it tends to show the possibilities of what can and is being done with good seed, a good variety, with good ground and a good farmer to do his share. It is not at all unreasonable that 150 to 200 bushels of corn can grow on one acre of land, where all the conditions are perfect, including a perfect season.



Sectional View of One of Our Large Storage Warerooms.

RATEKIN'S RELIABLE FARM SEEDS.

"Of All that is Good Iowa Affords the Best."

FIRST AFTER GOOD SEED CORN, IN IMPORTANCE TO THE AMERICAN FARMER IS SEED WHEAT, OATS, BARLEY, GRASSES, CLOVER, POTATOES, ETC., THESE ARE THE MONEY, DOLLAR, CROPS IN WHICH THE FARMER IS MOST INTERESTED.

While we have given extensive space to the seed corn question, there can be no doubt but that as wide opportunity offers to careful study and experiment in the growing of other farm crops, with the same success and results as has been attained in the improvement of Indian Corn and Wheat since the agitation and progress made during the past few years. In fact there is actual proof of this in our own experience as well as others who have planted and grown crops from our seeds within the past few years. As in corn breeding, we were the pioneers in the breeding and importing new varieties of Seed Wheat and Oats from foreign countries. Our methods for breeding Oats are much the same as those in use at the Minn., Wis., and Ill., experiment stations, namely: record of single mother plants whose ability to yield has shown them to be exceptionally high and worthy of propagation. In this way our new varieties have been propagated, and we actually believe and know that farmers who buy their seeds from us will have every reason to be glad of it, and will find their every investment made with us for farm and grass seeds a profitable one to them.

In addition to our many years experience in the seed business, we have had twenty years or more practical experience on the farm. Yes, we have been up against the "real thing itself," and from the time we first engaged in the seed business 23 years ago, we have always felt that the nearer we could keep in touch with the practical, intelligent—up to date farmer the more valuable information we could gain and through this source alone we have been inspired to make a great many experiments in the propagation and improvement in many kinds of farm seeds and crops. Each year since our business begun, we have sent out thousands of letters of inquiry to all parts of the country, with regard to results obtained from our seed, manner of planting, cultivation, as well as yields compared with other sorts. By reason of this wide and extended information we believe we are in a position to help and benefit many of our customers in making selection of seeds best suited to their climate and soil, which we are always and ever ready to do. In fact, we want to help and assist our customers in every way we can, and if they obtain good and satisfactory results, or better returns from our seed than others get who buy elsewhere we feel it the best and most profitable advertising that we can do. It not only insures a continuance of your patronage, but is an inspiration to encourage your neighbors and friends to send to us too.

With the liberal and continued support and hearty co-operation of the farmer, we shall in the future, as in the past, urge onward in the fields of new tests and experiments, believing that if we can get a new sort that will produce **TWO BUSHELS** where one formerly grew that we are doing the farmer great good. Our success in this line in the past has been signal, and the farmer stands by us, for our seeds are recognized for their superior quality the world over.

WE WERE THE FIRST TO INTRODUCE NEW AND BETTER VARIETIES OF FIELD SEED CORN. We have **IMPORTED AND INTRODUCED NEW VARIETIES OF WINTER SEED WHEAT;** have originated and introduced new varieties of seed oats, barley, seed Potatoes, etc., that have increased the yield largely; often doubling it. For these reasons, **WE TAKE PRIDE** in our large and increasing trade in the **FARM SEED** branch of our business. With our new and convenient building and improved machinery for cleaning, which are as perfect as any in the United States, we are enabled to clean and grade all kinds of seeds perfectly, far better than those commonly sold.

HIGH GRADE SEED GRAIN. It costs more to grow a crop for seed purposes than the ordinary farmer can understand. In the first place it requires extra choice stock seed, specially prepared land, special cultivation, great care in harvesting, cleaning, testing, preparing for shipment, bags, etc., etc., so we are obliged to ask a considerable advance over market prices, but any intelligent farmer will agree with us that such seeds are well worth to him, in the increased yield, all we ask.

PRICES: Prices named in this department are subject to important market changes. Quotations are net, and are not subject to premium or discount which is offered on garden or other seeds. Clover and grass seeds are constantly varying in value. Please write for quotations, sending list of requirements when in need. Orders sent us will be given the benefit of lowest prices on day order is received. We will take pleasure in mailing samples and quoting inside prices at any time on large orders.

SHIPPING: In this department everything that is quoted by the packet or pound is sent by mail postpaid; all large quantities, unless noted, are sent by express or freight at expense of purchaser. Prices named include bags free, except on clover and grass seeds, which are 18 cts. each, extra. Everything delivered at depot free in good order.

FREIGHT SHIPMENTS: In another place in this catalogue you will find freight rates quoted to points in many of the states, from which you can form a very correct estimate of what the freight will be to your nearest railroad station. We want to call attention, however, to the fact that railroad companies usually charge no more for 100 lbs., than they do for 20 lbs., or any lesser amount, and should you want less than 100 lbs., of seeds, **IN ORDER TO EQUALIZE OR REDUCE COST OF TRANSPORTATION,** we advise the sending in of club orders. Any one can get up a club. Simply see some of your neighbors and friends and ask them to send with you, and advise us to ship to one person, in one shipment. If each customer writes or makes out his own order under his own name it will be a very easy matter for us to keep each customer's seeds separate, and the freight charges will be next to nothing when shared by several persons. Or you can divide them yourself, as you wish.

IF YOU LIVE AT A DISTANT POINT and wish to order some article or seeds that would weigh but fifteen or twenty pounds, it would then be cheaper and safer as well as expeditious to send it by express.

REMEMBER THAT WE GUARANTEE OUR SEEDS TO BE AS REPRESENTED, AND IF NOT FOUND ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY ON RECEIPT AND EXAMINATION OF THEM, YOU MAY RETURN THEM AT OUR EXPENSE AND MONEY PAID FOR THEM WILL BE REFUNDED.

A Good Farmer.

It is said that "the result of warfare depends very largely upon the men behind the guns." This is equally true of every other human endeavor. The successful growing of a crop is no exception. "He that by the plow would thrive must either hold or drive," is as true as it is old. In this day of advanced agriculture success can only be obtained by a good knowledge of the underlying scientific principles.

Any one can farm after a fashion, but for the best results aside from proper weather and climatic conditions, there are three or four other essential elements, all of about equal importance, that must be combined in order that success may be assured. They are a good farmer, good soil, good seed and good cultivation.

The chemical and mechanical conditions of the soil, the physiology of the plants as well as the philosophy of cultivation and plant growth, must be understood by the farmer in order that he may be able to meet and overcome the ever varying conditions that confront him, identical conditions not returning once in a decade. Having the knowledge, he will know when, how and for what purpose he cultivates. To illustrate, suppose the soil seems quite fertile but is inclined to pack and run together and become hard on the least provocation. It shows that the soil lacks humus, vegetable mould, or as some call it, fiber. The remedy is to apply a heavy coat of coarse litter, such as coarse manure, straw or stalks cut fine, or a heavy crop of some green stuff plowed under—any way to add decayed vegetable matter to the soil.

Or suppose there is too heavy growth of stalk, vines or branches and a light crop of grain or fruit. This shows there is too much nitrogen compared with other elements of fertility. The thing to do is to add phosphoric acid and potash to restore the proper balance, or continue to crop with some rank grower until the surplus nitrogen is taken up. Hence, we conclude the farmer must be a close observer, a good reasoner, a deep thinker and prompt executor. But, however well informed may be the "man with a hoe," he cannot raise a good crop without good soil, good seed and good cultivation.

Good Seed.

By good seed we mean that which has been handled so that all of its germinating power has been preserved, aided by a constitutional vigor implanted in the grain by a judicious selection, cultivation and environment that produces a pure or improved variety. This may be done by the common farmer, but is generally best done by the professional seed grower. He generally knows better how to do this, and has the proper facilities for doing the work. This is (or soon will be) a business of itself.

What is here said as to seed corn will apply to all other farm seeds and farm crops.

RATEKIN'S NEW SENSATION OATS.

THE EARLIEST TO MATURE
AND THE LARGEST IN YIELD.

We have been in the seed business a great many years; in fact, have spent the greater part of our lives in improving and importing new varieties of farm seeds and helping to better the condition of the farmer, and while we were conscious of the great merits of our New Sensation Oats when we first introduced them three years ago, but little did we think of the unbelievable yields they would make of 210 bushels per acre, while 100 bushels per acre is no uncommon thing for these Oats to make under anything like reasonable conditions. ALEX MILLER OF WASHINGTON CO., IOWA, WRITES: "I NEVER SAW ANYTHING TO EQUAL THEM. THEY RUN OUT OF THE SPOUT LIKE A MILL-RACE." ABRAHAM MERRIT OF ENID, OKLA., SAYS: "THEY ARE THE EARLIEST AND HEAVIEST YIELDING OATS I EVER SAW. I SHALL SOW NO OTHER VARIETY."

Our New Sensation Oats are noted for their rapid and vigorous growth and early maturity. They mature so early that rust does not affect them. They yield from 60 to 100 bushels per acre on ordinary land. They are a white oat, grains large and plump, with thin hull, often running overweight from 6 to 10 lbs. When you sow our New Sensation Oats you have an insurance policy on your crop; one that insures you against early drouth, rust or blight; one that always insures you a good crop. They grow medium height, strong stiff straw, and always stand up well on any kind of land. In short, we believe our New Sensation Oats to be the best ever introduced for earliness, enormous yielding qualities and freedom from rust and blight. Hundreds of our customers have written us that on account of stiff straw these oats stood up perfectly under weather that caused other varieties to go down or lodge. We make it possible for every farmer to get a start if not to sow his whole crop to this variety. Our prices on these oats make this possible, and we hope every farmer who grows oats at all will try at least a few bushels of this wonderful new variety of oats this coming season. Frank Rockefeller (one of the Standard Oil Co.), bought 400 bushels of these oats last year for his big farm near Wichita, Kansas. Read copy of his telegram. "Kansas City, Mo., March 18—Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa. Ship to Bervedere, Kansas, 400 bushels New Sensation Oats. Ship via Santa Fe Railroad—Signed F. Rockefeller." Price of "Sensation Oats" \$1.00 per bu.; 10 bu., 90c. per bu.; 50 bu., 85c. 100 bu., 80 c. per bu.; Bags free on board cars here.

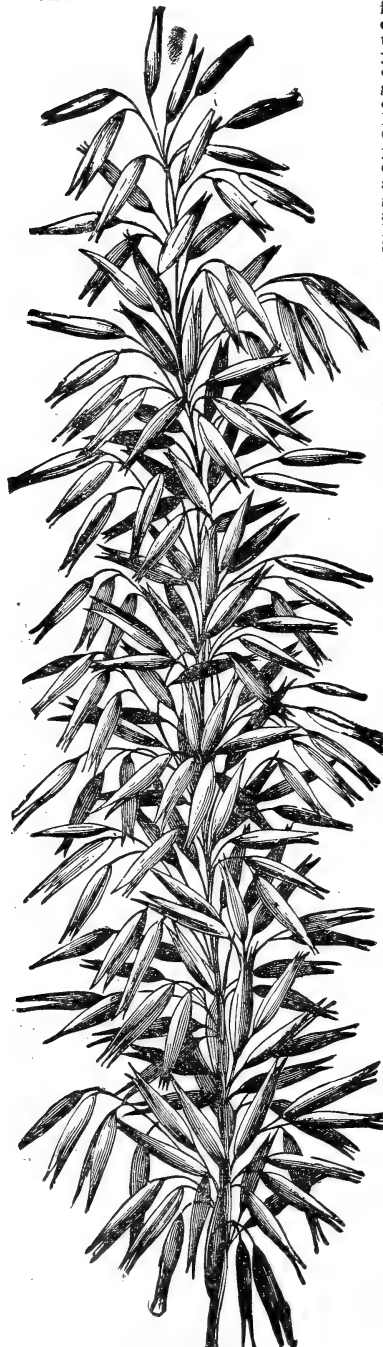
Ratekin's New Kherson Oats.

Imported from Russia.

Without a blemish. Without a flaw. The most wonderful Oats this country has ever had. John R. Lang, of Sherman County, Neb., raised 112 bushels per acre, John Sipple, of Guthrie County, Iowa, says the Kherson produced double the yield of common oats on his place.

This new variety of oats was discovered by Prof. F. W. Taylor, the superintendent of the Agricultural Department of the Great World's Fair of St. Louis, when he was traveling in the province of Kherson, Russia, in 1900. They were first imported into this country and grown in Nebraska, where they proved a wonderful success. The University of Nebraska got hold of them and they proved such a great success they sent out small lots to farmers all over the state, and tests everywhere proved that these oats exceeded the highest expectations as to earliness, amount of yield and adaptability to withstand heavy winds and not lodge. The Kherson oats are about three weeks earlier to ripen than ordinary varieties of oats. The plant is a vigorous but somewhat dwarf growth being shorter or not so tall as later varieties, hence not so liable to lodge. The leaves are broad, frequently three fourths of an inch wide. They extend to the roots. The straw makes unusual good fodder and is eaten greedily by stock. The heads have fine large sprangled or full heads, which very frequently have more than 100 seeds. A good idea is obtained from the accompanying illustration. We can confidentially advise our customers to sow liberally of these oats the coming season. The Kherson oats will always make you a good, sure and certain crop whether the season is wet or dry. The demand for these oats has been almost unparalleled and we have been unable to supply the great demand for them in the past. They have stood the test on more than 15,000 farms in Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas during the past two years and despite unfavorable conditions have produced heavily everywhere. No sort ever tested has so thoroughly and completely shown its capability to withstand drouth or wet weather as the Kherson is bug proof and rust proof. It's quick to get there. It's ready to cut, thresh and feed before ordinary sorts are ripe. It gives big yields. It's the last 20 to 40 bushels per acre that makes farming profitable. And the Kherson gives you 60 to 70 bushels, the last 30 or 40 bushels would be your profits.

COST. The price we are offering these oats at is ridiculously low, and every farmer who reads this catalogue should try at least a part of his crop to these oats the coming season. Price: 1 to 5 bushels 75c per bu.; 6 to 10 bu., 70c per bu.; 11 to 20 bu., and upward, 65c per bu., Bags free on board cars here.



NEW KHERSON OAT.



NEW SENSATION

Mammoth White Russian Oats.



The original stock of White Russian Oats was really a capital variety of oats, and sprang immediately into great favor. Of late years, however, most seed that is sent out has become badly

mixed and deteriorated through improper care in growing. Through a customer of ours in North Dakota we were last year enabled to obtain a strictly pure strain of these valuable oats, and are able to offer our customers this season, Pure Mammoth White Russian Oats, and we are confident that many of our customers will hail its re-introduction with great satisfaction.

"The Mammoth White Russian Oats"

are a white oat; grow vigorously, and with a strong stiff straw; almost rust proof. They are always sure croppers, and make more big bushels per acre than any other medium or late oat in existence. They are one of the varieties of oats that every farmer should grow. Our seed of this variety is of an excellent and superior grade and quality, thoroughly cleaned. Such seed is worth twice what we ask for it as compared with the ordinary sorts. Now is the time to order your seed; then you will have it when you are ready to sow, and then you will not have to sow some common or inferior variety.

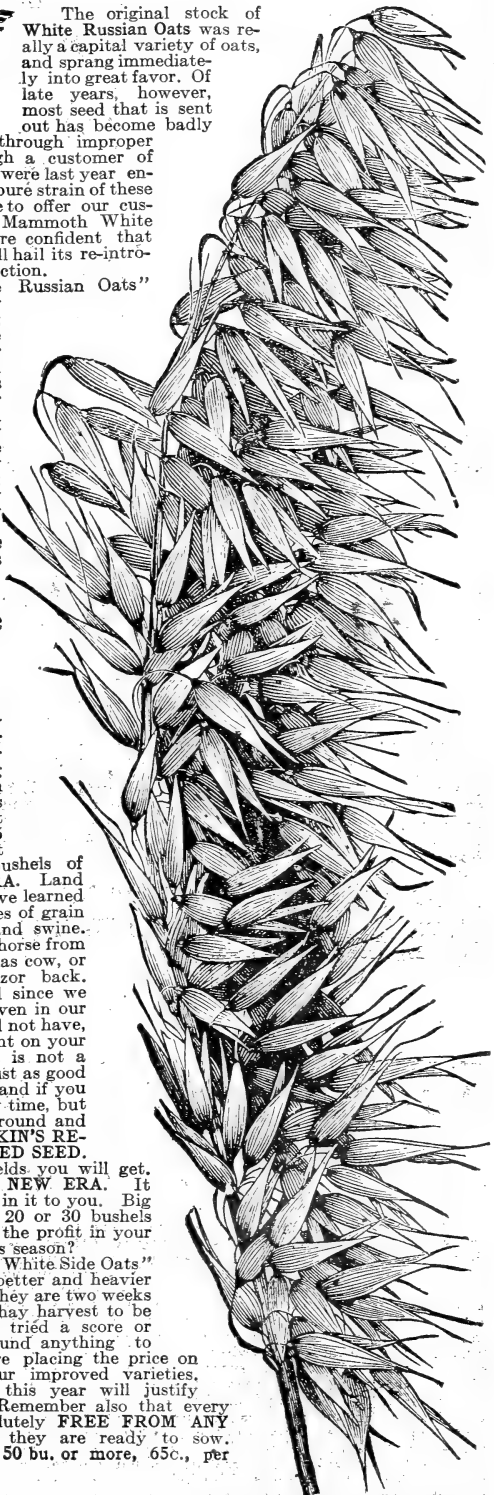
PRICE: Bu., 70c.; 10 bu. and more, 65c per bu.; 50 bu. and over, 50c per bu. Bags free on board cars here.

Mammoth White Side Oats.

The Great New Zealand Oats.

We will put this variety up against any other kind of a medium or late variety for general crop, and all purpose oat. Brother Farmer, what reason have you for growing 25 to 35 or even 40 bushels of oats when you can just as well grow 60 to 100 bushels with our improved varieties. We admit that 20 years ago we seldom had over 35 or 40 bushels of oats per acre. At that time we were growing only 25 to 35 bushels of corn per acre, but this is a NEW ERA. Land has become more valuable, and farmers have learned that there is as much difference in varieties of grain as there is in breeds of horses, cattle and swine. Who would think of raising a 2,000 pound horse from a mustang pony; a short horn from a Texas cow, or a 1,000 pound hog from an Arkansas razor back. My! Neighbor, how things have changed since we were boys. There is not a single yield given in our catalogue that some wide awake farmer did not have, and that you yourself could not have right on your own farm, **IF YOU BUT WILL.** There is not a question about this. You are or can be just as good farmer as anyone else, if you wish to be, and if you wish good yields you can have them every time, but you must work and think. Plow your ground and prepare it in good order; then get **RATEKIN'S RELIABLE and IMPROVED THOROUGHbred SEED.** They will astonish you with the big yields you will get. Commence this year. **LET THIS BE A NEW ERA.** It will pay you. There is a handsome profit in it to you. Big yield means big profits. Its the last 10, 20 or 30 bushels per acre of wheat, corn or oats that gives the profit in your crop. Now, why not have that profit this season?

The Great New Zealand, or "Mammoth White Side Oats" stand up better, stool better, and yield better and heavier than any other side oat there is grown. They are two weeks later than our early varieties, and allow hay harvest to be finished before cutting them. We have tried a score or more of late varieties, but have never found anything to equal this New Zealand variety. We are placing the price on these oats very low, as we are on all our improved varieties. This with the superior quality of our oats this year will justify you in buying all your seed from us. Remember also that every bushel of seed oats sent out by us is thoroughly re-cleaned and graded; absolutely **FREE FROM ANY TRASH OR NOXIOUS WEED SEED WHATSOEVER,** and when you get them they are ready to sow. **LOOK AT THESE PRICES:** Bu., 75c.; 10 bu. or more, 70c. per bushel. 50 bu. or more, 65c., per bushel. Bags free on board cars here.



MAMMOTH WHITE SIDE OATS

LINCOLN OATS.

Among other good varieties of oats you should not overlook the Lincoln Oat. The claims made for earliness, enormous yielding qualities and freedom from rust, when this oat was first introduced fifteen years ago, have been fully sustained on every point and from all sections of the country. Like the name it bears, the more we know of its good qualities the better we like it. Hundreds of our customers have written us that, on account of its stiff straw, it stood up perfectly under weather and other conditions that caused other sorts to go down or lodge. It is among the best and most economical oats for feeding on account of its thin hull, heavy meat and soft nib. It is one thing to make extravagant claims for seed oats when sending them out, but it is another thing to be able to point to such a record as the Lincoln Oats possesses. Introduced in 1893, sales since then have gradually increased until last season our sales doubled that of any previous year. Why is this so? Not because of any extensive advertising, for we have not for several years expended a dollar in pushing it, outside of our usual catalogue mention. It has simply built up its own reputation. Many who used to grow this variety were carried off by the claims of others who had found an oat that yielded two, three and as high as four hundred bushels per acre. After visiting around and trying other sorts they naturally turned back to that old standard variety that they knew always gave good results, and because they knew we had the genuine seed, unmixed. PRICE: Bu., 75c.; 10 bu. and over, 65c per bu.; 50 bu. and over, 55c per bu. Bags free on board cars here.



RATEKIN'S EARLY CHAMPION OATS.

174 Bushels per Acre.

Time tried, thoroughly tested, and always sure. The Early Champion were first introduced in 1889, since which time they have continued to be the great favorite early variety. They are so well known that about every farmer knows what to depend upon when he sows them; namely, that he can always rely upon a good crop in any kind of a season. In fact they have given the largest yield in field tests with hundreds of other varieties at THE IOWA EXPERIMENTAL STATION, and are HIGHLY RECOMMENDED BY THAT STATION as SUPERIOR TO ANY OTHER VARIETY TESTED THERE. This variety is of comparative short straw; matures two weeks ahead of other kinds, escaping the liability of rust or blight. One of its greatest values lies in its adaptability as a nurse crop to sow with grass, as it does not stool as freely as some other varieties, and being of short stiff straw always stands up well, even on strong rich soil. Henry Wallace, editor of Wallace's Farmer, says: "I would rather risk growing grass seed with Early Champion Oats than with any other sort I know of."

Our seed was grown from stock originally obtained direct from the Iowa Agricultural College, and can be relied upon to be pure, and we believe we are doing the farmer a great kindness in offering and urging him to plant for the coming season a large quantity of these faultless oats. They, with our other extra early varieties, are heavy yielders, early to mature and always sure croppers, and by sowing them the chances are all in your favor. PRICE OF EARLY CHAMPION OATS: Bushel 75c. 2 bu., or more 65c. per bu.; 10 bu., and over 60c. Bags free on board cars here.

TEXAS RED=RUST=PROOF OATS.

The Wonder of the Oat World.

It is probably not untrue to say that more than 75 per cent of all the oats sold under the name of Texas Red-Rust-Proof are more or less mixed with other varieties. Our stock of these oats were grown by us from seed imported from one of the most reliable growers in the State of Texas, and can be depended upon to be pure and of the very best quality.

These oats are not only adapted to the south, but by bringing them to the north it has given them new vigor and strength, and they have proven the grandest, the greatest, the largest yielding oats that were ever grown in the North and Northwestern States. They are a money maker the first time. This variety of oats are extremely hardy and are sown largely in the fall and winter in the South. Weather and frost that kills or destroys other varieties in the North does not affect them more than it would rye. It may be thought by some that these oats originating in the South would naturally ripen later here when sown in the spring, but on the contrary this is not so. They are fully as early to mature anywhere in the North as the Early Champion and other extra early sorts. As their name implies, they are absolutely rust-proof, and the surest croppers and largest yielders there is in existence. These oats the past season gave us an average of 75 bushels per acre, and by reason of early drought, other varieties of ordinary sorts made but 20 to 35 bushels per acre. These oats grow to a medium height, varying from 3 to 3 1/2 feet; straw very coarse, strong and stiff; heads are sprangled and laden with a golden yellow kernel. Brother Farmer, it is just the oat you have been looking for. They are a money maker. We are enthusiastic over these oats. We can't help it. Everybody who bought their seed from us last year is the same way. We sowed our crop last year March 28th to 31st, and harvested them July 2d to 5th. Average yield 75 bushels per acre. Brother Farmer, will you not try 10 to 50 bushels of these oats this year? You will never regret it. When you harvest your crop you will write us words of praise and thanks such as you never wrote before. We sold thousands of bushels of these oats all over the North last year as well as in the South, and we have never had a customer but what was pleased with the good results obtained from our pure-bred seed. Order early and get enough of these oats to sow all the land you can spare for oats. We have made our prices reasonable in order to encourage you to sow some of these oats this season. PRICE: Bu., 75c.; 2 bu., 70c per bu.; 10 bu., and over 65c per bu.; 50 bu., and over 60c per bu. Bags free on board cars here.

EMMER OR SPELTZ.

The Greatest and Most Valuable Grain Ever Grown.

IT RESISTS DROUTH
IT THRIVES
ON POOR LAND,
IN STONY GROUND,
IN FOREST REGIONS,
ON THE PRAIRIES
IT MAKES A GOOD CROP WITH ALMOST
ANY CONDITION OF SOIL AND CLIMATE
ENDURES A GREAT DEAL OF FROST
IS NOT READILY DAMAGED BY FROST
IS NOT READILY DAMAGED BY HARVEST
RAINS
IS NOT SUSCEPTIBLE TO RUST OR SMUTS
YIELDS MORE THAN OATS
YIELDS MORE THAN WHEAT
YIELDS MORE THAN BARLEY
MAKES BETTER FEED THAN BARLEY
MAKES BETTER FEED THAN OATS
MAKES EXCELLENT FLOUR
MAKES GOOD BREAD
THE STRAW IS FINE FOR FATTENING
STOCK
THE STUBBLE MAKES EXCELLENT FER-
TILIZER
STOCK VERY FOND OF GRAIN AND STRAW
RIPENS EARLY.

WHAT IS SPELTZ? This question has been asked us many thousand times during the past five years. **SPELTZ IS A CEREAL TO SOW.** It has **TEN THOUSAND POINTS IN ITS FAVOR AND NOT ONE BAD ONE.** Speltz is good for every thing that any other and all other cereal crops are. It's good for pasture; Speltz fattens in the green state. It makes the best of hay cut when in the milk. It grows a 100 leafy stalk from one seed. Its the most profitable hay and grain food combined on earth. It will grow any where on earth that any other grain crop will. It's the greatest drouth resister in the world, and yet is never affected by rains, like other grain. It neither rusts, blights or lodges. It matures earlier than oats or spring wheat. It yields 10 to 20 bushels more per acre than oats, yielding from 50 to 80 bushels per acre; it's equal to corn, barley, oats, rye as a food for stock. It's the perfection of food for cattle, hogs and horses. Hogs squeal for it; cattle bawl for it and horses neigh for it. One farmer said "IF YOU SOW SPELTZ FIVE YEARS YOU CAN WEAR DIAMONDS, and your wife CAN WEAR SILK AND SATIN, and when your friends come to visit you, you can take them out in a TALLY-HO."

We have now grown and sold Speltz, thousands of bushels each year for the past six years, sending it to about every state in the Union, and we positively believe we have never sold a bushel but has pleased our customer and given the most eminent satisfaction. Why not? It's the surest crop any farmer ever planted. It yields enormously. It's the richest food there is out. For fattening cattle and swine it is unapproachable. It can't be beat. **IT FATTENS.** It makes the best kind of beef and pork and does it so cheaply. Try it, Mr. Farmer—this year. It will surprise your best expectations.

CULTURE OF SPELTZ.

The culture of Speltz is simplicity itself. It will grow and do well on any kind of ground where any thing else will grow. Prepare your ground as you would for wheat or oats and sow at the rate of 2 bushels or 80 pounds to the acre. In the green state it makes an excellent pasture. Cut when in the milk and it will make a splendid and large hay crop. For best yield for grain crop cut when ripe. Cut and thresh same as any other small grain crop. It is extremely hardy and can be sown earlier than spring wheat or oats, as a light freeze or frost will not affect it. It can also be sown as late as any other small grain crop, but we recommend sowing as early as conditions will admit. Speltz is one of the things we like to endorse, and delight in urging you to sow liberally of it, for you will never regret it, and when you once sow it you will always grow it.

We have this year made our prices lower than ever before because we want every customer and farmer who receives this catalogue to try 10 or 20 bushels; the more you plant the better pleased you will be. **PRICE:** 1 to 5 bu., 75c per bu. 6 to 10 bu., 70c per bu.; 20 bu. and more, 60c per bu. Bags free on board the cars here.

I sowed ten acres of Speltz this season from seed purchased of you, and am more pleased with them than any other grain raised on my farm.—

L. R. WALKER,
Page County, Iowa.

In the year 1902 I purchased one bushel of Speltz which yielded 33 bushels from 1/4 acre. This year I got 250 bushels from 5 acres. I am led to believe that it is the best spring crop the farmer can raise; oats or barley will not yield by 10 bushels per acre as much. I am speaking from my state, Ohio.

All other seeds I purchased from you I found true to name and yielded big crops. Hubbard Squash was extra fine; muskmelons were fine. Paul Rose I think is one of the best for gardeners.

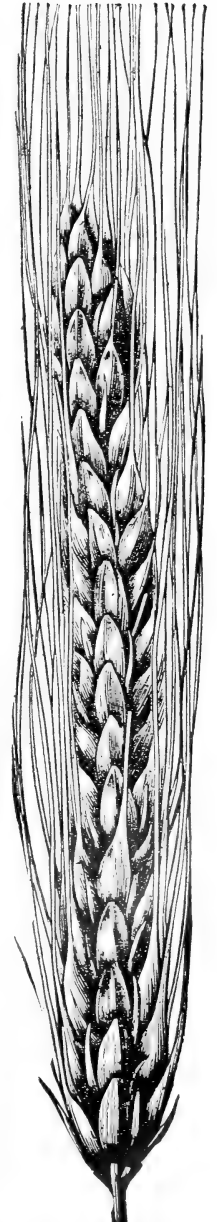
JOHN H. HEMPEY,
Bellefontaine, Ohio.

Ratekin's Mansury Barley.

This is the standard well known variety that is grown to the exclusion of most all other varieties in the great barley growing states like California, Wisconsin and other states where barley is one of the chief products of the country. It is a six rowed variety, introduced into this country about twelve years ago by the Department of Agriculture, and by reason of its wonderful productiveness it has surpassed all other sorts. Its malting qualities are unsurpassed and it always commands the highest market price. It ripens early; has strong stiff straw, with long heavy heads always filled to the end with nice plump kernels. Barley is in better demand than it used to be and at moderate prices it is a very profitable crop. As to its feeding qualities for horses, cattle and hogs, there is nothing that equals it. We have grown thousand of bushels of this barley strictly for hog feed, and have found hogs thrive and fatten on it in the fall of the year, when soaked, faster than any other food, often taking on two pounds per day. Then there is nothing so healthy for your hogs as barley. Mansury Barley can always be relied upon to yield 60 to 65 bushels per acre, and comes on just when you need it most. It will do well on any kind of land, or in any locality where any other crop of any kind will grow. Try it once and you will never be without it. **PRICE:** Bu., 80c. 10 bu. and more, 75c per bu.; 20 to 50 bu., 70c per bu. Bags free on board cars here.

SPELTZ.

MANSURY BARLEY.

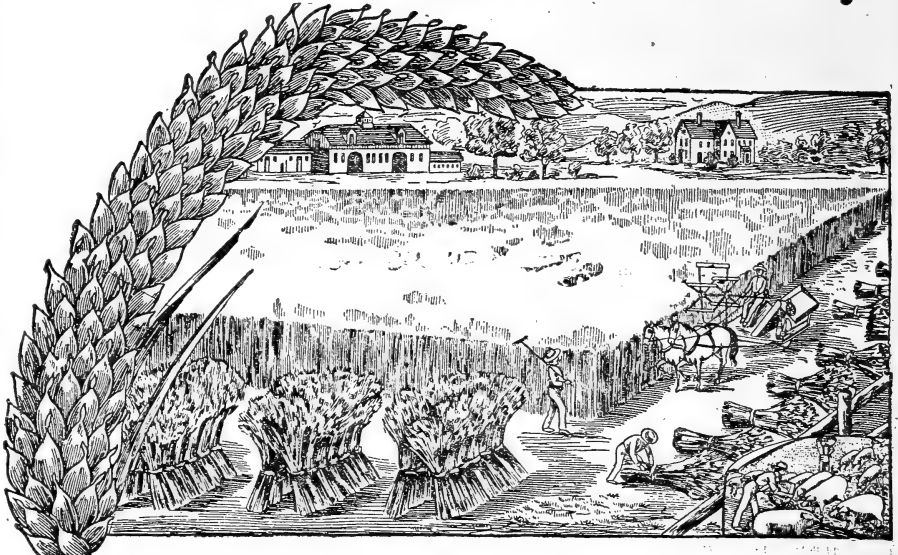


Ratekin's Success Beardless Barley.

Many farmers do not like to grow the bearded varieties of barley on account of the disagreeableness in handling it, altho it is a very profitable crop. This beardless barley is as easy to grow and handle as oats. It is the earliest known variety to ripen; grows medium height, very strong, stiff straw and will stand up well on any kind of land. With good land and fair conditions yields 60 to 75 bushels per acre, and in many instances has made the enormous yield of 100 to 120 bushels per acre. Look at our very low prices, as compared with prices of other seedmen. PRICE: Bu., \$1.002 bu., 95c.; 10 bu., 80c.; 25 to 50 bu., 75c. per bu. Bags free, in all cases, on board cars here.

Ideal White Hulless Barley.

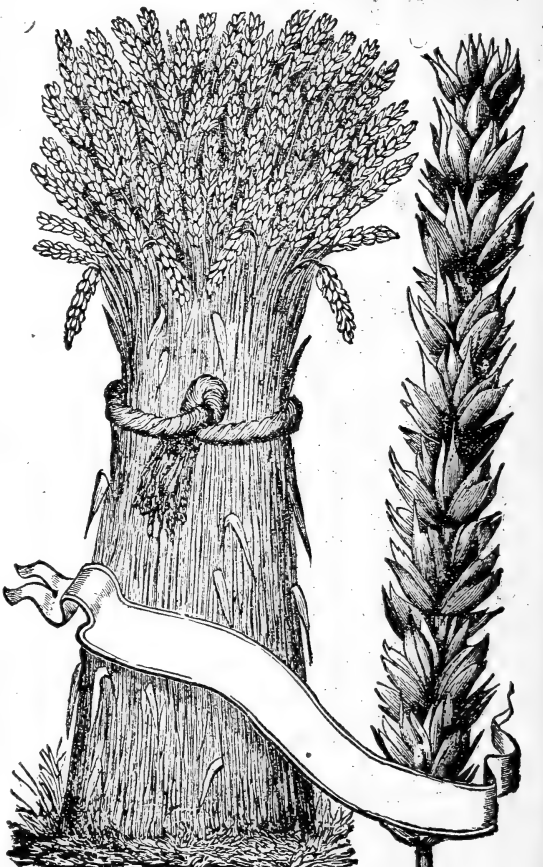
And it is an ideal that pleases all who try it. The heads are large and well filled with big plump kernels, which are hulless of great value for feeding. Those who have grown it say that it produces a very much larger crop than any other variety. It weighs 60 to 65 pounds to the measured bushel, while ordinary barley weighs only 48 pounds. The straw is very stiff and strong. It is the handsomest, most productive and best variety we know of. PRICE: per pk., 5c; 1b., 50c; 3 lbs., 75c; postpaid. By freight, per peck, 75c; bu. (48 lbs.), \$2.00; 2 bu. or more, \$1.80 per bu.



Ratekin's Great Beardless Barley.

Ratekin's New Beardless Barley

Is positively the largest and heaviest yielding barley that has ever before been introduced, yielding as high as 80 bushels per acre in many places. For a beardless barley without a beard it is a novelty. When you can get this barley at the normal low prices that we are selling it at this year every farmer who receives this catalogue should try at least a few bushels of it. When we first introduced this wonderful new variety, three years ago, we ourselves did not know the full value of it, and we did not at first push it. Now since it has demonstrated itself and proven such a wonderful yielder in almost every field where it has been sown, we cannot too strongly urge our customers to sow it. Today we can say that it has no parallel for yield and certainty of crop in the world. It is exactly what we have been looking for for many years, and supplies the demand so often made for a barley without beards. It grows to medium height; is of strong, stiff straw, healthy stooing variety, a variety that is always a sure cropper and yields all the way from 40, 50 to 60, and as high as 80 bushels per acre. Now, Mr. Farmer, when you can grow 40 to 60 bushels per acre there is no cereal you can grow that will pay you better. This new barley is away ahead of the Manshury or Scotch barley. Indeed here is no finer barley grown than this new healthy barley, or of such feeding value. Horses, cattle and hogs grow healthy, hearty and fat on it. We know it as a positive fact that horses, cattle and hogs will fatten on barley faster than any other feed in the world. John C. Jones of Red Willow County, Nebraska, says: "I sowed the 10 bushels of Beardless Barley I ordered from you last spring on FIVE ACRES OF GROUND, AND GOT 450 BUSHELS, OR NINETY BUSHELS PER ACRE FROM IT, AND CAN SELL EVERY BUSHEL OF IT FOR SEED AT \$1.00 PER BUSHEL." HOW IS THAT on an investment of \$10.00 for the seed it took to sow it? PRICE: Bu., \$1.10; 10 bu. and over, \$1.00 per bu., 50 bu. and over, 90c. per bu. Bags free, in all cases, on board cars here.



Hayne's Pedigreed Blue Stem Spring Wheat

This marvelous variety of wheat bears the name of the originator, who spent 8 years in selecting and improving it in his garden, each year selecting all the largest and most perfect heads and discarding the balance. This selection and continued improvement has given it vigor and greatly increased the size of the head, as well as the equality of the berry. Mr. Hayne took first prize at the World's Fair on this wheat. The heads are very large, well filled out, the kernel is hard; the plant is the greatest stouter in the spring wheat varieties, and under favorable conditions yields from 40 to 50 bushels per acre, as the average yield of spring wheat throughout the Northwest, where it is grown as the principal crop, is but about 12 to 14 bushels per acre, you can readily see that the farmer and wheat grower is behind the times. There has been as many as 1,000 grains grown from one berry of this wheat. Now, brother farmer, this means something to you. You will make money—plenty of it to discard your old run-out varieties and send to us and get some of this wheat for your general seed crop. We know you will be pleased and we know it would pay you well if you had to pay double the price we are selling it fine pedigreed seed wheat at. Remember, too, that we are in position to give you pure stock, absolutely free from any mixture, or any weed seeds whatever. We clean all our seed grain carefully over the best cleaning and grading mills that have ever been manufactured. Built especially for our cleaning and

grading department. PRICE: Hayne's Pedigreed Spring Wheat, pk., 60c.; 1-2 bu., \$1.00; 1 bu., \$1.75; 2 bu., \$3.25; 10 bu. or more, \$1.50 per bu. Bags free on board cars here.

MINNESOTA BLUE STEM OR VELVET CHAFF.

SPRING WHEAT.

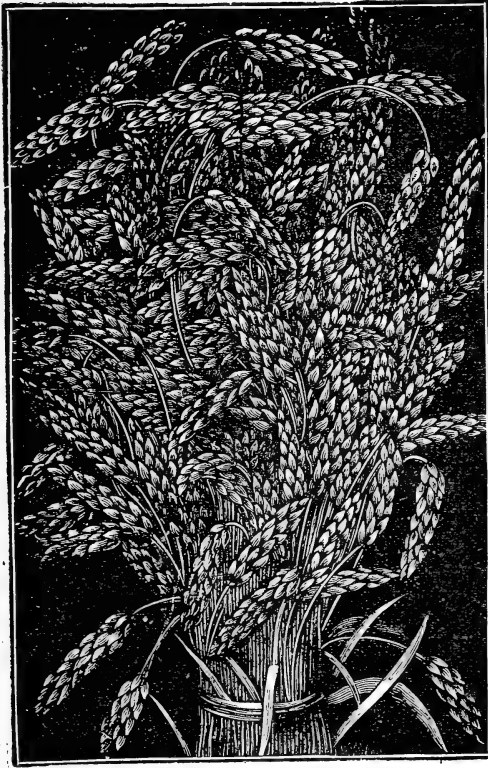
This has proven truly a great Spring Wheat, and is probably grown more extensively throughout the spring wheat growing districts of the northwest than any other variety. It is very early to ripen, thus getting out of danger of chintz bugs, storms and other difficulties incident to a good crop. In short, it is one of the surest croppers there is grown. We have the pure article, and it will pay you to send to us for your seed, as you can make no more desirable change. Our customers who have sown our seed in past years are unanimous in their praises of the great yields they have obtained as well as the excellent grade of wheat. Price: Peck, 60c; one-half bu., \$1.00; 1 bu., \$1.75; 2 bu., \$3.25; 10 bu. and over, \$1.50 per bu. Bags free on board cars here.

Ratekin's Winter Seed Wheat.

While this seed catalogue will reach our customers out of season for planting and sowing winter wheat, we hope you will preserve it so that when the time comes for looking around for a change of seed and for new and best varieties grown, you will have it handy. The growing of new and improved varieties of winter seed wheat has for many years been one of our leading specialties. In fact we have made quite a number of importations of seed wheat from India, Russia and Turkey. We are located in the northern winter wheat growing belt, where strong vigorous varieties are produced, and where we obtain almost unbelievable yields from our new and improved varieties.

It is our intention and purpose to offer the American wheat growing farmer only such varieties of winter seed wheats as will be found to give the surest, most reliable and profitable results, and such varieties as are adapted to a wide range of conditions, including climate and soil.

While there are thousands of acres of some varieties that winter-kill from excessive freezing, cold and drouth, crinkle to the ground, rust and scab until they are not worth the harvesting, **THERE ARE KINDS THAT CAN BE GROWN WITH REASONABLE CERTAINTY ANYWHERE THAT WINTER WHEAT IS GROWN AT ALL**, with satisfactory and profitable results. This we claim can be done with our IMPORTED "MALAKOFF" AND "TURKISH RED" varieties. In past years we have experimented and tried about all the so-called new and improved varieties, and while a number of them have shown good points of merit, and have given good to fair results in places, we have never been able to find any varieties that have given such universal satisfaction and uniform good results everywhere as our new "MALAKOFF" and "TURKISH RED" VARIETIES. Each year for the past six years we have written and sent out over a thousand letters to our customers making inquiry and trying to ascertain their experiences with seed bought from us, as compared with other popular varieties grown in their localities. Practically



BLUE STEM SPRING WHEAT

all of these letters brought replies, and almost without exception everywhere they have said, "Ratekin's New 'Malakoff' and 'Turkish Red' stand first and at the head of all other varieties." Both these varieties are extremely hardy, in fact ironclad, and will withstand and resist more unfavorable conditions, wet or dry, cold or warm, than any varieties in existence. They are as hardy as Winter Rye, and will grow on any kind of soil where rye will grow, and will withstand any climate where rye succeeds.

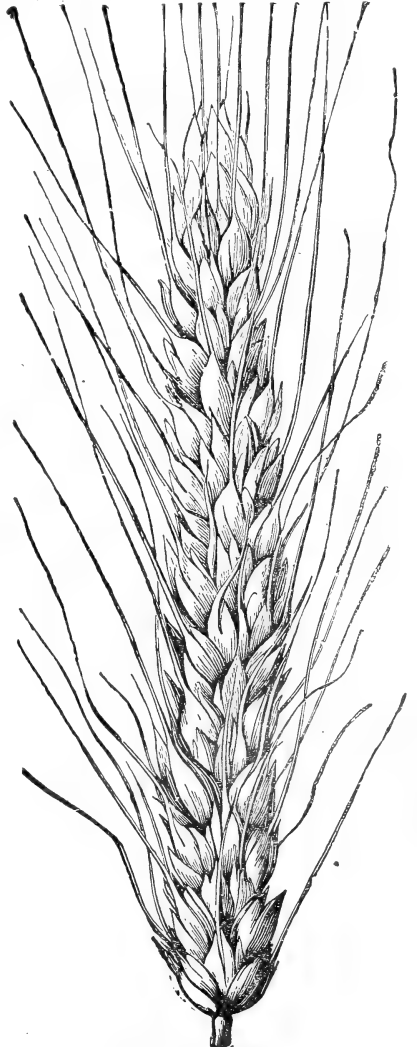
Change Your Seed Wheat.

It is now a conceded fact, known by every practical intelligent up-to-date wheat growing farmer, verified by every experimental station in the country, that wheat grown from the same seed, year after year in the same locality, climate and soil deteriorates—declines and finally runs out. One of the surest methods of counteracting deterioration is by frequent changes and importations of new seed from regions or localities where the climate and other environments give strength, vigor and vitality under such a change. It has always been our aim to grow nothing but the best. The original cost of the seed is but a small item with us. If some one had better varieties than we, and we were convinced of it, then they would be the very sorts we would grow. When the whole story is **TOLD IN ITS MOST SIMPLE FORM**, we strive to serve our customers in a way that they may grow the best, and help them to grow more profitable crops than his neighbor who never changes his seed, or who may buy his seed from some one else. All our winter wheat is grown by us from the most select stock seed; absolutely free from rye, cheat or any noxious weed seed. It is all thoroughly re-cleaned and graded over our mills, which are the very best to be found in the world.

OUR WINTER SEED WHEAT CATALOGUE WILL BE READY FOR MAILING ABOUT AUGUST 1st, in which the prices of our winter seed wheat will be given; also Mammoth White Rye, Grass and Clover Seed, etc., etc. If interested in winter wheat or any of the seeds named, send us your name, with your order for other seeds, and request us to mail it to you as soon as issued, or write for it any time after Aug. 1st, and it will be mailed to you promptly. **LET US HEAR FROM YOU.**

Spring Rye.

This magnificent rye is distinct and different from winter rye. It is of recent introduction and it has proven to many of our farmer customers to be a better money maker, a surer money maker and a bigger money maker than any other cereal planted. Good spring rye brings as good price as wheat, and yields 10 to 20 bushels more per acre. The price is seldom below sixty cents per bushel, and the yield is always good for 40 bushels per acre. It can be grown in any latitude. The straw is of special value as it stands from six to seven feet high, producing four times as much straw as oats. We have but 1,500 bushels of this rye and we want to request our farmer friends who want the best thing in the cereal line they ever grew to order early. We are sure it will please you. It can be sown any time in the spring. It does not stool like winter rye, and not less than 1½ to 2 bushels per acre should be sown. Our prices are way below other seedsmen, and you should not fail to try a few bushels this coming season. Price: Peck, 50c; bu., \$1.50; 2 bu., \$1.45 per bu.; 10 bu. or more, \$1.40 per bu. Bags free on board cars here.



NEW MALAKOFF

Mammoth Winter White Rye.

We have wondered many times why every farmer did not sow at least a few acres of winter rye. When we lived on the farm we considered rye one of the most convenient, valuable and profitable crops that could be planted on any farm. In the first place it is a sure crop—failure being almost if not entirely unknown. It can be sown as nearly any time in the year as any other crop, when the ground is not frozen. Many sow it in the early spring for quick and vigorous pasture; others sow it in their corn before the last plowing, and continue to sow it from that time on up until just before the ground freezes. We have sown it so late that it did not get through the ground before freezing up, and still it came on the next spring and made a yield of 40 bushels per acre. The best time for sowing, however, for good crop is about Sept. 10th, thus making splendid fall pasture as well as early spring pasture, after which it will give you a splendid and profitable crop for the grain. Our Mammoth White Winter Rye is of an extra quality and strain, from a crop that made 46 bushels per acre machine measure. It will please you, no matter what you want it for, pasture or grain. Price: Peck 40c; 1 bu., \$1.00; 10 bu. or more, 90c per bu. Bags free on board cars here.

New Japanese Buckwheat.

This is the most wondrous prolific hardy Buckwheat known, often yielding 50 to 60 bushels per acre. It is about a week earlier than Silver Hull and yields more. The quality of flour made from this variety is the equal if not best of any other Buckwheat, and is tremendously popular among the millers. Requires from half bushel to three pecks per acre; can be sown any time from middle of June to July 10th; best time is about July 1st. Price: Peck, 50c; 1 bu., \$1.50; 2 bu. or more, \$1.40 per bu.; 10 bu., \$1.35 per bu. Bags free.

Silver Hull Buckwheat.

A good and popular variety. Grain is of light gray color, rounder than most other sorts. Very early and a splendid yielder. Many who have grown this variety are greatly infatuated with it. Price: Peck, 50c; 1 bu., \$1.50; 2 bu. or more, \$1.40 per bu.; 10 bu. and over, \$1.35 per bu. Bags free.



SEED FLAX.

A very profitable crop and it pays to own your own seed. Price subject to market changes. Price: lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c. By freight: Peck, 65c; 1 bu., \$2.15. Ask for price in quantity.

BROOM CORN.

IMPROVED EVERGREEN: For length, strength and straightness of brush this variety is unexcelled. It is of light green color without the slightest reddish tinge. It makes far the best brooms of any grown. Height, 7 to 8 feet. Price, by mail, postpaid: 30c per lb. By freight: Peck, 60c; half bu., \$1.10; 1 bu., \$1.75.

DWARF EVERGREEN: This is a popular variety on account of its being not so liable to blow down and lodge as the taller varieties. Heads are very brushy and make a fine yield. Price, by mail, postpaid: 30c per lb. By freight: Peck, 60c; half bu., \$1.10; 1 bu., \$1.75.

FIELD PEAS.

SOUTHERN COW PEAS: Field peas are largely grown in the Southern States, both as a hay crop and fertilizer, in which respect they are of great value. The peas may be sown in corn at the time of last cultivation; or after a crop of early potatoes. They may be sown broadcast at the rate of one and one-half bushels per acre or they may be planted in rows about three feet apart with a cornplanter. This will require about one-half bushel of seed per acre. The cow peas, by their rapid, rank growth, keep down weeds and put the soil in good, friable condition for the next year's crop, increasing the fertility of the soil to a remarkable extent. The vines furnish an excellent green food for milch cows until frost, or they may be cut and cured for hay; or a very profitable way to dispose of the crop is to turn hogs into the field at the time the first peas are ripening. They readily eat the foliage and well filled pods, and thrive amazingly. Or the entire crop may be plowed under as a green manure.

WHIPPOORWILL:—An early variety and the favorite in this section. Price: Peck, 75c; bu., \$2.50.

CLAY:—A rank and rapid grower, but later than the Whippoorwill. Price: Peck, 75c; bu., \$2.50.

MIXED PUMPKIN SEED.

Lots and lots of pumpkin seed—mixed all sorts and kinds. Pkg., 10c; 1 oz., 15c; 1-4 lb., 20c; 1-2 lb., 35c; 1 lb., 50c; 5 lbs., \$4.00, postpaid.

DWARF ESSEX RAPE.

The Most Profitable Pasture Plant in Existence.

Come here, Mr. Farmer, until we tell you about Dwarf Essex Rape. One acre of Dwarf Essex Rape will pasture more stock, hogs, cattle and sheep, than six acres of clover or grass of any kind. As a healthy and fattening pasture food it has no equal. It stands without a rival in point of cheapness and effectiveness. Hundreds of farmers have written us asking methods of rape culture. Why, it's the simplest and easiest crop grown in the world. You can sow it anywhere and everywhere and at all times after danger of frost is past until Sept. 1st, and even later in the south. We have hundreds of customers who sow 50 to 100 lbs. each year, and have one customer who buys a thousand pounds every year. Rape is particularly adapted as a catch crop. Rape may be sown successfully in the early spring to provide summer pasture for stock. Plow the ground same as for turnips and sow 4 lbs. per acre broadcast in June or July on prepared ground, or can be sown in corn and plowed in last plowing. Then, after you have cut small grain, sow in stubble, running disc over the ground to give light covering. It can be sown in drills 30 inches apart and cultivated; then cut and thrown out to your stock. Planted this way, use 2 lbs. seed per acre. There is nothing so easily and profitably grown, and practically at no cost. Sow Rape; it will please and profit you.

Our seed is pure Dwarf Essex, imported by us direct from Essex, England, new crop grown. Price: 1 lb., by mail postpaid, 25c; 4 lbs. (will sow an acre), 80c. By freight or express, at purchaser's expense: 10 lbs., 85c; 25 lbs., \$1.75; 50 lbs., \$3.25; 100 lbs., \$6.00. Bags free.



FIELD CARROT.

Saved from carefully selected stock. This is an indispensable root for the farm and is deserving of more general cultivation. They succeed best on sandy soil. When well managed there is no crop which will pay better.

Improved Long Orange. A standard sort for field culture, and also desirable for table use. Per pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; 1-4 lb., 20c; 1 lb., 50c, postpaid. By express, 5 lbs. or more, at 35c.

Victoria: The largest and most productive variety. Per pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; 1-4 lb., 25c; 1 lb., 75c, postpaid. By express, 5 lbs. or more, at 50c.

Early Amber Cane.

It would seem unnecessary to speak about cane and its great value as a fodder plant, yet there are thousands of farmers that don't have the least conception of its wonderful value. There is no fodder plant that produces as quickly and easily, rich luscious fodder for milk cows, for sheep and cattle as amber cane. Dairy farmers say there is nothing like it in existence for their use. Its great merit as a food for live stock is only beginning to be appreciated. Ten tons per acre can be grown easily, and its claimed by some—much more. It can be successfully grown from Manitoba to Texas and from California to Maine. For fodder or hay crop, sow 100 lbs., per acre. Price subject to market change. Per lb., by mail postpaid, 20c; 3 lb., 50c. By freight or express at purchaser's expense, 10 lbs., 50c; 25 lbs., 85c; 100 lbs., \$2.00; 500 lbs. or more, \$1.90 per 100 lbs. Bags free.

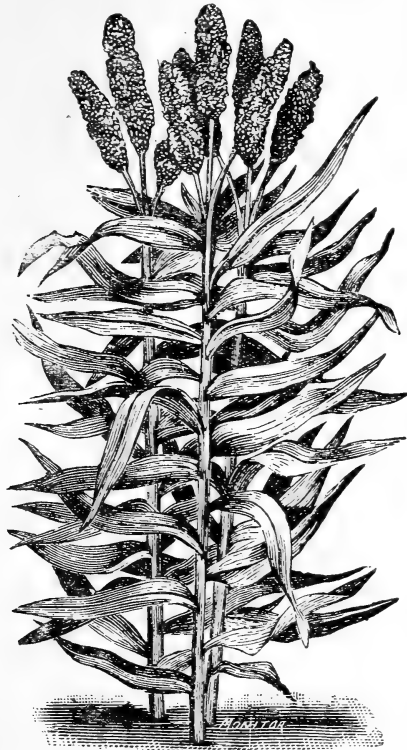


AMBER CANE

KAFFIR CORN.

The Crop That Resists Dry Weather and Laughs at Drouth.

This is the fodder crop that grows when its dry and when its wet weather. Drouth cannot touch it. It snaps its finger at the beaming hot sun and hot winds. Its there to grow rain or shine. It grows and keeps growing no matter what comes. Its one of the most excellent fodder plants in existence, yielding two crops of fodder during a season. It grows from five to six feet high, making a straight, upright growth. The stem of the stalk is laden with numerous wide blades. The stalks keep green and are brittle and juicy, making excellent fodder green or dried. The seed crop is also heavy, sometimes yielding sixty bushels per acre. There is no failure about it, as it possesses the quality that all the tribes possess of going without rain, without any loss of capacity to yield. The grain is extremely valuable for feeding poultry, and when cracked or ground coarsely is almost as nutritious as corn, oats and barley. It will fatten hogs and keep them healthy and thrifty. You will simply be surprised at results. Cultivate the same as our common Indian Corn, requiring five pounds seed per acre. For fodder sow 1 bushel per acre, either broadcast or drill. Price: 1b., by mail postpaid, 20c; 3 lbs., 50c. By freight or express at purchaser's expense, pk., 50c; 1 bu., (50 lbs.), \$1.00; 2 bu., or more, 90c per bu. Bags free



KAFFIR CORN

MANGEL-WURTZELS AND STOCK BEETS.

Yield 50 Tons per Acre.

The value of Mangel-Wurtzels for feeding stock, cattle, sheep and swine cannot be overestimated. The results from their use is simply wonderful. No one who keeps horses, cattle, sheep or swine should fail to plant liberally of this invaluable root crop. They are the most nutritious food for fattening in the winter that is grown. They keep your stock hungry, healthy and fat; they increase the flow of milk as no other food. They yield enormously, often making as high as 40 to 60 tons per acre. There is nothing that can be grown at such trifling cost.

Five to Six Pounds of Seed Will Plant an Acre.

CULTURE:—Sow in drills two feet apart when suitable time comes for sowing oats and planting corn. When plants are two or three inches high thin or cut out with hoe to 8 to 12 inches apart. The roots should be harvested before frost and stored in pits or cellar. Brother farmer, don't fail to plant a liberal amount of these root vegetables for your stock this year. They are a veritable gold mine to you. Long varieties are best suited to deep rich soil. Globe sorts succeed better than long ones on thin or sandy soil. They make a heavy growth, and if large quantities are grown it is best to have the rows wide enough apart to use a horse and cultivator.

RATEKIN'S IMPROVED MAMMOTH LONG RED MANGEL: is the best Long Red there is grown. They are good, and of massive shape; growing to immense size, but are of fine texture, not coarse. They are easily harvested as they grow well over the ground. We select only the largest roots of true type to produce our seed. Price: pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; 1-4 lb., 15c; 1 lb., 35c; 4 lbs., \$1.25, postpaid. By express at purchaser's expense in 5 to 10 lb. lots and over, 25c., per lb.

All the following varieties of Mangel-Wurtzels and sugar beets are put up in our regular large sized packets at 5c. each postpaid.

GATE POST MANGEL:—Most useful, largest and best, yellow, of ten weighing 40 lbs., producing 2,000 to 2,500 bushels per acre. 60c. per lb., 4 lbs., \$2.00.

GOLDEN GIANT INTERMEDIATE (Yellow Leviathan) grows more than half above ground, flesh white firm and sweet. 50c., per lb; 4 lbs., \$1.60.

RED GLOBE MANGEL:—An early variety, producing smooth globe-shaped roots; adapted to grow on shallow soil. 1 lb., 40c; 4 lbs., \$1.25.

RATEKIN'S GOLDEN TANKARD MANGEL:—Is considered the best Mangel grown by a large part of our customers. Our stock is of superior strain and quality and unequalled for yield and feeding quality. It is remarkable for its milk-producing qualities. The growth is vigorous. It is easily pulled or lifted from the ground and is an enormous producer; with good ordinary cultivation and land it yields 40 to 50 tons per acre, and some of our customers claim to have grown as high as 60 to 70 tons from one acre of ground under good conditions. Price: 1 lb., 40c; 4 lbs., \$1.50.

In making up your order, don't fail to order some of these stock beets; they are all of the very best and most productive varieties grown. Above prices are postpaid to any post-office in the United States. One half pounds will be sent at pound prices and rates.



FIELD PUMPKINS.

We place Pumpkins among our field seeds for the reason that they should be in every cornfield. When we were a boy every fifth row in the field was reserved for pumpkins. Hundreds of loads of pumpkins can be grown in every cornfield without a cent of cost. They need no tending further than what is needed for the cultivation of the corn. Hundreds of our customers have grown a hundred wagon loads of pumpkins for the mere cost of the seed, which practically amounts to nothing. There is nothing on the farm that pays so well, that can be grown at the same cost. We want to urge our customers and every farmer to raise pumpkins. You don't need to be told how profitable pumpkins are.

KING OF MAMMOTHS.

This now famous pumpkin first came to our attention while visiting in France a few years ago. We secured seed and distributed among our customers, just as we do in testing all new varieties. The results have been most astonishing. No other pumpkin has ever reached such enormous size and weights. Many of them grow as large as a common washtub, weighing from 100 to 150 lbs. The flesh and skin is of a golden yellow, and notwithstanding its wonderful size it makes a splendid table pumpkin. Our seed has been saved from the very best specimens, and you can depend upon it as being the best pumpkin ever before introduced. Price: Pkt., 10c; 1-4 lb., 40c.; per pound, \$1.50.

CONNECTICUT FIELD PUMPKIN.

This widely known Pumpkin is known as "Yankee Cow Pumpkin," and there is no variety that will do so well among corn. Plant them on your richest land and you will be amply repaid. They are the kind that never fails. Price: 1 lb., 40c; 3 lbs., \$1.00; 5 lbs., \$1.50 postpaid.

KENTUCKY OR SWEET PUMPKINS.

These are the thick-meated, sweet kind for table use and pies. They are also extra good for stock, but do not thrive as well in corn as the Yankee Pumpkin. Many farmers plant a patch of them by themselves on an acre or two of land and it pays them big. What you don't want for family use is always profitable to feed to your cows and hogs. Our prices are extremely low and no one can sell you pure stock of this variety at a less price. Price: 1 lb., 40c; 3 lbs., \$1.00 postpaid. 8c., per lb., less if sent at your expense. 10 to 20 lbs. and over, by freight or express, 25 cents per lb.

YANKEE PIE PUMPKIN.

We are sure there never was any pumpkin introduced that has given more genuine satisfaction to our customers as a Pie Pumpkin. This pumpkin is not large, but is of a delightful quality to make the best of pumpkin pies; just such as your mother used to make. We know you will like them. They will remind you of old times when you used to be little. They are extra early, remarkably prolific, yielding from 10 to 20 medium sized pumpkins to each vine. Flesh very thick and of fine grain, sweet and just the right flavor for pies. Pkt., 10c; 1 oz., 15c; 1-4 lb., 30c; 1 lb., \$1.00; 5 lbs., \$4.50.

Pencillaria

A new fodder plant of untold value: To the farmer for its immense growth of hay. To the dairyman for its excellent fodder. To the stockman for its quick-growing forage. To the poultryman for seed. It is a native of Central America. It is an annual plant, having broad foliage, very much resembling corn leaves. It is of rapid growth, throwing out from one plant numerous suckers, and if cut as soon as it reaches the height of two or three feet, it can be mowed from four to six times, according to the latitude, and yields several tons of dry hay per acre. If allowed to grow six or seven feet high, and cut when the flower heads begin to develop, it will yield the heaviest fodder crop per acre of any plant now in cultivation. For feeding it is equal to any fodder, and is relished by any kind of stock, either dry or green.

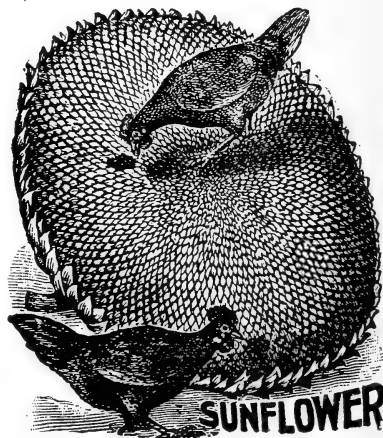
Cultural Directions

If for Hay purposes, sow very thinly in drills twelve to eighteen inches apart, dropping a seed every six or eight inches, or broadcast one pound per acre. As a Fodder plant sow in drills three or three and one-half feet apart, thinning out to stand eighteen inches apart in the drill. When high enough cultivate the field thoroughly, as this may be the only opportunity; the growth becoming so dense that a cultivator could not be used a second time. As a Green food it will support four cows and other stock in proportion, from the time it is thirty inches high until the end of the season. As a Seed producer it must have ample space to grow in — two to three feet apart in the rows, and three to three and one-half feet between the rows. Cultivate twice. Per Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; 1/4 lb., 15c; 1 lb., 35c; 3 lbs., \$1.00, postpaid. By express or freight: 1 lb., 20c; 5 lbs., 90c; 25 lbs., \$3.25; 100 lbs., \$12.00. Sow some of our Pencillaria. There is nothing better for fodder.



PENCILARIA.

Mammoth Russian Sunflower.



Largest Sunflower. This is without doubt one of the best paying crops that can be raised. Seeds are the best of food for poultry, and is much cheaper to raise than corn. Stalks, which grow very large, make excellent firewood. It is also said to afford protection against malaria. Large pkt., 5c; lb., 20c; 3 lbs., 55c; By freight: 10 lbs., 70c; bu., or 25 lbs., \$1.50.

Northern Grown Seed Potatoes.

In order to secure the best possible yields, combined with the best quality, there is no crop grown that a change in seed is so essential as in seed potatoes. If our selected North Dakota grown are planted, three to 600 bushels can be as easily grown per acre as 50 to 100 bushels scrub stock. To grow a large crop of big fine healthy tubers will not cost any more than to grow a small crop of small poor potatoes which are hardly marketable at any price.

Nothing gives us more genuine pleasure and satisfaction than the marvelous increase we have had in our potato trade since we have had our seed potatoes grown altogether in the extreme north. There is a world of difference between Northern Dakota grown potatoes and Eastern, or one grown along the Lakes. We have taken potatoes grown in Iowa, Illinois, Michigan and New York and planted them side by side with the same varieties from North Dakota, and never got half a crop, while our Dakota potatoes would roll out by the hundreds of bushels per acre, often yielding 400 to 600 bushels per acre. Other potatoes would give us from 30 to 50 and sometimes as high as 150 bushels per acre, but this was a very rare yield. Our northern grown seed potatoes insure a vigorous growth, an early maturity and the largest crops and finest quality and flavor potatoes that can be grown. We have hundreds of customers who buy one to 10 barrels a year for their own family use, because it more than doubly pays them. Think of 200, 300, 400, 500, and even 600 bushels per acre and then compare it with the average yield of potatoes from home grown sorts.

We ship our seed potatoes in the spring as soon as danger of freezing is over, so they will arrive in plenty of time for planting. All orders for potatoes are acknowledged as soon as received and forwarded as soon as possible—the very first day that we feel it is safe to start them. When shipment is ordered otherwise, shipment is made at purchaser's risk and we assume no responsibility on account of freezing. We do not charge for bags, boxes or barrels. All potatoes are carefully packed and delivered to the railroad company in good order and condition, then our responsibility ceases. Pound Prices: All varieties 25c., per lb; 3 lbs., 60c; postpaid except where otherwise noted.

Ratekin's Extra Early 6 Weeks.

The Handsomest and Earliest Potato Ever Offered.

Introduced by us two years ago, it now ranks as we predicted, "King of Earlies," and the great favorite with all who have planted it. Why, sir, we have had customers who lived in Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri who have planted it there that have moved to Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon, who have sent back here two thousand miles away for seed to plant again. They all say it's the greatest early potato they ever found. Out in Dakota where we have these potatoes grown under special contract, it scoffs at dry weather and drouth, for it always gets there ahead of dry weather; then there is no potato grown that adapts itself to all kinds of conditions so readily as this early wonder. It is not only an extra early, six weeks potato but it's good all summer and fall and through winter. In fact there is no potato grown, early or late, of such fine keeping qualities. It is a handsome oblong, maturing ready for table use in 40 to 45 days from time of planting, or at least a week to ten days earlier than its nearest rival. As shown in the accompanying illustration, it is a very smooth even surface; white skin, and very white flesh. Tubers grow close together in the hill, and it is not unusual to get 10 to 15 good potatoes of marketable size from a single eye. The potatoes begin to form when the vines are only 4 or 5 inches high. The tops and tubers grow rapidly, and at six weeks from planting are of good marketable size. In short they are the earliest, finest and best potato for family use and for truckers there is grown. Whether you want early potatoes for home use or early market, plant this variety liberally. They will fill the bill and surprise your best expectations. Price: Postpaid, 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c. By freight or express, purchaser's expense: Peck, 60c; 1-2 bu., \$1.00; 1 bu., \$1.75; 5 bu. or more, \$1.60 per bushel.



ORIGINATOR OF THE NEW MAJESTIC

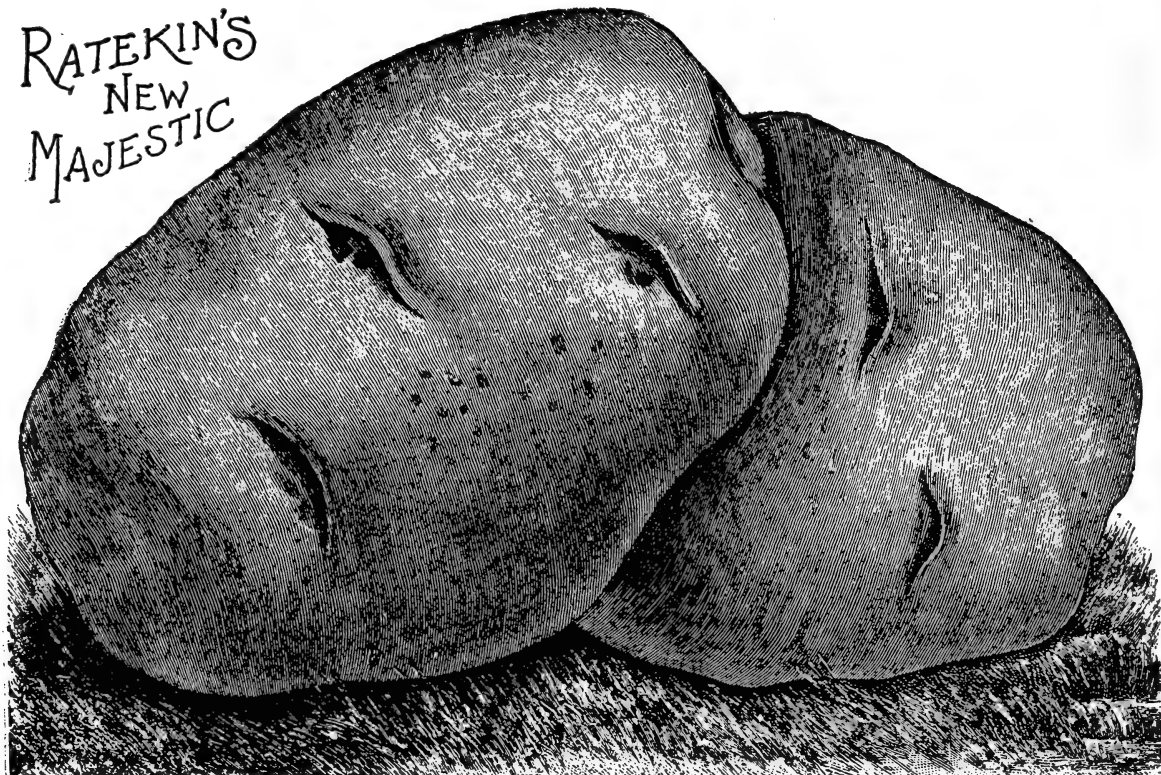


RATEKIN'S NEW MAJESTIC.

The World's Largest Early Potato.

And the Man Who Originated it.

RATEKIN'S
NEW
MAJESTIC



THE LARGEST, HANDSOMEST, SMOOTHEST AND BEST FLAVORED EARLY POTATO IN THE WORLD: Never before in the history of the potato world has there been such an enormous yielding Extra Early Potato introduced. The Finest, Grandest and Most Up-to-date Early Potato ever offered, now introduced for the first time. As modest as we are, we cannot restrain our enthusiasm. Its a beauty such as you never saw before. We have christened it "The Majestic." Ring the bells: Stand aside: Clear the track: Make room for this coming Potato: The Great Majestic, General Purpose Early Potatoes: None in the wide world its equal. It stands alone; The Great Majestic all purpose potato. Listen, Read, Order, Plant. Make money while you can. Here is your opportunity. We wish we had space to tell you all we know about this wonderful Large Early Potato. It is indeed the most handsome potato ever discovered. Just the right shape; just the right size. In fact it is the ideal of all varieties. No potato is superior in eating qualities year in and year out. It stands to other potatoes as rich Jersey cream does to skimmed milk. As early as the earliest, and is better than the best.

It is a potato we know will not only make dollars for the grower, but will please him beyond doubt as well. A striking characteristic of this new Majestic beauty is its productiveness. We will say right here that it will yield you more big fine potatoes by far on the same amount of ground than any other sort ever before discovered. What more can we say? Need we say more? Our plea with you is to plant freely of this new potato. You will find it the most profitable potato you ever planted. We know you will thank us and become as enthusiastic as we when once you see the fine potatoes and enormous yield it produces. We know we will be unable to supply the enormous demand there will be for this new potato the coming season. If you are not ready to order your seeds now write us how many to reserve for you, making remittance to cover half your order; then when they can be shipped safely without danger of freezing send balance, and seed will be sent promptly and at once.

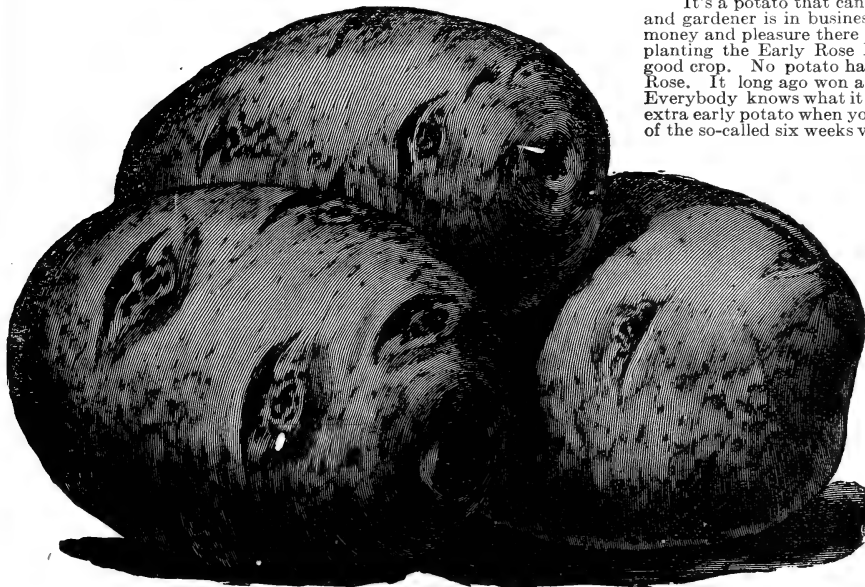
Price, postpaid: 1 lb., 30c; 4 lbs., \$1.00. By freight or express, purchaser's expense: 1 peck, 75c; $\frac{1}{2}$ bu., \$1.40; 1 bu., \$2.50; 3 bu., \$6.50.

EARLY SIX WEEKS.

EARLIEST SIX WEEKS. This is a new potato of the Ohio type, and it seems to be in great demand everywhere. It is not the oblong, smooth tubers, ready for use everywhere in six weeks from planting, and the tubers will be in good condition for cooking, even when partly grown. Market gardeners and all others who grow potatoes cannot afford to be without this splendid early potato. We will say that the Six Weeks is planted by more people who want a few early potatoes in the garden than any other variety in existence. They grow so rapidly and mature so early that the potato bugs have no chance at all, making their crop, if planted early, before the young bugs become numerous, and the yield is always good, considering their extra earliness. Price: peck, 35c; 1-2 bu., 55c; 1 bu., \$1.00; 5 bu. or over, 90c per bu.; 10 bu. or over, 85c.

EARLY ROSE POTATOES.

Dakota Grown: Always Reliable.



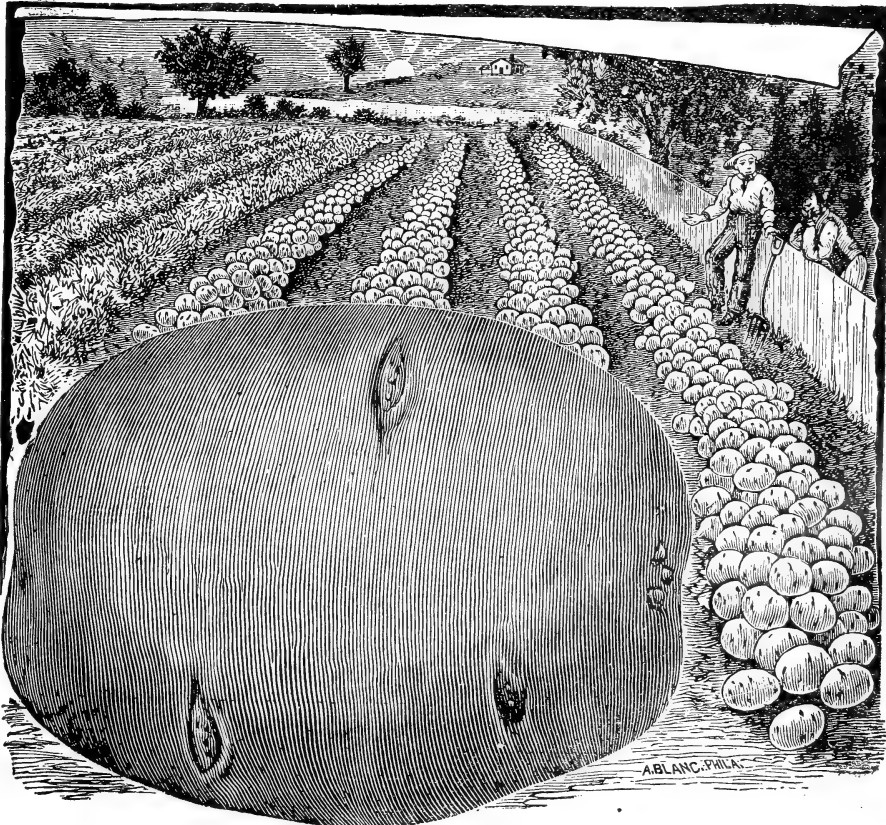
It's a potato that can always be relied upon. Every farmer and gardener is in business, not for fun or for glory, but for the money and pleasure there is in it. There is absolutely no risk in planting the Early Rose Potato. It's always sure to make a good crop. No potato has stood the test of time like the Early Rose. It long ago won a proud distinction and won its laurels. Everybody knows what it is. You take no chances on getting an extra early potato when you plant it. It is fully as early as many of the so-called six weeks varieties, and it's always a sure cropper, a good yielder and the finest flavored potato in existence. In addition to all these good qualities it's one of the longest and best keepers in existence. It's a good potato all seasons of the year. It's the "old reliable." Our seed stock were grown in the Red River Valley of North Dakota, of the cold northwest, and are strong and vigorous healthy growers, and by actual tests they come into table use 10 days earlier than the same variety grown here in Iowa, besides giving a yield of two or three bushels where you get but one from home grown stock. Our seed is all screened and carefully hand picked, smooth and nice and of good big uniform size. Price, postpaid by mail: Peck, 35c; half bu., 55c; bu., \$1.00, 5 bu. or over, 90c per bu.

EARLY OHIO POTATOES OUR SPECIALTY.

ALWAYS RELIABLE.

This grand old reliable potato is too well known to require any lengthy description. Almost every farmer and potato grower has given it a trial, and where true genuine stock was secured it has always given the best of satisfaction. No matter how many new early varieties are introduced the Early Ohio holds its place at the head of all other early sorts. We have more calls for it than any other variety. Carloads of this standard early variety are shipped every year to Southern states for seed purposes and the product thereof is shipped back again to our largest potato markets. The Southern potato grower realizes by planting our extreme Northern grown Early Ohio he will have his crop ready at least two weeks earlier than if planted from home grown seed. Our North Dakota grown Early Ohio are vigorous and healthy, will naturally produce the largest crops and mature fully ten days to two weeks earlier than such as are bought up by seed dealers in large cities, where they are picked up in the open markets, and as long as they have a reddish color and an oblong to oval form, call them "Early Ohio." Our stock of these potatoes is extremely fine this season, and is absolutely pure in variety.

Price, By freight or express, purchaser's expense: 1 peck, 35c; 1-2 bu., 55c; 1 bu., \$1.00; 5 bu. or over, 90c a bu.



PAT'S CHOICE.

PAT'S CHOICE was first introduced in 1900, since which time no other late variety has gained such wonderful fame. The Greatest of All Late Potatoes. This claim is based on the fact that it **OUT-YIELDS ANY OTHER LATE POTATO THAT HAS EVER BEEN INTRODUCED AND IS OF THE FINEST QUALITY AND FLAVOR.** There is nothing like it. Long, handsome and very smooth. No other potato has such shallow eyes. Skin is a beautiful pink color with deeper colored eyes, very thick netted, and for quality—well there is no other potato like Pat's Choice for fine cooking qualities, always dry and mealy, whether baked or boiled. Its medium late in season, but an enormous yielder. You know Pat is known as a sharp fellow when it comes to passing judgment on Irish potatoes—well, the universal judgment by all who have tried this new potato is that Pat knew what he was talking about when he made this choice. So now if you want the best late potato that is grown; the one that is on top for quality, on top for smoothness and handsome appearance, and on top for yield, choose Pat's Choice, and you will make no mistake. Price, postpaid: 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c. By freight or express—purchaser's expense: 1 peck, 35c; 1-2 bu., 60c; 1 bu., \$1.00; 5 bu. and over, 90c per bu.; 10 bu. and over, 85c per bushel.

BANNER POTATO.

A Special Favorite of Ours Among the Late Varieties.

Banner Potato Introduced in 1899. The **Banner** is the finest main crop white potato on the market, and probably no variety ever introduced has made as good a record in so short a time with all classes of growers on all kinds of soil. None surpass it in uniform handsome appearance. Its shape is a little oblong and slightly flattened, cooking through easily. The eyes are very shallow. The size is large and desirable, very few under market size. Always smooth and regular in form; strong and vigorous from the very sprout. As near blight and scab proof as any. The flesh is very white, and whether boiled or baked has the same fine table qualities—always dry and floury. Season, medium late. Choice sorted Northern grown stock. Price: Peck, 35c; 1-2 bu., 60c; 1 bu., \$1.00; 5 bu. or over, 90c per bu.

ARTICHOKE ROOTS.

The **New Large Jerusalem Variety**; producing from 400 to 1,000 bushels per acre. An excellent food for cattle, sheep and horses. Fed to milch cows, they are for the production of milk equal if not superior to bran. But their greatest value is for food for hogs. Even the labor of feeding is avoided, as the hogs will help themselves if allowed to do so. We consider them the cheapest and healthiest hog food possible to raise, and find that where brood sows have free access to **Artichokes**, they and their pigs invariably do well. There is no better food to build up large healthy frames, with plenty of bone and muscle. Hogs will not only grow, but fatten on them.

On good land, with the same culture as corn, **Artichokes** will produce from 400 to 1,000 bushels per acre. A. C. Williams, of Iowa, a very prominent breeder of Poland Chinas, says: "Forty head of hogs and pigs may be kept without other food on an acre of **Artichokes** from the time frost is out of the ground until they grow again, and from October 1st until the ground freezes again. They produce more hog food per acre than any other crop I am acquainted with, and the hogs will harvest the crop themselves. **Artichokes** also produce an immense quantity of tops, of which cattle, horses and mules are very fond, and which makes excellent food when properly cured. A chemical analysis of roots shows them to be superior to carrots, parsnips, rangel, sugar beets and turnips, both as flesh and fat formers."

Planting, Culture, Price, Etc.—**Artichokes** need planting but once, and little or no culture after the first year. Cut as potatoes, only smaller; plant in rows three and one-half feet apart. Plow deep, plant shallow, say two inches; the second year, break up the ground as for corn; will come up thick all over the surface. Run through each way with a cultivator when a few inches high. Price: 1 lb., 30c; 4 lbs., \$1.00, by mail postpaid. By freight or express: 1-2 bu., 50c; 1 bu., 90c; 5 bu., 85c per bu.; 10 bu. or over, 80c per bu.

WE WANT YOUR ORDER THIS SEASON.

We hope you will receive this Catalog kindly and give us a generous share of your orders the coming season. We especially hope you will send us an order for some of our Garden Seeds, and we want you to try at least a few bushels of our Seed Corn, a few a few bushels of our Seed Potatoes, Oats, Speltz, and if you want anything in the Grass Seed line, don't fail to write us for prices.

In making up your order, if in need of any **LAWN GRASS**; A **MIXTURE** that will make you a beautiful **LAWN** the **FIRST YEAR**; something you will **LOOK AND GAZE** upon long after **THE PRICE IS FORGOTTEN**, include it in your order.

Each and every page of our catalogue is replete and full of choice, rare things that will, we believe, pay you well to give a thorough trial. We hope you will do so, and trust the season of 1907 will bring you great prosperity and joy. **BE FRIENDLY AND WRITE US** when in want of anything in the seed line. You can always depend upon it at the catalog prices of any reliable seedsman.

Seedsman's Non-Warranty Clause.

Undoubtedly the seed catalog now being prepared for 1906 will contain their usual disclaimer or non-warranty clause, reading something like this: "WE GIVE NO WARRANTY, express or implied, as to description, quality, productiveness, or any other matter on any seeds we send out and will in no way be responsible for them."

READ OUR TERMS OF SALE—SATISFACTION GUARANTEED:—Purchaser ordering our seed, may return them at our expense, if not found entirely satisfactory on receipt and examination and the money paid for them will be cheerfully returned.

We believe such terms **MORE LIBERAL** than a specific guarantee, because we take chances of meeting very critical customers and having seed returned, not because it was poor, but because the buyer thinks it ought to be better.

We have **CONFIDENCE IN THE PEOPLE, WHO PLANT AND SOW OUR SEEDS**, and believe no seedsman should ask the **CUSTOMER** to have more confidence in his seeds than the **SEEDSMAN** himself has.

RUSH ORDERS.

Before closing this page we again want to urge the importance of ordering your Seed from us early, and if you find them new and fresh and of good strong vitality, we want you to tell your neighbors and friends about them too. We shall send you nothing but what has been tested and found of the best vitality, and of the best varieties that are grown, and when you buy your seeds from us once, we believe by honest treatment, our customers will appreciate it and will take pleasure in calling the attention of their neighbors to our seeds and thus multiply our customers in their locality.

In spite of all we have said here or can say, there will be those, many of them, who will neglect or fail to order their seeds until planting time has come and they are ready to plant. When that time comes they will be anxious and at same time in a hurry—some will wire and telephone us to ship at once C. O. D. while others will promise to remit the money at once on arrival of seeds, etc.; etc. Now, we have no acquaintance or knowledge whatever of many honest people who do this, as well as a few dishonest people who never pay anything; it can be seen plainly that this is not a businesslike proposition, and not one that any business man or house can adopt and remain in business.

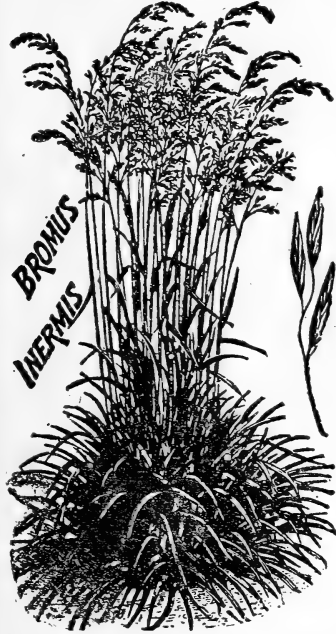
Our terms are strictly **CASH WITH THE ORDER**, and after receiving the seeds, any customer not pleased or fully satisfied with them, all he has to do is to ship them back, at our expense, and the money paid for them will be cheerfully refunded.

RUSH ORDERS:—If it is late in the season, or time is limited, and you wish to order seeds quickly, of any kind, go to your local Postmaster, Banker, Express Agent or Telegraph Operator, and put up the money, and have them wire or telephone us what you want and we will ship same by first train. We have the long distance Bell telephone in our office and can be reached at all hours both day and night.



Grass and Clover Seeds.

We are here in the famous "BLUE GRASS DISTRICT" of Iowa, where there is a large surplus supply of all the best grasses and clovers grown, and we are always in position to obtain the most choice seed, the very best there is to offer. In fact we possess many advantages over the City Seed Houses, as we are so situated that we can always have choice of the best that is grown, while the lower grades are shipped away to other seed markets. For these reasons we can always sell a better grade of seeds and sell them at lower prices than other seed houses not so situated. Why? Because they buy of the farmer through buyers and of course they obtain a profit. They ship to Chicago, Toledo, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Kansas City or some other center, paying freight. Then the big seed merchants get a good profit for handling, storing, etc., and then sell to country dealers—for them to retail to farmers, and they too receive a profit after paying the freight, so the farmers who are the consumers, have to pay commissions to all these persons, as well as all the freight charges that have followed it during this process. In buying from us it is from farmer to farmer, from producer to consumer; you pay only one profit and one freight bill and we handle grass seeds on a very close margin. Do you see the point? By reason of the advantages named we have for many years handled grasses and clovers very extensively and have made this branch of our business one of our specialties. **WE HANDLE BUT ONE GRADE OF GRASSES AND CLOVERS. THAT IS THE BEST GRADE AND QUALITY THAT CAN BE GROWN.** In addition to the numerous advantages we have related, we have the best machinery equipment for cleaning and grading all kinds of grass and clover seeds that can be found in any seed house in the world. Remember, in getting prices do not compare them with seeds of your neighbor or seed left by some farmer at a dealer's to sell or in exchange for goods: seeds which have never been re-cleaned and which come directly from the threshing machine. We have had instances come under our observation where "good clover seed" would waste one-half in cleaning. One who has not seen our cleaning equipment or seen us cleaning grass seed has no idea as to the obnoxious weed seed and trash, dirt and inferior light seed that are in timothy and clover; in fact nearly all grass seeds.



BROMUS INERMIS.

Of all the grasses that grow or have ever been introduced into this country **BROMUS INERMIS** is the greatest. None has ever proven so valuable and of such great importance. It is a hardy perennial, withstanding the extremes of heat and drouth and of cold better than any other cultivated grass. It has been fully proven that it will not only succeed and grow under about any conditions, but will do well where timothy, clover, orchard grass or alfalfa will wither and die. It will also make the most astonishing yields under such unfavorable conditions. It is a native of Europe and Asia, ranging from France eastward into Siberia. It is thoroughly permanent and grows with wonderful rapidity, producing heavy crops and luxuriant pastures. Its value to farmers of dry regions cannot be overestimated. All kinds of stock eat it with a relish, and chemical analyses made show it rich in flesh-producing ingredients, much more so than timothy. It is very hardy and starts very early in the spring and grows later than any other grass in the fall. There is no grass that will withstand the extreme changes in temperature that **BROMUS INERMIS** will without injury. Grows 18 to 36 inches in height and can be cut two or three times per year. Should be sown early in the spring, using 20 to 25 pounds seed per acre if sown alone, or if with alfalfa, use 12 pounds, with 8 pounds alfalfa. Our stock of Bromus Inermis is new crop grown, and has been very carefully handled and can be depended upon to grow vigorously and with good results. Price, postpaid: 1 lb., 25c. By freight—purchaser's expense: 10 lbs. or more, 15c; 100 lbs., 12c. Bags free.

Defies Drouth, Resists Frost. Best Grass of the Age.

Bromus Inermis—Also known as "Austrian Brome Grass," "Hungarian Brome Grass," and "Awnless Brome Grass." Of all the grasses ever introduced none of them have proven so valuable and of such great importance as **Bromus Inermis**. It is a hardy perennial, withstanding the extremes of heat, drouth and cold better than any of our cultivated grasses. It has been fully proven that it will not only succeed and grow under conditions that prove fatal to timothy, clover, orchard grass or alfalfa, but it will also make the most astonishing yields under such unfavorable circumstances.

The experiment stations of Colorado, Minnesota, Manitoba, North Dakota, South Dakota, and the different grass stations of the Agricultural Department, Washington, D. C., have conducted extensive experiments, and all speak of it in the highest terms.

Experimental Grass Station, Garden City, Kas., says: "We have grown **Bromus Inermis** successfully and think it to be the coming grass for the arid regions of the West. We sow it about April 1, here."

S. M. Tracy, Director Mississippi Experimental Station, says: "**Bromus Inermis** endures the summer heat and drouth much better than the **Rescue Grass**, and being a perennial, is much more permanent. Like nearly all grasses, it makes the best growth on rich soils, but even on thin and barren soils it is one of the best. Seed is produced sparingly and is hard to obtain in this country."

Prof. W. M. Hays, Agricultural Experiment Station, Minnesota, says: "We have had a great many reports from persons who have tried this grass, and the consensus of opinion is that we have in **Bromus Inermis** a most valuable addition to our agricultural plants."

Prof. Thos. Shaw, who is highest authority, says: "This grass cannot be obtained too soon by the farmers of the arid regions. It is very hardy, endures very low temperature, and possesses great power to grow in dry climates. It is well adapted for hay and pasture. The grass comes up quickly in the spring, makes rapid, strong growth, and after it has been cut for hay, makes abundant pasturage."

W. J. Spillman, Professor of Agriculture, Washington Agricultural Station, says: "We have had five years' experience with **Bromus Inermis**. We find this grass to be well adapted to the wheat soil in this section of the country. When sown in early spring it makes considerable pasturage in the fall and a large yield of hay the second season, provided it is not pastured too closely the first season."

J. H. Shephard, Professor of Agriculture, N. D. Agricultural College, Fargo, says: "As a pasture it is preferred to timothy by cattle, has sown by a trial where it was fed off more closely than timothy in the same pasture. It has the advantage of being earlier and being green until late in the fall. The fact that **Bromus Inermis** resists drouth better than other cultivated grasses greatly adds to its value in this country."

The editors of the following agricultural papers comment very favorably upon **Bromus Inermis**: Orange Judd Farmer, Chicago, Ill.; Prairie Farmer, Chicago, Ill.; Northwestern Farmer, St. Paul, Minn.; Dakota Farmer, Aberdeen, S. D.; Nebraska Farmer, Omaha, Neb.; Kansas Farmer, Topeka, Kas.; Homestead, Des Moines, Iowa; Wallace's Farmer, Des Moines, Iowa; Breeders' Gazette, Chicago, Ill.; and many others. Could there be any better proof of its value than this?

TIMOTHY.

Timothy is so well known that it needs hardly any description. There is scarcely a variety of natural or tame grass that is more generally cultivated than this. It is suited to moist, rich land where it grows to perfection and yields under favorable circumstances large crops of hay. If cut in season, which is at flowering time, it makes a most splendid nutritious hay, while for pasture it cannot be recommended, as most every farmer knows; its growth is not thrifty enough and close pasturing is very injurious to it. When sown with red clover it makes a splendid mixture, and where it is about half and half, the timothy yields full as much as if alone, and you have the clover crop extra. One feeds off the soil and the other the air; the clover greatly enriching the land. For this reason we have added timothy to most all our clover mixtures, where circumstances will allow.

We would like to call the attention of our brother farmers here to the difference between timothy seed grown here in the most prosperous farming country in the United States, on good, rich bottom lands, free from all kinds of obnoxious weeds, and timothy handled by dealers in larger cities, sold through commission houses mostly, grown by everybody and anyone, on neglected farms, for the purpose, mainly, to subdue all kinds of fowl weeds. Now, for a good and prosperous farmer it is too risky to buy such seeds, as there is more danger to get your farm infested with obnoxious weeds by sowing an inferior grade of timothy seed than with anything else, excepting clover, with which the risk is just as great.

Price: 1 lb., 25c, postpaid. By bu., \$2.25. Prices are so changeable and fluctuating, we would request that you write for same, and may depend upon the very lowest quotations we can make.

Timothy and Alsike Clover Mixture This is a better combination for either pasture or meadow than Medium Red clover and timothy, as they will flower and ripen at the same time. Alsike clover can be sown to good advantage on moist soil, and will make a much finer hay than this, being free from fuzz and dust, and will not cause the horses to cough.

The seed that we offer has been raised together, and, being both of the same size, they cannot be separated so that we have to sell it at a reduced price. The seed contains about a third to one-fourth of Alsike clover and the balance timothy, or is as near in that proportion as we can tell, which is just the proper proportion for sowing. It should be sown at the rate of 8-10 pounds per acre. Ask for prices.



RED TOP.

Red Top A very hardy native perennial grass, succeeding best on moist land. It accommodates itself to a variety of soils, however, even to quite dry situations, and stands hot climate admirably. It is, perhaps, the most permanent grass we have. It remains green for the greater part of the year, and its long trailing stems form a very close, matting turf, that is not affected by trampling. Sown largely in marshy land and sloughs in the west. In the east it is one of their principal sorts, but is not so highly valued here. Fancy cleaned seed. Price: Per lb., 30c; 3 lbs., 75c, postpaid. By freight: Per bu. (14 lbs.), \$1.75; 5 bu. or more, at \$1.60 per bu.

MEADOW FESCUE.

MEADOW FESCUE *Festuca pratensis* — We regard this as one of the most valuable grasses for several reasons. Chief among them is that it adapts itself to different conditions of soil and climate and does well all over the United States and Canada, and is also highly valued and largely cultivated throughout Europe. It gives a good amount of early and late feed of good quality, and yields heavily — from 2 to 4 tons of hay per acre, which is of fine quality and very nutritious. As a pasture grass it is particularly valuable, as it is a most persistent grower, and one of the earliest in spring and the latest in the fall. It never freezes out or winter-kills, and is not affected by drought. It grows well on wet or dry bottoms, hillsides and tops, gravelly and loamy lands and clays, and having many fibrous roots running down 8 to 15 inches, resists the drought.

Price: 1 lb., 30c; 3 lbs., 75c, postpaid. By freight: Per bu. (14 lbs.), \$1.50; 5 bu. or more, at \$1.35 per bu.

Bromus Erectus or Meadow Brome Grass

This is a grass which resembles *Bromus Inermis* in character, but is better suited for poor, light soils and hillsides, where it resists any amount of burning heat, while frost does not affect it. For such places it will prove a blessing, and it will be of inestimable value to countries where the clovers or other grasses do not thrive very well. It should especially be sown by ranchmen and in range countries, as its introduction into those states means millions of money added to their wealth. Vilmorin, the noted agriculturist of France, says that 20 years ago he sowed this grass on lands that have never been manured and the grass still stands extremely well. *Bromus Erectus* grows well on land so poor that other grasses cannot exist, is thoroughly permanent and remains for an indefinite period, affording large yields of hay, which on good land are as high as 4½ tons per acre, and furnishes excellent pasturage also. The seed is sown the same way as *Bromus Inermis*, at a rate of 18 to 20 pounds per acre. Price, 1 lb. 20c; 1 lb., postpaid, 28c; 1 bu. (14 lbs.), \$2.25; 100 lbs., \$15.00.

JOHNSON GRASS.

Johnson Grass

As a meadow or hay grass this variety is highly esteemed in the south, where during the hottest and driest seasons it can be relied upon to yield heavily. The aggressiveness of this grass has caused it to be considered a veritable curse by some farmers by spreading into cultivated fields, but it is highly esteemed by those who understand it. Where it is desired to keep it within bounds, the seed should never be allowed to ripen, as it spreads from the seeds disseminated through hay much more than is generally supposed. Besides, when fully ripe, the feeding value is little better than corn stalks, but cut before the seed tops emerge from the sheathes, its value as shown by chemical analysis is better than timothy hay. When cut at time recommended the embryo seeds are unpollinated and imperfect, and are incapable of sprouting, so there is no possibility of introducing this grass where it is not wanted by using such hay. We only advise the sowing of Johnson Grass where it is desired to remain as permanent meadow. Should be sown August to October, or in spring, at the rate of one bushel per acre. Price, 25c. lb., postpaid; 10 lbs., 11c per lb; 100 lbs. 10c per lb. Bags free.

ENGLISH RYE GRASS.

English Rye Grass

Perennial Rye. *Lolium perenne* — This has become well known in this country, and is very largely sown, and has proven itself very valuable. It seems to be especially adapted for pastures, will endure close cropping, and is of strong and quick successive aftergrowth. English Rye Grass produces an abundance of foliage, which remains bright and green throughout the season, and for this reason is also much used for lawn grass mixtures. It is also well adapted for permanent meadows, and yields large quantities of very nutritious hay, which is well liked by all kinds of stock. This grass grows well on almost any soil, but prefers medium rich or moist land, such as will produce a good crop of corn, and gives the heaviest yields on such land. It grows 2 to 3½ feet high; when sown by itself about 20 to 22 pounds of seed per acre is sufficient. Superior Grade: Lb., 10c; bu. (14 lbs.), \$1.00; 100 lbs., \$6.75. Pound by mail, postpaid, 18c.

TALL MEADOW OAT GRASS.

Tall Meadow Oat Grass

For either hay or a permanent pasture a most valuable grass, which can be successfully grown in all parts of the country. It is considered a desirable seed for all grass mixtures. It starts very early in the spring, and is a very valuable pasture grass on this account. Succeeds best in deep, rich, sandy soils, and even on clay and heavy, dry soil it does well. Grows tall and therefore desirable for meadow. Does not winter-kill. Seldom sown alone, but should be included in all mixtures. Price: Per lb., 35c; 3 lbs., \$1.00 postpaid. By freight: Bu. (14 lbs.), \$3.00.

Kentucky Blue Grass.

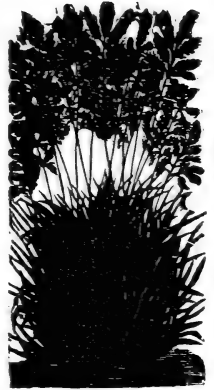
Kentucky Blue Grass Very valuable and exceedingly popular in some sections of the country a delicious food for all kinds of stock. It is not easily affected by frost or drouth, is suited to a great variety of soils, succeeding best on a moist, rich meadow. For permanent pastures it is particularly valuable, being of dwarf growth, therefore not so well suited for meadows. Unexcelled for lawns. Our seed is all new crop, best grade, "fancy cleaned." Sow 14 pounds per acre for pasture, or sixty to one hundred pounds for lawns. Price: Per lb., 30c; 3 lbs., 75c; 1 bu. (14 lbs.), \$2.00; 5 bu. or more, \$1.75.

Meadow Foxtail A fine grass which is especially well adapted for permanent pasture. It is one of the very first to start growth in the spring, and is of remarkably quick and strong after-growth, either when closely cropped or after mowing. It is especially adapted for sowing in low, wet places, in marshes, or sloughs, and an occasional overflow of several days will not harm it. Many are under the impression that this valuable grass is the same as a wild species commonly known as Fox Tail or Squirrel Tail, and are afraid to sow it. If they will read this description carefully they will find it is not similar to this wild grass seed. Price: 1 lb., postpaid, 25c; 1 bu. (14 lbs.), \$3.00; 100 lbs. or more, 21c per lb. Bags free.

Note — The seed is very light, 1 ounce containing 76,000 kernels.

Italian Rye Grass An annual variety of above, which can be depended on to give a large crop the first year. Valuable for sowing with crimson clover as a catch crop on red clover fields where clover has winter-killed. Does well on any good clover land. Sow twenty pounds per acre. Per lb., 30c; 3 lbs., 80c; postpaid. By freight: Per bu. (14 lbs.), \$1.20; 5 bu. or more, at \$1.00 per bu.

Bermuda Grass This is a grass that is eminently adapted for the southern states, as it withstands drouth and the scorching rays of the sun better than any other variety. In all tropical countries this grass is highly esteemed for its drought resisting qualities, and also for the peculiar habit of its growth; the wiry roots of the grass in running over the surface of the ground form a strong fibrous matting. This has caused it to be sown largely for the purpose of binding banks of creeks and dams, etc. For lawns it is also highly prized, as while all other grasses are burned up during the hot season, Bermuda Grass will remain green, and if regularly mown it will make quite a velvety carpet. The only drawback is that in winter it looks a little brown, but in the southern states, an all-the-year-round green lawn can be maintained by sowing English rye-grass every fall at the rate of fifty pounds per acre, and harrowing, or raking into the Bermuda Grass sod. Bermuda Grass seed should be sown in the spring, as it will not germinate until warm weather comes. As a grass for hay or pasture, it matures and gives its first cutting ordinarily in June. Sow eight pounds per acre. Price: 80c per lb; 5 lbs., 75c per lb., 100 lbs., 70c per lb.



Kentucky Blue Grass.

BEAUTIFY THE HOME PLACE.

"Leave the World More Beautiful Than You Found It."

RATEKIN'S LAWN GRASS SEED.

Evergreen Mixed Lawn Grass Seed This is a mixture of the best varieties of grass seeds suited for growing together in the central and northern states, and will make a beautiful, soft, velvety lawn as handsome green as an emerald and is formed of grasses which keep green from early spring all through the hot dry summer weather, until late in the fall. It comes up quickly (in about two weeks after seed is sown) and after once up it soon spreads to cover the ground and is ready for the lawn mower in six to eight weeks. It is permanent, maintaining its beauty for a lifetime, although it is a good plan to give any lawn a top seeding once every two or three years. This mixture is made by ourselves from new crop, re-cleaned pure seeds of the best varieties, well suited for even and permanent growth, as good as money can buy. It cannot be excelled for producing a rich velvety lawn of beautiful dark green color. Price: Per qt. (will sow 300 square feet), 25c; 4 qts., 85c postpaid. By freight, per bu. (15lbs.), \$2.75; 50 lbs., \$8.00; 100 lbs., \$15.00.

RATEKIN'S TERRACE LAWN MIXTURE It is sometimes difficult to get a good sod on sloping ground, terraces, side hills or embankments. This is a mixture of such grasses as have strong spreading roots, making a close turf, which heavy rains cannot easily wash out. Qt., 35c; 3 qts., 90c, postpaid. By freight: Per bu. (15 lbs.), \$3.60.

RATEKIN'S SHADY PLACE LAWN MIXTURE This mixture is a combination of fine dwarf growing, evergreen varieties of grass, which grow naturally in the woods or in shaded spots. They are mixed in proper proportions to make a fine lawn under shade trees. Sow seed thickly, 1 quart to 150 square feet. Qt., 35c; 3 qts., \$1.00, postpaid. By freight: Bu. (15lbs.), \$4.00.

WHITE DUTCH CLOVER Used largely for lawns. It is the most hardy of any variety of clover, is of a creeping habit, desirable for sowing on terraces or sloping grounds. Seed is very small and it requires only 7 lbs. to sow an acre. Price for our choice quality per lb., 40c; 3 lbs., \$1.10, postpaid. By freight: Per peck, \$3.25; bu. (60 lbs.), \$12.00.

"Thank God for grass! No other glory vies
With the refreshing glory of the grass;
Not e'en the blue of the o'erbending skies,
Nor fading splendors when the daylight dies,
Can this sweet smile of living green surpass."

A nice velvety lawn adds more to the beauty of a place than any other adornment, and even the humblest home may be made attractive with such surroundings, while without a good lawn even the finest flowering plants and elegantly arranged beds seem insignificant. How important it is then to plan for the best lawn obtainable. Do not spend money in sodding a lawn, for it is expensive and seldom satisfactory. When sod is cut from the roadside or some out of the way pasture, it is poor in quality and full of weeds, and when unevenly laid produces a rough surface which disfigures the lawn. It costs much less to sow the seed and the lawn is far better.

Who can gather wild roses sweet,
Or follow the fences for golden rod,
Or tramp through the clover the meadow over
And say to his neighbor, there is no God?

RATEKIN'S SUPERIOR CLOVER SEEDS.

The Microscope Tells the Story.



RATEKIN'S HIGH GRADE CLOVER SEED.

In other places in this book we have repeatedly called attention to the value and importance of purity and good strong germination of all seeds, especially grasses and clover. To better illustrate the difference between "good seed" Clover, and high grade seed, we have attached a microscope on to the camera, which magnifies the seed 10 times its natural size, thus enabling one with the naked eye to better see the difference, for you know the microscope will not lie.

The plate at the left shows the practical perfect degree of purity attained by us in our celebrated **HIGH GRADE SEEDS**. The plate at the right shows "good clover seed" that is ordinarily sold for



Diagram Showing Ordinary Clover Seed.

re-cleaned seed. Without the use of the microscope the ordinary farmer, or any one else for that matter, would hardly detect the difference. The man who sold the seed may mean well and be the best fellow in the world, but such seed is always dear at any price, even as a gift, when you can buy our high grade seed at reasonable prices.

WHEN YOU BUY YOUR SEEDS FROM US YOU RUN NO RISK. IF NOT ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY ON RECEIPT AND EXAMINATION YOU MAY RETURN THEM AT OUR EXPENSE AND MONEY PAID FOR THEM WILL BE REFUNDED.

PLEASE NOTE.—Prices of Clover and Timothy are subject to fluctuations of the market, and we reserve the right to fill orders at prices quoted above as long as the market permits us to do so. Should the market be higher or lower, than we send seeds to the full value of the money remitted. Buyers of large quantities should write for firm and lowest prices before buying, which we quote by return mail, then there is sure to be no misunderstanding.

Iowa Grown Medium Red Clover.

Every farmer is familiar with it, and a field of this knee-high means fat cattle, swine and sheep and plenty of money to the man who owns it. In order to keep the farm up medium red clover should be sown with all spring grain at the rate of six to eight pounds per acre, if for no other purpose than for mere fertilizing purposes. It will surely prove a double benefit, for if pasturage is scarce the cattle can be turned on, and if not required for this purpose entirely, our land requires fertilizer of some kind which barnyard manure alone cannot supply. Good clover sod turned under gives the best and biggest yield of corn, wheat and potatoes.

Our Iowa Grown Clover Seed, the best in the world, with which we have been supplying our customers, is well known for its purity, vitality and vigorous growth, as well as its wonderful productiveness. Price: 1 lb., postpaid 25c. By freight or express: 1 peck, \$2.50; 1-2 bu., \$4.25; 1 bu., \$8.00.

MAMMOTH CLOVER

Pea Vine Clover or Cow Grass. This is well known for its enormous yields and for reclaiming exhausted land. It is extremely hardy and flourishes on such soil which is too low and heavy for common red clover. On account of its being so hardy it can be sown here in Iowa and even further north, in the fall, and should always be included in permanent pasture mixtures. The hay is of choice quality and is greedily eaten by all kinds of stock. As a fertilizer to plow under green it has no equal, and for this purpose 5 to 6 pounds per acre should be sown with all small grain. Our Mammoth Clover is grown here, and our customers can depend upon getting the true Mammoth Clover if they order from us. Price: 1 lb., by mail postpaid, 30c. By freight or express, purchaser's expense: 1 peck, \$2.50; 1 bu., \$9.00.

ALSIKE CLOVER

Unexcelled for hay and we cannot too strongly recommend it to our customers. Is a true perennial, producing a good crop the first year and every year thereafter, and the field really keeps improving each season. Highly valued as a permanent pasture. It is hardy even in northern Minnesota, and is the only variety which will produce a good crop and not kill out in low, wet land. It also adapts itself to high upland soils, and withstands drought well. The hay is finer and better than any other, therefore of special value for sowing with timothy. Height 18 to 24 inches and has round pink or flesh colored heads. Seed is small and requires only 8 pounds per acre or half that quantity if sown with timothy. Per lb., 35c; 3 lbs., 90c; 1 peck, \$2.00; 1 bu., \$7.50.

CRIMSON CLOVER

This is also called Giant Incarnate, Scarlet and German Mammoth Clover. It is remarkable for its quick growth, and is the only clover that yields a full and heavy crop the first year.

SOWING.—This clover should be sown broadcast in spring with grain for fertilizing purposes at the rate of 10 to 15 pounds per acre. When the grain is ready to cut, it will have made quite a dense growth already, as it is quite a rank grower, some stools counting as many as 120 blossoms from one seed. It grows to a height of twenty to twenty-four inches, roots deep, even in poor soil, from four to five feet. Here in the North it can also be sown from July the 15th to the 1st of October, so as to get well started before winter sets in. It will then be fit to cut about two weeks earlier than the common red clover.

SOIL.—Any kind of soil will suit this clover. It succeeds admirably on sandy soil. On ground too light for ordinary clover this will succeed and make a good crop, likewise on the heavier soil. All situations seem to suit it, except wet land.

HAY.—We have to speak as highly of it for hay as in its other conditions. Its composition and digestibility are higher than those of red clover and it makes a superior hay. It cures very rapidly and should be handled to retain as much leaf as possible, yet the stalks are very nutritious.



ALSIKE CLOVER.

GREEN MANURING.—This is one of the best uses for which Crimson Clover is adapted. It will produce a dense and heavy growth on land so poor that the common clover would do but little. It grows late in the fall and early in the spring. This clover, like other leguminous plants, gathers nitrogen from the air and stores it in the plant and roots, which become available food for succeeding crops. The nitrogen from one acre alone could not be bought for \$30.00, and it is fully equal to that found in twenty tons of stable manure, and at such a small comparative cost. Our experience is, that if the whole of the crop is grazed or mown and removed, the land which produced the crop of Crimson Clover will be greatly improved by the action of the decomposing roots, and a succeeding crop of corn will be vastly better than a crop on adjoining soil which laid idle.

Price: 1 lb., postpaid by mail, 25c. By freight or express: Peck, \$2.00; bu., \$8.00. Sacks 20c extra.



Medium Red CLOVER.

ALFALFA

There is no State in the Union where Alfalfa cannot be successfully grown.

Of all the different kinds of clover, Alfalfa is the hardiest and most productive. During long protracted droughts it will flourish and yield abundantly when all other vegetation dies.

The taproots descend to great depths wherever the soil is loose and permeable, often averaging 10 to 12 feet. It has been recorded that Alfalfa sends its roots to a depth of 50 and 66 feet, and it is believed that under especially favorable circumstances they may even go deeper. It grows best in a sandy, rich loam underlaid by a loose and permeable subsoil. It should not be understood, however, that it requires, necessarily, sandy soil for growing Alfalfa, for this can be raised on most any kind of soil, even on stiff clay land. The prime condition for its success is that the land be naturally well drained. The subsoil should not be heavy and stiff and impervious to water, but loose enough to drain off all superfluous moisture.

To make the best Alfalfa hay it should be cut when the first flowers commence to appear, as, if cut when in full bloom, or even later, the stems might become woody and hard. When grown on the most suitable soils — namely, such as are rich and well drained, and which abound in lime, potash, phosphoric acid and magnesium — and with the stimulus of heat and moisture, Alfalfa yields, with ordinary care and cultivation, from one to two tons of rich, nutritious hay every four to six weeks, and can be cut, according to location and circumstances, from three to eight times a season.

Lucerne, or Alfalfa, is easily cultivated and is sown early in the spring on well-prepared soil at the rate of 12 to 15 pounds per acre. It can be sown either by itself or with grain as nurse crop.

It will make a fair growth the first season, but this depends a great deal upon the circumstances. Some of our customers have cut their Alfalfa fields twice the same year it was sowed, cutting from one to two tons of hay in each instance.

Caution. The discovery that Alfalfa can be grown where any other clover will succeed, and in many places where the other clovers will not succeed, has brought about a great demand for seed. This has led to the wholesale adulteration of Alfalfa with Yellow Trefoil Clover. This seed closely resembles Alfalfa in shape and color and is very low in price, consequently Alfalfa seed can be and commonly is, adulterated up to 50 or 60 per cent without its presence being detected except by those who are expert in such matters. Last year we lost a great deal of business from the fact that others were in many cases making prices in hundred pound lots for less than our seed was costing us in very large quantities. Those who have bought this mixed seed in the past will want to obtain the real Alfalfa. To such and all others who want to get what they order, we would say our Alfalfa is unmixed seed and we send our customers just the grade they order, always recommending, of course, our best.



ALFALFA or Lucerne CLOVER.

A Few Hints on Alfalfa. The presence of lime in some form, either in the soil or subsoil, seems to be essential. If it is known that there is no lime in the soil, lime should be applied as a top dressing, when the land is being plowed preparatory to sowing the seed.

GOOD DRAINAGE IS NECESSARY, for an excess of surface water soon rots out the roots.

AMERICAN GROWN ALFALFA. The great bulk of American grown seed comes from Utah, Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, and Western Kansas and Nebraska, where it is grown under irrigation, and does not possess that great vitality in adjusting itself to normal conditions from the seed that it does where grown under natural conditions. In connection with this, and for reasons named, we purchase all our seed direct from the growers in Southern Central Nebraska, direct and know exactly what we are getting; therefore you can always rely upon seed that you get from us being grown under natural conditions, and of the very best quality that can be produced. Price: 1 lb., postpaid 30c. By freight or express: 1 peck, \$2.75; 1 bu., \$10.00; half bushel at bushel price.

TURKESTAN ALFALFA.

This has recently been introduced into cultivation by our Agricultural Department. It was found growing on the high table lands of Asia, and is especially adapted to the sudden changes of temperature that prevail there — intense heat at midday and very often frost at night, even in midsummer. Turkestan Alfalfa resembles the ordinary cultivated Alfalfa described above, excepting that the leaves are shorter and are sparsely clothed with short hairs. Its cultivation has been quite successful in the arid regions of the West, and under conditions where Alfalfa or Lucerne fails the Turkestan Alfalfa will prove to be of the greatest value.

As all of this seed has to be imported, it is rather high priced yet, but all those who failed to obtain good results with the common Alfalfa should give the Turkestan at least a trial, as success is very certain in most every instance. We have imported the true Turkestan Alfalfa directly from Europe, which is of the best quality. There was a great demand for the Turkestan Alfalfa last year, and much of the common Lucerne was doped off to innocent purchasers by unscrupulous dealers. That our patrons may be able to distinguish these two kinds, we will mention here that the Turkestan Alfalfa Seed is not quite as elongated as the common, and that its color has also a purplish hue to it.

Price: 1 lb., 25c; 1 lb., prepaid by mail, 35c; peck, \$3.00; 1 bu., \$11.00. Sacks 20c extra.

There is No State in the Union Where Alfalfa Cannot Be Successfully Grown.

Ten years ago we should not have ventured to quote the above statement. We now believe it to be a true and reasonable assertion. It is unnecessary to enter into any argument as to the value and desirability of Alfalfa. Everyone knows what it is, and there is probably not a farmer in the United States who would not like to have it growing on his farm.

Let us see if you can not establish it on your farm.

Good Drainage is Necessary, for an excess of surface water soon rots out the roots.

Seed of proper origin is necessary. Almost all the experiments that have been made with Alfalfa in the various states, both by experiment stations and private individuals, have been made with Utah Seed, and this, in our judgment, accounts for very many failures, not because the seed is not good, for on the contrary it is usually of most excellent quality, but it is not suited to the conditions existing in some localities.

Knowing the above to be true, we offer the following growths of Alfalfa clover:

Nebraska Grown Alfalfa.

We have received from Nebraska a quantity of very choice seed, which we consider the best American grown seed we have ever handled. This should be very much harder than the Utah or other seed, grown under irrigation conditions. It is particularly large, bold and beautiful seed, and as it is now being produced there in considerable quantities, we believe it will be but a short time before it will command the highest price of any American grown Alfalfa.

Grass and Clover Seeds. The prices on grass and clovers constantly change, and it is always best to write for latest market price previous to ordering. But to customers at a distance, who cannot lose the time required to do this, we will say if prices are lower they will get the benefit, and if prices are higher we will ship all that the money sent will pay for. **THESE PRICES ARE THOSE RULING JANUARY 1, 1906, AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

Grass and Clover Mixtures

WHAT TO SOW.

IT IS A WELL ESTABLISHED FACT THAT A JUDICIOUS SELECTION OF SEVERAL VARIETIES OF GRASS AND CLOVER SEEDS WILL PRODUCE A MUCH LARGER YIELD—GENERALLY AGAIN AS MUCH—PER ACRE THAN CAN BE OBTAINED WITH ONLY ONE OR TWO KINDS SOWN ALONE. IT IS, HOWEVER, DIFFICULT FOR OUR PATRONS TO SELECT PROPER GRASSES AND MIX THEM THOROUGHLY FOR THEIR USE; AND IT THUS COMES THAT WE ARE ANNUALLY REQUESTED BY HUNDREDS OF OUR FRIENDS TO SELECT AND MIX FOR THEM SORTS ADAPTED TO THEIR SOIL AND CLIMATE. THIS, FROM OUR LARGE EXPERIENCE IN THE CULTURE, NATURE, AND REQUIREMENTS OF GRASSES FOR PASTURE AND MEADOWS, WE CAN OFTEN DO MORE SATISFACTORILY THAN THEY. WHEN CUSTOMERS WISH A LUXURANT GROWTH OF EITHER MEADOW OR PASTURE, IT WILL PAY THEM EVERY TIME TO BUY OUR GRASS MIXTURES. IN SOWING A LARGE VARIETY YOU ARE NOT RUNNING THE RISK OF NOT GETTING A GOOD STAND, LIKE YOU WOULD BY SOWING ONLY ONE OR TWO KINDS, FOR IN A LARGER VARIETY THERE MUST BE AT LEAST SEVERAL KINDS OF GRASSES ADAPTED TO YOUR SOIL, WHILE IF YOU SOW ONLY ONE KIND IT MAY NOT BE ADAPTED AND CONSEQUENTLY NO RESULT. A PASTURE CONTAINING A VARIETY OF GRASSES AND CLOVER IS AGAIN AS PRODUCTIVE AND EARLIER THAN IF BUT ONE KIND OF GRASS IS USED, AND CAN ALSO BE PASTURED THROUGHOUT THE SEASON, AS MOST GRASSES USED ARE DEEP-ROOTED AND ARE EXTREMELY DROUTH-RESISTING. IN OUR CAREFULLY SELECTED CLOVER-GRASS MIXTURES SEVERAL VARIETIES ARE SOWN TOGETHER, AND THESE WILL COVER THE GROUND MORE CLOSELY AND MAKE THREE BLADES OF GRASS GROW WHERE FORMERLY BUT ONE GREW, AND WILL YIELD AT LEAST DOUBLE THE QUANTITY OF PASTURE OR HAY THAT IS SECURED FROM BUT ONE OR TWO KINDS.

FOR PASTURES WE WANT GRASSES TO MATURE AND BLOOM AT DIFFERENT TIMES SO THAT STOCK FIND NOURISHMENT ALL THE SEASON; WHILE FOR MEADOWS THE OPPOSITE IS PREFERABLE—ALL SHOULD BLOOM AND RIPEN TO GATHER AT THE SAME TIME.

When and How To Sow Grass Seed.

A great many are strongly favorable to sowing grass seed alone without a nurse crop, but we think a crop of barley, speltz or early Champion oats can be raised if but half the usual amount of grain is sown. All these are very early to ripen, and they either of them make a splendid nurse crop and are far preferable to a weed crop—more or less of which you will have without the nurse crop. Plow the ground thoroughly in early spring. Sow grain not over half the usual amount; harrow and cross harrow them in, then sow at the rate of 20 pounds of the mixture per acre and harrow the ground once or twice afterward, thus giving the seed a light even covering. After sowing and harrowing it would undoubtedly be well to roll the land if you have one convenient.

All our mixtures consist of the best varieties of re-cleaned choice seed and will give you quick and certain results if you will do your part and will lend a permanency that will pleasantly astonish and surprise you.

PERMANENT MEADOW MIXTURES.

Will make the best quality hay every year, the mixture containing such grasses as produce a heavy growth, and mature together. We send out the No. 1 mixture when not otherwise ordered, as it is adapted to medium or average soils.

NO. 1. FOR MEDIUM SOILS.—Contains Meadow Fescue, Perennial Rye Grass, Italian Rye, Orchard Grass, Tall Meadow Oat, Timothy, Red Clover and Alsike, Sweet Vernal, etc.

NO. 2. FOR HIGH, DRY LAND, LIGHT OR GRAVELLY SOILS.—Contains Sheep's Fescue, Alfalfa, Hard Fescue, Perennial Rye Grass, Meadow Fescue, Timothy, Kentucky Blue Grass, Sweet Vernal, etc.

NO. 3. FOR HIGH, DRY LAND, HEAVY OR CLAY SOILS.—Contains much the same as above with the addition of Orchard Grass, Crested Dog's Tail and Bromus.

NO. 4. FOR MOIST AND RICH SOIL, OR LAND SUBJECT TO OVERFLOW.—Contains Water Meadow Grass, Meadow Foxtail, Perennial Rye Grass, Meadow Fescue, Red Top, Meadow Soft Grass, Alsike Clover, etc.

NO. 5. FOR TOP SEEDING SWAMPS, MARSHES, ETC.—(Sow ten lbs., per acre.) Contains much the same as above, in different proportions.

Any of the above Permanent Meadow Mixtures, per lb., 30c; 3 lbs., 75c., postpaid. By freight, 20 lbs., \$2.25; 50 lbs., \$5.00; 100 lbs., \$9.50.

Selected with a view to having a succession of grasses coming on constantly from earliest spring through the dry summer weather, and through the fall. It is permanent and keeps improving year after year. Sow about 20 lbs. per acre.

NO. 6. FOR MEDIUM SOILS.—Contains Kentucky Blue Grass, Meadow Fescue, Perennial Rye Grass, Orchard Grass, Tall Meadow Oat Grass, Hard Fescue, Alsike Clover, White Clover, Timothy, Red Clover, etc.

NO. 7. FOR HIGH, DRY, GRAVELLY SOILS.—Contains Sheep's Fescue, Hard Fescue, Creeping Bent, Bromus Inermis, Crested Dog-tail, Meadow Fescue, Timothy, Kentucky Blue Grass, White Clover, etc.

NO. 8. FOR HIGH, DRY, HEAVY OR CLAY SOILS.—Contains much the same as above, mixed in different proportions, with the addition of Alfalfa and Orchard Grass.

NO. 9. FOR MOIST AND VERY RICH SOILS.—Contains Perennial Rye Grass, Water Meadow Grass, Water Fescue, Meadow Foxtail, Orchard Grass, Meadow Soft Grass, Tall Meadow Oat Grass, Alsike, etc.

NO. 10. FOR ORCHARDS, WOOD PASTURES AND SHADY PLACES.—Contains Wood Meadow Grass, Orchard Grass, Kentucky Blue Grass, English Blue Grass, Meadow Foxtail, Sweet Vernal, Red Clover, Alsike, etc.

Any of the above Permanent Pasture Mixtures, per lb., 30c; 3 lbs., 57c., postpaid. By freight, 20 lbs., \$2.25; 50 lbs., \$5.00; 100 lbs., \$9.50.

For Light, Sandy and Gravelly Soils.

Rescue Grass.....	} 20 lbs., at 11c..... \$2.20	} Soft Brome Grass.		
Hard Fescue.....			50 lbs..... \$5.25	} Bromus Inermis.
Sheep's Fescue.....			100 lbs..... 10.00		} Red Top and White Clover.
Meadow Brome Grass.....				

Trial Clover Grass Mixture We have selected this Clover-Grass Mixture with a view to have those who have never sown our Clover-Grass Mixture before give it a trial this spring. It is made up of about 15 different varieties of grasses and clovers, and can be sown on almost any kind of soil where oats, corn, rye or wheat will grow, and can be used for either meadow or pasture. About 20 to 25 pounds should be sown per acre, according to the land, sowing the last-named amount (25 pounds) on poor soil. 20 lbs., \$2.20; 50 lbs., \$5.25; 100 lbs., \$10.00.

NO. B2. Quite often we hear from farmers that it is impossible to get a stand of tame grass started in their locality, as everything failed that was tried before. Now, with the large variety of natural grasses we have, which are adapted to the most widely different conditions of soil and climate, it is easy to obtain a stand of grass everywhere, and we would advise those who have failed before, and where the conditions of soil and climate are unusually severe, to sow the following Clover-Grass Mixture, and we are certain that the results will be satisfactory.

Bromus Erectus.....	} 25 lbs., at 12c..... \$3.00	} Rescue Grass.	
Meadow Fescue.....			} Blue Grass & Red Top.
Bromus Inermis.....				} Alfalfa.
Hard Fescue.....			50 lbs..... \$5.75		} White Clover.
Sheep's Fescue.....	100 lbs..... 11.00		

Our Specially Selected Clover-Grass Mixtures for Hog Pastures.

It is a well known fact that hogs can be raised more profitably on grass and clover than on corn only. Many farmers, especially in the corn growing sections, have paid dearly for their experience when they fed their hogs entirely on corn, for the hog cholera and similar diseases caused them terrible losses. It is an established fact, that land which will grow a crop of corn and small grain, will also produce a fine crop of grass and clover, and a good hog pasture can be provided with considerably less labor and expense than corn. If a good pasture is once established the hogs will do the rest and will not only keep healthy and strong, but will make an average gain of one pound per day quite easily. Quick results, which means a pasture covered with the most luxuriant growth of grasses and clovers, can be had in a short time from our properly selected Clover-Grass Mixtures for Hog Pastures. We have always given special attention to the selection of the various grass and clover seeds best adapted for hog pastures, and have arranged them so as to give quick results, which means a good hog pasture in about six weeks from time of sowing the seed, as well as to produce a permanent hog pasture.

C1. HOG PASTURE CLOVER-GRASS MIXTURE FOR QUICK RESULTS AND A FULL CROP THE FIRST YEAR.—When sown early in spring, the heavy and luxuriant growth of the grasses and clovers will furnish rich and succulent food throughout the summer. Crimson Clover, used in the right proportion with other grasses and clovers, we have by careful experimenting found to be best adapted, and this "A" Hog Pasture Clover-Grass Mixture will bring the best results. Sow 12 lbs. per acre. 1 lb., 11c; 12 lbs. (for one acre), \$1.30; 50 lbs., \$5.25; 100 lbs., \$10.00.

C2. CLOVER-GRASS MIXTURE FOR A PERMANENT HOG PASTURE. Also valuable for the full use of it the first year. The following varieties we have found giving the most satisfactory results for this purpose, and they can be sown on good, rich, low ground, or on ordinary corn land: Crimson Clover, Mammoth Clover, Alsike Clover, White Clover, Italian Rye Grass, English Rye Grass, Orchard Grass, Creeping Bent Grass, and Timothy. Sow 15 lbs., per acre. 1 lb., 11c; 15 lbs. (for one acre), \$1.60.

EXTRA GRASS AND CLOVER MIXTURES FOR MEADOWS.

D1. GRASS MIXTURE.—We have selected only the earliest, hardiest, best and quickest growing varieties for this Clover-Grass Mixture. Dairy farmers want to cut a crop of hay very early and have pasture for the rest of the season, or intend to make two crops of hay the same summer; and this especially selected Clover-Grass Mixture is admirably suited for this purpose. It is adapted for good or medium soils which will produce a good crop of corn or wheat, and can be sown anywhere in any part of the country.

Orchard Grass.....	} 20 lbs., at 11c..... \$2.20 50 lbs..... \$5.25 100 lbs..... 10.00	} Sow per Acre.	..... Meadow Foxtail.
Tall Meadow Oat.....			..... Meadow Fescue.
English Rye Grass.....			..... Red Clover.
Italian Rye Grass.....			..... Alsike Clover and Timothy.

This is Our Special Alfalfa or Lucerne Clover-Grass Mixture, and consists mainly of Alfalfa, Bromus Inermis and such varieties of grasses as will not only stand drought, but will also flourish on poor soils and give large yields in the driest summers, after once being established. The quantity required per acre is 15 pounds. 1 lb., 11c; 15 lbs., \$1.60; 50 lbs., \$5.25; 100 lbs., \$10.25.

D2. CRIMSON CLOVER-GRASS MIXTURE, or SPECIAL RENOVATING CLOVER-GRASS MIXTURE, or QUICK RETURN MIXTURE.—We selected and made this up for rapid growth with a view to use for either alternate husbandry or as a catch crop. When sown in early spring, March or April, it will give a full crop of hay in July, and pasture for the rest of the year. It can also be sown in fields where the clover or grass has mostly been winter-killed, or otherwise injured, and where there are bare spots in the spring, when it will be ready to cut with the other grass or clover, and a full crop from such field with bare spots can thereby be secured.

Crimson Clover.....	} 16 lbs., at 11c..... \$1.76 50 lbs..... 5.25 100 lbs..... 10.00	} Sow per Acre.	..... Tall Meadow Oat.
Italian Rye Grass.....			..... Timothy and Red Clover.
English Rye Grass.....			

When used for sowing in fields where there is some grass or clover already, the quantity to be sown per acre must be according to the stand of grass or clover. Usually five to ten pounds per acre are sufficient.

MILLET.

Nothing pays better for a stock raiser and dairy farmer than a few acres of Millet of some kind, for it is of the greatest feeding value and milk-producing quality, and yields at least again as much of the most delicious hay per acre as Timothy and Clover. It should be sown regularly every year, and not merely as a catch crop. When spring is so unfavorable that other crops fail to grow, or when the season is so late and wet that other crops will not mature any more, then there is always the greatest demand for Millet. We will fill all orders at the low prices quoted below as long as our large stock lasts, but reserve the right to change to market prices when our present supply is exhausted.

GERMAN OR GOLDEN MILLET This grows very rank and is one of the best varieties for hay or fodder. On good, rich soil it will make a growth of 4 to 5 feet high, and although the hay may seem coarse, yet it is so tender that if cut at the right stage, which is when in full bloom, even the hogs will eat the cured hay quite greedily. A yield of five tons of hay per acre is nothing unusual. Sow 3 pecks per acre. Peck, 30c; 1 bu., \$1.00; 10 bu., 90c. Sacks 20c each extra.

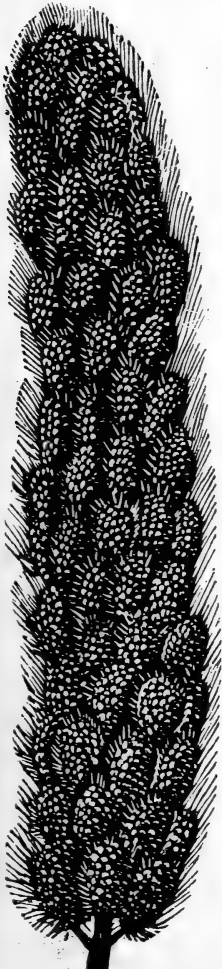
COMMON MILLET This does best on dry, light, rich soil and grows 2½ to 4 feet high, with a fine bulk of stalks and leaves, and is excellent for forage. About 3 pecks of seed is sown per acre. Peck, 30c; 1 bu., \$1.00; 10 bu., 90c. Sacks 20c each extra.

NEW SIBERIAN MILLET A good Millet, introduced several years ago from Russia, and is an entirely distinct variety, the seed being of an almost orange color, but the heads are of about the same form as the Common Millet. It stools quite heavily and the joints being so close together the plants are just covered with blades. This is a heavy yielder, and the hay is of very fine quality. It yields from 50 to 70 bushels of seed per acre. Being an introduction from the extreme north it is very hardy, and will prosper under conditions where other varieties fail. Large Pkt., 5c; 1 lb., 25c; postpaid by mail. Not prepaid, 1 lb., 10c; 1 peck 30c; 1 bu., \$1.00; 10 bu., 90c. Grain sacks 20c. extra each.

Japanese Barnyard Millet.

(Billion Dollar Grass.)

Japanese Barnyard Millet is also offered by a certain seed dealer in the west as the "Billion Dollar Grass." This variety of Millet was first grown here in this country by Professor Brooks, of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, who brought it from Japan. It has proven to be very valuable and is highly recommended for the following reasons: It will grow 6 to 8 feet in height and will yield 15 to 25 tons per acre. It may be siloed, fed green or cured into hay, and its feeding quality is always superior to fodder corn. It can be sown at any time from the middle of May to the end of July, either broadcast at the rate of 12½ pounds per acre, or in drills, using 8 pounds of seed per acre. The seed so far has been scarce and high-priced, but we can offer it at a lower price than usual. Large Pkt., 5c; 1 lb., 20c; 4 lbs., 75c; postpaid by mail. Not prepaid, 1 lb., 10c; 15 lbs., 85c; 59 lbs., \$2.25; 100 lbs., \$4.00.





Our Mail Order Department. Garden, Vegetable and Flower Seeds

SEED BUYING COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR FOR MOST HOMES AND GARDENS, AND ON THE SEED DEPENDS THE CROP. For this reason the uppermost question should be where can I get the best? Not where can I buy seeds the cheapest. Old and inferior seeds can always be bought at cheap prices, but such seeds, compared with new crop grown seeds of pure stock and varieties are always dear at any price, even as a gift. The matter of saving a few cents in buying your seeds is but a trifling affair compared with loss of labor, ground and perhaps the entire crop, with all its other disappointments added.

We are pleased to say again to our thousands of friends and customers that our stock of garden, vegetable and flower seeds that we have to offer this season is very complete, and are all strictly first-class in every respect, and nowhere can such seeds be found or bought at less price. We have spared neither time, pains, labor nor expense to produce the best that could be grown, and we are pleased to say that we know that no better class of seeds were ever before offered by any one. We believe there is nothing too good for our customers, and the better we can make our seeds the better pleased we are. We know our customers will appreciate all this and that our seeds will give them such good results that it will please them, and thereby help to increase our trade among their friends and neighbors.

No Fakes and Novelties.

In comparing our catalogue with some others, you will find that we are offering no new fakes or "Novelties," at fabulous prices as some are. Most if not all such "Novelties" are usually some standard or old variety renamed in order to fool you into trying them at exorbitant prices. We simply want you to take our catalogue and sit down and look through it; find what you want and make up your order and send it in, and we guarantee you to get the best of everything that is grown. All our seeds are thoroughly tested as to germination as soon as they come into our house, as well as again before sending them out. We have been in the seed business for the past twenty-three years, and have learned how to grow seeds and how to know good seeds, and expect to remain in the business as long as we live; therefore you can readily see that we have a thousand times more at stake than any one else could have. We are at all times interested to know that our customers shall have the best seeds and reap the best and most satisfactory results that can be obtained from any seeds grown. If any of our customers should receive any seeds from us that proved of weak germination, we would thank them to write us, and ALL SUCH SEEDS WILL BE CHEERFULLY REPLACED FREE OF CHARGE, if it be the fault of the seeds. This is what few if any seedsmen in America do.

We hope, with the assurances we have here given you, that every one who receives this catalogue will this season favor us with an order; send us a trial order once, and whether your order be large or small, it will have our most careful attention and we will strive to serve you in a manner that will please you and encourage you to become a permanent customer as long as you buy seeds. We want 50,000 new customers this year, and we want to assure all again, who send us their orders that you will get a FAIR AND SQUARE DEAL, otherwise we could not ask you to send to us again.

Our Packing Department.

Our mail order packing department is complete in all its details. Every invention possible to quickly and accurately facilitate the prompt dispatch of an order has been made. In this department scores of clerks pick out the orders, check them, pack them, weigh and stamp packages and then deposit the same in U. S. mail bags furnished by the Government. This department can fill and dispatch 3,000 orders daily, and during the busy season is open day and night.

What We Do: FREE Delivery By Mail.

All seeds ordered at packet, ounce, pound, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint, pint or quart prices are offered postpaid by mail, and will be sent by mail POSTAGE PREPAID BY US to any address in America. We do sometimes send by express (PREPAID) instead of by mail, but only when there is a saving of cost to ourselves, and when convenient for purchaser to receive them that way.

POSTPAID BY MAIL means we deliver postpaid to any postoffice in the United States any article in this catalogue offered by mail. BY EXPRESS OR FREIGHT means that we deliver the seeds to express or railroad here, and the purchaser pays all transportation charges on receipt of seeds. That means quantities listed at gallon, peck and bushel prices. No charges for packages.

SPECIAL PREPAID RATES TO OUR CUSTOMERS: Recognizing our claims as being among their largest shippers, the EXPRESS COMPANIES HAVE GIVEN US AND OUR CUSTOMERS A GREATLY REDUCED RATE. Thus a TWENTY-FIVE POUND PACKAGE would cost: To points in Illinois, Nebraska, Missouri, Indiana, New York, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, the Dakotas, Kansas, Michigan and Ohio, from 40c to 90c.

To points in Alabama, Maine, Rhode Island, Arkansas, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Connecticut, Mississippi, New Brunswick, Delaware, New Jersey and Virginia, from 90c to \$1.30.

To points in the far west and south—Arizona, \$2.00; New Mexico, \$2.00; Idaho, \$2.00; Oregon, \$2.00; Montana, \$2.00; Utah, \$2.00; Nevada, \$2.00; Washington, \$2.00.

Above gives you a fair idea of express charges. When seeds, etc. are quoted by express or freight, it means that you pay the transportation charges; by mail, postpaid, that we prepay by mail. \$2.00 on 25 lbs. is highest limit.

Always send plenty of money to prepay express charges, and if any left it will be immediately sent back to you. WHAT YOU SHOULD DO: MONEY:—We prefer all money sent by post office, or express money order; bank drafts or registered letter. Do not send loose money in a letter without registering it; it is not safe, and if it is lost we are not responsible.

POSTAGE STAMPS:—We accept postage stamps when other modes of remittance are inconvenient, and prefer them in 1 and 2 cent denominations. Be particular to use due caution so that they may be kept clean and do not get damp, stick together or attach to the order.

DISCOUNTS ON SEEDS—EVERYBODY NEEDS SEEDS:—We offer the following inducements to those purchasing seeds in packets. Select packets to the value of \$1.25, send us \$1.00; for \$2.50, send us \$2.00; for \$3.00 send us \$2.25; for \$4.00 send us \$3.00; for \$5.00 send us \$3.75; for \$10.00 send us \$7.50; for \$20.00 send us \$15.00. These seeds will be sent by mail postpaid; but these low rates apply to seeds in packets only, and at catalogue prices, and not seeds by weight or measure. If you go and see your neighbors, many of them never think of sending for seeds and when planting time comes, go to the nearest store and buy old, worthless commission seeds that have wandered over the land these twenty years or more, they will gladly give you their orders for Ratekin's fresh reliable seeds if you will show them our catalogue. In this way you can make MONEY, beside getting all your seed free.

BUSH OR 'SNAP BEANS.

Each packet of Beans will contain two ounces, sufficient to plant about 20 hills. All Beans priced by the packet, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint, pint and quart are delivered postpaid. Persons ordering by express may deduct 8 cents per pint or 15 cents per quart from these prices quoted. Prices by the peck or bushel do not include delivery, but must be sent by express, not prepaid.

Long Yellow Six Weeks Very early and prolific; long green, tender, flat pods; matures quickly. Price: Pkt., 5c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pint, 15c; quart, 40c; by express, $\frac{1}{2}$ peck, 70c; peck, \$1.25.

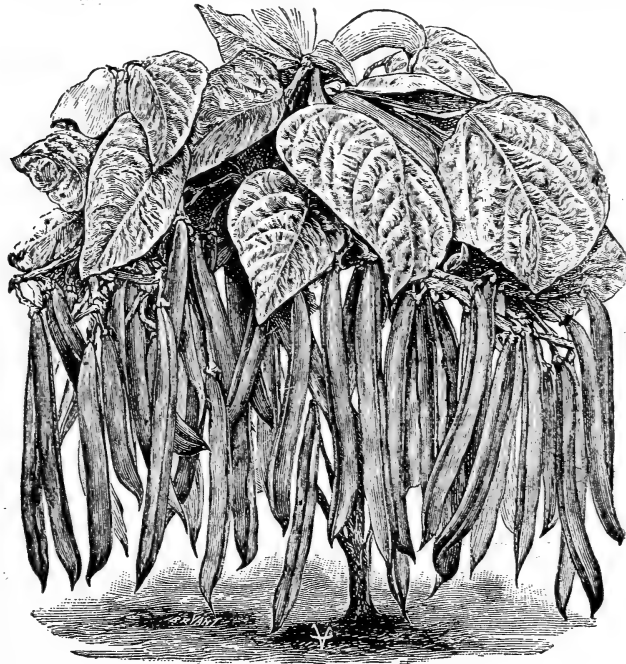
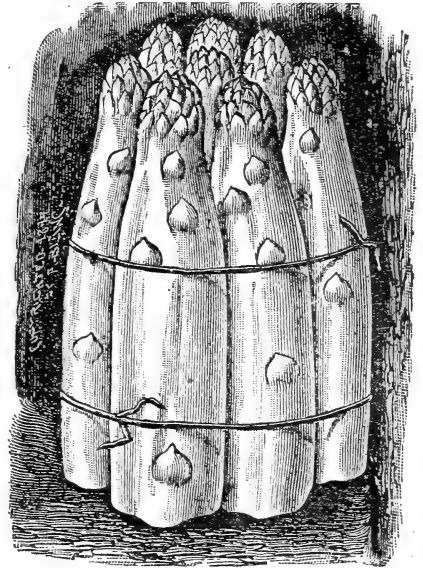
California Branch or Prolific Tree This is quite a valuable variety for field culture. Grows about 20 inches high, has stiff, upright branches and bears immensely, sometimes yielding 45 bu. per acre. The beans closely resemble the White Navy. Price: Pkt., 5c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pt., 12c; qt., 35; by express, $\frac{1}{2}$ peck, 70c; peck, \$1.25.

Best of All Originated in Germany. Pods long, very tender, succulent, stringless, of rich flavor, and an enormous producer. Very popular, especially in the South. Excellent for winter shell beans. Price: Pkt., 5c; pt., 25c; qt., 40c.

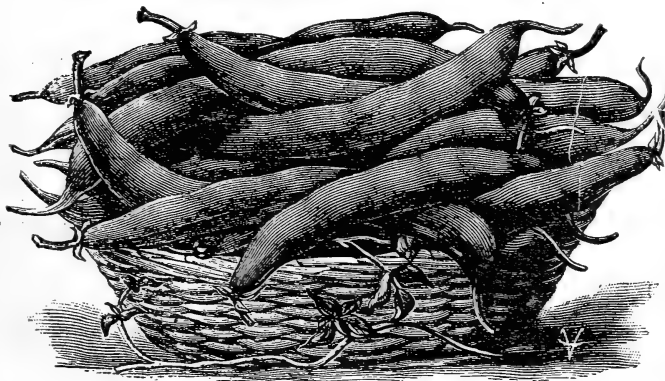
ASPARAGUS.

Sow the seeds in drills about 1 inch deep, and the rows about 1 foot apart. Keep the soil mellow and free from weeds during the summer, and in the fall or succeeding spring the plants should be set about 1 foot apart and the crown four inches below the surface. The beds should be narrow so as to permit of cutting to the center. Before winter cover the transplanted beds with about 4 inches of manure. Salt is an excellent manure for asparagus. Sow a little on the surface in the spring and it will keep down the weeds. The young tops may be cut for the table the second summer but not very freely until the third.

Conover's Colossal A mammoth green sort of the largest size and of good quality. Price—Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 15c; lb., 40c.



STRINGLESS GREEN POD.



IMPROVED EARLIEST VALENTINE.

Columbian Mammoth White A new and entirely distinct variety, that produces shoots which are white and stay white as long as fit for use. It is more robust and vigorous in habit and throws up larger shoots and fully as many of them as Conover's Colossal, and requires no earthing up in order to furnish the white shoots so much sought after. Price: Per pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

Early Mohawk The hardest of the early varieties, and on this account is considered by many to be one of the best for early planting. Pods are pale green, long and flat. The seeds are large and kidney-shaped. It is largely grown in the South for the early Northern markets. A very fine variety. Price: Pkt., 5c; pt., 20c.

Burpee's Stringless Green Pod Bush It is the earliest green podded Bean. It has absolutely stringless pods. It is the most superior quality, of surpassing all other early Bush Beans, both wax and green podded, in this respect. It is very prolific, free from rust and blight. This Bean, we are sure, will be found superior to the Valentine and Refugee, and will take the place of these varieties both for market, home use and canning. It is not only earlier than Valentine, of the earliest strain, but the pods are larger, handsomer and of better quality, and the plant is more vigorous and prolific. We advise gardeners to try this Bean. It will be found profitable. Everyone who wants a fine flavored, tender snap Bean for home use should plant this variety. Price: Pkt., 5c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pt., 15c; qt., 50c; by express, $\frac{1}{2}$ peck., \$1.00; peck, \$1.75.

Improved Early Valentine About ten days earlier than the common Early Valentine in addition to this it is more robust and vigorous, and produces the true, round, curved pods very abundantly. Unexcelled in quality and uniformity of ripening; nearly the whole crop can be taken at one picking, usually within 35 days after planting. Pkt., 5c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pt., 15c; qt., 45c; by express or freight, $\frac{1}{2}$ peck, 75c; peck., \$1.35.

Wardwell's Early Kidney Wax This is one of the earliest, hardest and most productive of all Wax Beans. One of the most valuable points in its favor is that it is almost entirely free from rust, and invariable strong and healthy. The pods are long and of a delicate waxy yellow, assuming its color at a very early stage of its growth. The mature beans are large, kidney-shaped, pure white with dark markings around the eye. Not only a first-class snap bean, but equally valuable for dry shell beans in winter. Price, postpaid: Pkt., 5c; pint, 20c; quart, 35c. Purchaser's expense: Pkt., 5c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pt., 15c; qt., 25c; peck, \$1.90.

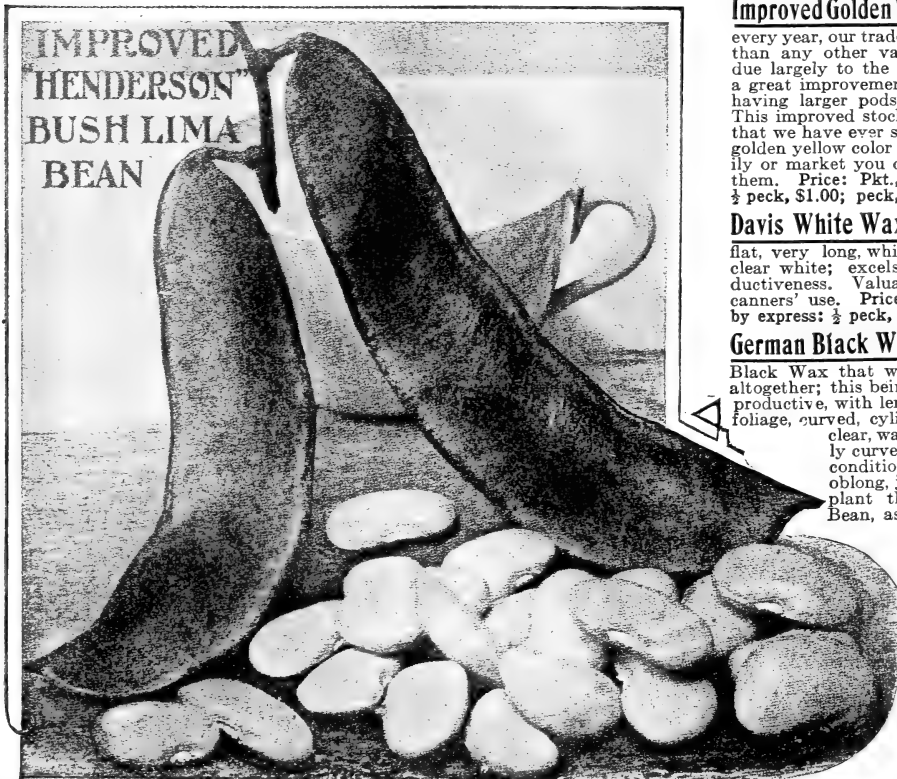
Early Kidney Six Weeks Vines large, vigorous, branching, productive, with large leaves and lilac blossoms, pods long, straight, narrow, handsome, and when young of good quality; beans long, kidney-shaped, yellowish-drab, with darker marks about the eye. Price: Pkt., 5c; pt., 15c; qt., 25c; 4 qts., 75c; bu., \$4.00.

BEANS.

Wax Podded Varieties==Continued.



IMPROVED GOLDEN WAX.



Improved Golden Wax In spite of all the new sorts of beans being introduced every year, our trade calls for more "GOLDEN WAX" than any other variety. This great popularity is due largely to the fact that the variety we have is a great improvement on the old "GOLDEN WAX," having larger pods and being much more prolific. This improved stock is one of the handsomest beans that we have ever seen, the pods being of dark, rich, golden yellow color and of perfect shape. For family or market you can make no mistake in planting them. Price: Pkt., 5c; pt., 25c; qt., 45c; by express: $\frac{1}{2}$ peck, \$1.00; peck, \$1.75.

Davis White Wax A new white, rustless, productive, wax-podded bean; pods flat, very long, white, straight and handsome; seeds clear white; excels all others in hardness and productiveness. Valuable for market gardeners' and canners' use. Price: Pkt., 5c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pt., 15c; qt., 50c; by express: $\frac{1}{2}$ peck, \$1.00; peck, \$1.90.

German Black Wax We are so thoroughly satisfied with this improved strain of Black Wax that we have discarded the old stock altogether; this being more vigorous, and far more productive, with length, borne well up among the foliage, curved, cylindrical, thick, fleshy and of a clear, waxy, white color, with long, slightly curved point; remain a long time in condition for use as snaps. Beans small, oblong, jet black. No one can afford to plant the old Black Wax or Butter Bean, as this is much better in every respect.

Price: Postpaid, pkt., 5c; pt., 20c; qt., 35c; purchaser's expense: Pkt., 5c; pt., 15c; qt., 25c; peck, \$1.90.

Dwarf or Bush Limas.

This is a comparatively new class of Lima Beans that is becoming very popular. They are of true bush form, growing only 15 to 20 inches high, and are fully two weeks earlier than the climbing Limas. Very desirable, as their cultivation does away with the labor of staking.

Burpee's Dwarf Lima The only true form of the large luscious Lima Bean. As large as the common Lima and equal to it in every respect. Enormously productive. Dwarf bush form, growing only about eighteen inches high. Pkt., 5c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pt., 15c; pt., 25c; qt., 50c; peck, \$1.50; bu., \$5.75.

Lima Wax A great bean; dwarf. Produces tremendous quantities of broad, thick, meaty, wax pods of light color. Seed white, of Lima flavor. Price: Pkt., 5c; pt., 25c; qt., 40c; By express: Peck \$1.70; bu., \$5.50.

Jackson's Wonder An exceedingly productive and early new variety of the Dwarf Lima. Pods are broad and flat; beans medium size, beautifully variegated. Popular in the South. Price: Pkt., 5c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pt., 15c; pt., 25c; qt., 50c; peck, \$1.50; bu., \$5.75.

Henderson's Bush Lima Beans Magnificent dwarf growing Lima; very early, of a delicious flavor, extremely productive and should be planted in every garden in America. It's early. It's fine. It's just the thing for a family garden. It is wondrously prolific. A package or a pint will furnish sufficient for a good sized family. It is one of those beans that can't be improved upon. Price: Pkt., 5c; pt., 25c; qt., 40c. By express: Peck, \$1.90.

Dreer's Dwarf Lima Also called Kremerle Lima. Not quite so large as Burpee's, but more plump and very productive. Of excellent flavor. A very desirable variety in every particular. Price: Pkt., 5c; pt., 25c; qt., 40c. B express: Peck, \$1.90.

POLE BEANS.

The Pole or Climbing Beans are more tender, and require more care in culture than the Bush varieties. They should be planted about two weeks later, and will succeed best in sandy loam.

Each Packet of Pole Beans will contain 2 ounces, and will plant 15 to 20 hills. A pint will plant about 100 hills.

Kentucky Wonder or Old Homestead, We can recommend this as one of the earliest and most satisfactory of all Green Podded Pole Beans, and unsurpassed for using in the green state. It is enormously productive; the long, silvery, green pods hanging in great clusters from top to bottom of the pole. While young the pods somewhat resemble the popular old Refugee. This is the best and most profitable bean for the market gardener, the pods being so showy and produced so abundantly. Pkt., 5c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pt., 15c; pt., 25c; qt., 40c; peck, \$1.90.

Lazy Wife Pole Bean The pods are produced in great abundance and measure from 6 to 8 inches in length; they are broad, thick, very fleshy and entirely stringless. The pods retain their rich, tender and stringless qualities until nearly ripe, and are unsurpassed in all stages. Each pod contains 6 to 8 round, white beans which make excellent winter shell beans. They are late to mature, but are valuable to extend the season. This is an excellent bean and is sure to give satisfaction. Pkt., 5c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pt., 15c; pt., 25c; qt., 40c; peck, \$1.90.

White Dutch Case Knife Yields an immense crop of handsome flat white beans of excellent flavor. Cooks easily. Price: Pkt., 5c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pt., 15c; qt., 35c. By express, $\frac{1}{2}$ peck, \$1.00; peck, \$1.75.

Red, Speckled, Cut Short, or Corn Hill An old variety, very popular for planting among corn. It will give a good crop without the use of poles; vines medium, twining loosely, with dark colored, smooth leaves and white blossoms in small clusters; pods short, cylindrical and tender; beans nearly oblong, cut off diagonally at the ends; white, covered at one end and slightly over the whole surface with reddish-brown dots. Price: Pkt., 5c; pt., 15c; qt., 35c; peck, \$1.75; bu., \$5.00.

Mammoth Carmine Podded Probably the largest bean grown, except some of the Limas. It is entirely distinct from all others.

Horticultural Pole Bean The mammoth pods are beautifully striped and splashed with brilliant carmine; very showy and attractive, and the immense beans are of the best quality. Pkt., 5c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pt., 15c; pt., 25c; qt., 40c.

BEETS.

Culture The best results are obtained on a deep, sandy loam. For general crop sow as soon as the ground will permit in drills eighteen inches apart and thin out to three inches in the row. For winter use the turnip varieties may be sown in June, and the beets may be kept by storing in a cellar and keeping covered with sand or sandy soil, to prevent wilting, or they may be kept out doors in pits such as are used for apples and potatoes. One or two ounces, or single packets of two or three sorts, will give a good supply for a large family. It is best to sow in freshly prepared soil, which should be pressed firmly over the seed. One ounce sows fifty feet of drill; four to six pounds for one acre.

Extra Early Egyptian Blood Turnip The best variety for forcing, and excellent for first early crop out of doors, being very early, with small top. Leaf stems with veins dark red; leaf dark green dotted with red; roots very dark red, rounded on top but flat beneath, with very small tap roots; flesh dark red, zoned with lighter shade, hard, crisp and tender when young, but becoming woody with age. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; 2 oz., 15c; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

Edmand's Early Turnip Beet This splendid Beet originated in Massachusetts. It is most thoroughly fixed and uniform in type, being handsome, round in shape, always smooth and of good marketable size. It grows a small neat bronze-red top, hence can be planted closely together. Skin and flesh dark blood-red, very tender and sweet. Market gardeners who grow beets for bunching will be pleased with this variety. Price: Pkt., 5c; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

Early Eclipse Tops small, dark purplish, green shading to lighter color on outside of leaves. Roots nearly globular, with small tap root and very small collar. Flesh dark red, zoned with a lighter shade, very sweet, crisp and tender, especially when young. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; 2 oz., 15c; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

Extra Early Dark Beauty One of the earliest ever grown. Beautiful oval shape, and the color is a rich, dark red. Flesh is fine grain and cooks tender; rich and sweet. Its flavor is superb, is free from side roots and smooth, and is very beautiful in market. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 18c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 30c; lb., 50c.



BEETS==Continued.

CROSBY'S EGYPTIAN.

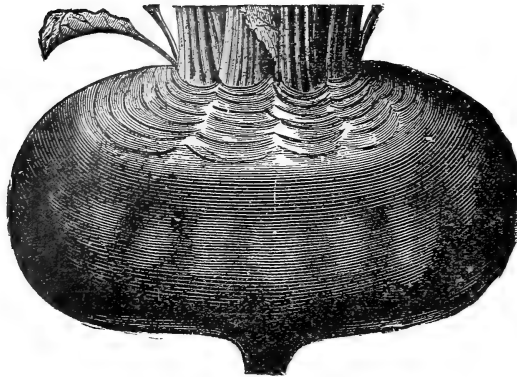
The name of this variety is misleading, as it resembles the Egyptian only in its extreme earliness. It is larger, lighter colored and more nearly spherical; one of the best for early planting out of doors. It is a most excellent sort, becoming fit for use sooner than any other variety, but it is not as well suited for forcing in hot-beds or for transplanting as the Egyptian. Price: Pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; 2 oz., 15c; 1/2 lb., 20c; 1 lb., 60c.

Improved Blood Turnip Popular everywhere; roots fine; symmetrical in shape; flesh deep blood red, tender and sweet; grows to good size; fine for early use and desirable for winter. Price: Pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; 1/2 lb., 15c; 1 lb., 50c.

Half Long Blood An excellent sort for winter use. Roots not as long as the "Long Smooth," but considerably thicker, always smooth and handsome. Flesh sweet, tender and of a dark red color. An excellent keeper. Price: Pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; 1/2 lb., 20c; 1 lb., 65c.

Mangel Wurzels and Sugar Beets. For Feeding Stock.

There is no crop grown by the farmer that is more valuable for feeding stock than the Mangel Wurzel or sugar beet. Considering the fact that 25 to 30 tons can be easily grown on an acre, and that the entire crop is perfectly digestible, there being no waste as in corn stalks or other



CROSBY'S EGYPTIAN.

coarse fodder, there is no food more economical. Fattening, breeding and milch cows do equally well on them. Sheep also are much healthier, ewes with lambs give more milk and therefore raise better early lambs. With dairy cows the flow of milk is largely increased and the quality improved. We are glad to note that farmers are beginning to find out their value and that more and more are being raised each year.

It is a well known fact that the best mangels are produced from seed grown in France. All the sugar beets grown for the large sugar factories are French grown seed. We contracted with one of the largest growers in France for all our beet and mangel seed, and know from actual test that they are equal in quality to any on the market.

About eight pounds of mangels and sugar beets will plant an acre.

Imperial Sugar Beet Many prefer the sugar beet, as they are much richer in sugar, therefore their feeding value is greater than that of the larger growing mangels, while others grow the mangels because they grow larger and more uniform. The Imperial Sugar is considered the best of its class to grow for stock, being more uniformly large and smooth than most varieties of sugar beets. We would suggest that you try both classes, and test their relative merits. Price same as Mammoth Long Red Mangel.

GOLDEN TANKARD The best yellow mangel in cultivation. A distinct and valuable yellow fleshed variety, which contains a larger percentage of sugar and more nutritive matter than any of the red-skinned sorts. It has already taken the lead of other varieties in England and is more relished by milch cows and sheep than any other. In shape it is almost cylindrical. It is very easily pulled, exceedingly hardy. Be sure and include it in your order. Price same as Mammoth Long Red.

VILMORIN'S IMPROVED In general the most desirable beet for the sugar factory is the one containing the largest percentage of sugar. In this variety we have one of the richest sorts in cultivation, and moreover it will do better on new lands than any other variety, suffer less from an excess of nitrogen, and will keep the best. In size it is medium or a little below, yielding from ten to sixteen tons per acre, and containing under favorable conditions as high as eighteen per cent of sugar. The beet grows below the surface. The green leaves are smooth edged and spreading. Price: Pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; 1/2 lb., 15c; 1 lb., 35c.



KLEIN WANZLEBEN A little larger than Vilmorin's Improved and containing about the same amount of sugar. Its yield of beets is from twelve to eighteen tons per acre. The beet grows below the surface. The green leaves are rather large and spreading, with wavy edges. A little hardier and easier grown than Vilmorin's Improved. Probably the best sort for the experimenter to use. Price: Pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; 1/2 lb., 15c; 1 lb., 35c.

We will supply 5 pounds or more of Klein Wanzleben, Vilmorin's Improved and French very rich sugar beets at 20 cents per pound by express or freight, at purchaser's expense.

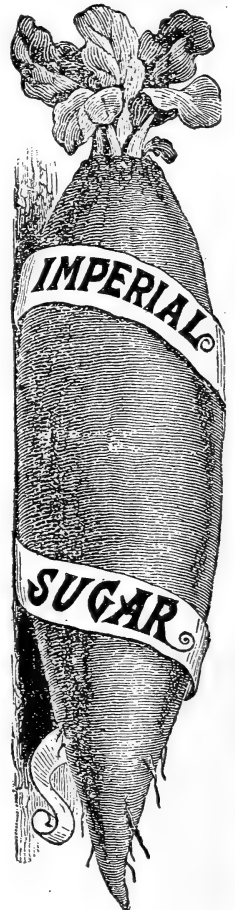
MAMMOTH LONG RED MANGEL An enormous yielder, 1,200 to 1,500 bushels have frequently been grown on an acre, and single roots often weighing 15 to 20 pounds. This is generally considered the best large red variety. We do not call it "Eiffel Tower," "Gate Post" or some other catchy name in order to sell it. We believe in giving varieties their true name. If you prefer a red variety you will make no mistake by ordering this one.

Prices of Mangel Wurzels and Sugar Beets.

By mail, postpaid: Pkt., 5c; 1/2 lb., 10c; 1 lb., 35c.
By express, not prepaid: 1 lb., 25c; 2 lbs., 45c; 5 lbs., \$1.00.

WHITE FRENCH A variety with large long roots, yielding from fourteen to twenty tons per acre, and often containing as much as eighteen per cent of sugar. The roots are below the surface. The green leaves are upright in growth. The hardiest and earliest grown. Price: Pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; 1/2 lb., 15c; 1 lb., 35c.

Buying Vegetable Seeds by Mail It is the easiest, most pleasant and profitable way to secure the best seeds if you select a reliable firm. If your merchant handles bulk seeds he must have a large profit and often holds over quite a bit. Commission seeds and boxes left at stores are a snare and delusion, and the chances are that you get stuff so old that it will prove worse than useless and you throw away your time and money in planting them, besides losing your season's crop. If you once try the mail order for buying seeds, you will certainly be pleased and ready each season to send us an order for your full supply of seeds. As for farm seeds, there is no doubt you can do much better than to buy of your merchant, as you are enabled to buy of us wholesale and get what it is impossible for many merchants to handle. Something rare and profitable to you. Let us prove it to you.



CABBAGE.

American Grown

Highest Quality

We pride ourselves on having the best, purest and highest grade of cabbage seed that is offered, or at least it is surpassed by none. Compared with the cost of seed, there is more money in growing cabbage than in any other crop and there is nothing that growers should be more particular about.

The cabbage requires a deep, rich soil and thorough working to insure good, solid, full-sized heads. Sow early sorts in hot beds in February or March, or in open ground as soon as it can be worked; later or winter crops in May or June, in shallow drills, six inches apart. When the plants are four inches high transplant into richly manured ground, the early kinds two feet apart, the fall and winter varieties three feet apart. Packets contain about 800 seeds. Slug shot and tobacco dust are used to kill insects and worms.

Culture.

The requisites of complete success are: First, good seed; this plant is largely dependent upon the best seed for its success; no satisfactory result can possibly be obtained from poor stock. Second, rich, well prepared ground. Third, frequent and thorough cultivation. A heavy, moist and rich loam is most suitable. It should be highly manured and worked deep.



RATEKIN'S IDEAL CABBAGE.

Ratekin's Ideal Cabbage As now improved, the most profitable cabbage ever offered to the American cabbage grower. Absolutely sure heading, 999 out of 1,000 plants make perfect, salable heads averaging 16 to 20 pounds; interior is creamy white, compact and crisp, unequaled for cooking or slicing; flavor especially fine. It is, without exception, the best winter keeper in the world. It will flourish on all soils, in fact, it will prove a gold mine to all cabbage growers. Over twenty thousand pleased customers pronounce this the most wonderful of all late cabbage. The illustration of our field of "Ratekin's Ideal" will give you only a faint idea of the profits derived from the king of all cabbages. We don't ask you \$4 or \$5 a pound, although well worth \$10 compared with the strains sold by other seedsmen at \$2 to \$3 a pound. We want every one of our customers to give it a trial this season; the seed from these we offer you cannot be equalled. Price: Pkt., 15c; oz., 30c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 90c; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., \$1.75; 1 lb., \$3.00, postpaid.

HENDERSON'S EARLY SUMMER

Ten or twelve days later than the Jersey Wakefield, but much larger in size and will stand on the ground much longer without bursting open. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 60c; 1 lb., \$2.00.

Early Flat Dutch

This well known and popular variety is considered by many to be the best second early sort; large, flat, solid heads, of excellent quality. Does not burst easily. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 40c; 1 lb., \$1.50.

EARLY WINNIGSTADT

One of the best for general use, being very hardy and sure to head, forming a hard head when most sorts fail. Those who have failed with other kinds can hope to succeed with this. It seems to suffer less from the cabbage worm than any other sort. Plant very compact, with short, thick leaves. Heads, regular, conical, very hard and keep well both summer and winter. It is the hardest, not only as regards frost, but will suffer less from excessive wet, drought, insects or disease, than any other second early sort, and will give a fair crop of heads when others fail. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 35c; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 60c; 1 lb., \$2.00.

All Seasons

This is generally grown on Long Island for the New York market. Heads very large, round, often nearly spherical, but usually somewhat flattened; very solid and of the best quality, keeping as well as the winter sorts. Plants very vigorous and sure heading; leaves large, smooth, with dense bloom. Remarkable for its ability to stand the hot sun and dry weather. Our trial has shown that heads which were fit for market by July 10th were still salable September 10th, the only change being increased size and density. One of the very best sorts for general cultivation. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 25c; 2 oz., 40c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 75c; 1 lb., \$2.50.

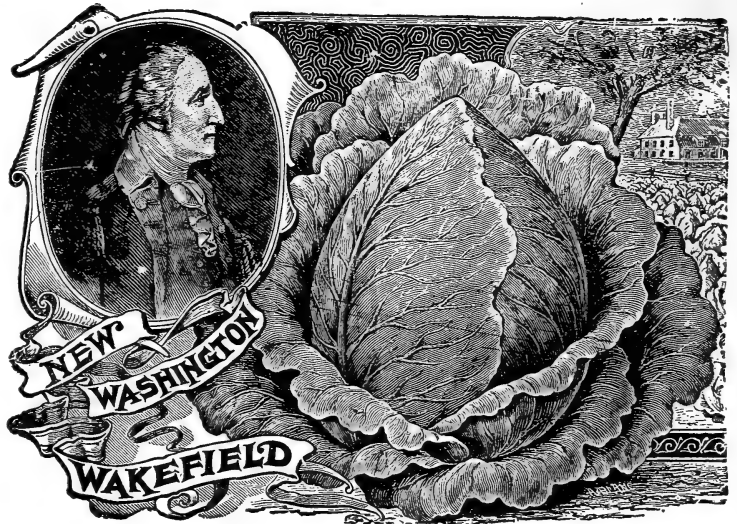
CABBAGE==Continued.

Early Jersey Wakefield The earliest and hardest heading of extra early cabbages. Our seed is new and good. Heads conical, compact, solid and of excellent quality. The thick, stout leaves and compact habit makes it the best for wintering over and very early setting. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 60c; 1 lb., \$2.00.

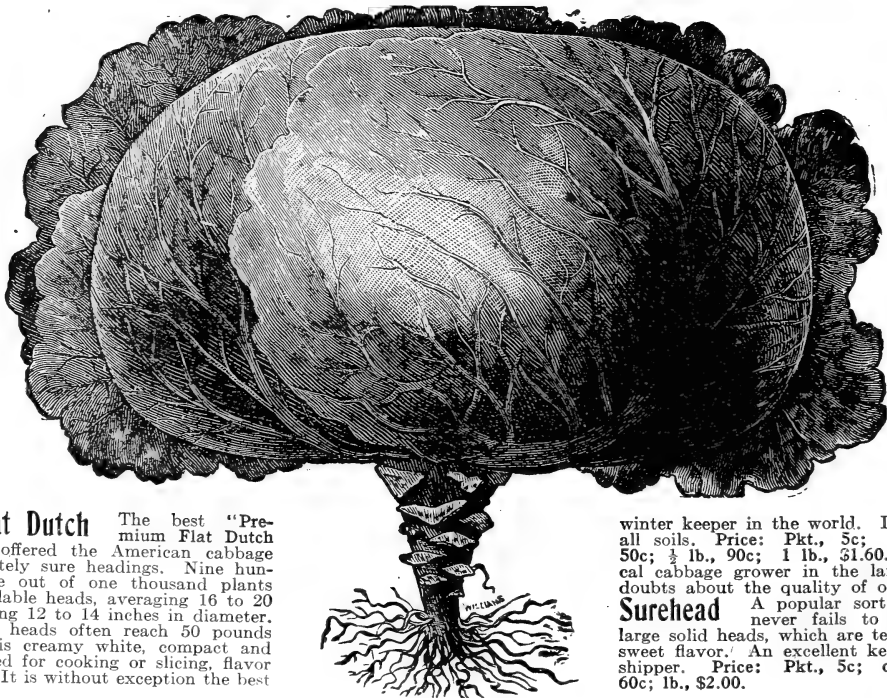
Early York Heads small, heart shaped, firm and tender; of very erect and dwarf habit, so that they may be grown fifteen or eighteen inches apart. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; 2 oz., 35c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 60c; 1 lb., \$2.00.

Holland Cabbage (The genuine stock.) In some important particulars this is the most remarkable cabbage yet produced. In fact, it well illustrates the truth that "merit will win," in that while it was introduced only about three years ago, it has already become the favorite sort with those who have the true stock. The heads, which are very solid and deep, are of medium size, averaging about eight pounds in weight. In color they are very distinct; in point of quality they have no superior and they keep better than any other sort, the heads being as solid and perfect when taken up in the spring as when put away in the fall. At that time no cabbage will sell beside them even at one-half the price. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 70c; 1 lb., \$2.25.

Ratekin's Autumn King "Autumn King" is an entirely distinct variety; best keeper we have ever seen; it produces enormous solid heads of that dark shade of green that is most desirable in a cabbage, and has such small outer leaves that it can be planted closer together than the ordinary late sorts, and can be relied on to produce a greater weight of crop per acre than any other variety. A distinct feature of the "Autumn King" is the peculiarly crimped leaves, which not only add to its appearance, but enable it to be distinguished anywhere. It is unquestionably one of the best late sorts of to-day. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 70c; 1 lb., \$2.25.



IF YOU WISH TO HAVE A GOOD SUPPLY OF SAUERKRAUT NEXT WINTER, PLANT RATEKIN'S FAMOUS CABBAGE SEEDS.



Premium Flat Dutch The best "Premium Flat Dutch Cabbage" ever offered the American cabbage grower. Absolutely sure headings. Nine hundred ninety-nine out of one thousand plants make perfect salable heads, averaging 16 to 20 pounds, measuring 12 to 14 inches in diameter. Specially grown heads often reach 50 pounds each. Interior is creamy white, compact and crisp. Unequaled for cooking or slicing, flavor especially fine. It is without exception the best

winter keeper in the world. It will flourish on all soils. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 50c; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 90c; 1 lb., \$1.60. The most critical cabbage grower in the land need have no doubts about the quality of our cabbage seed.

Surehead A popular sort for main crop; never fails to form uniformly large solid heads, which are tender and of fine, sweet flavor. An excellent keeper and a good shipper. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 60c; 1 lb., \$2.00.

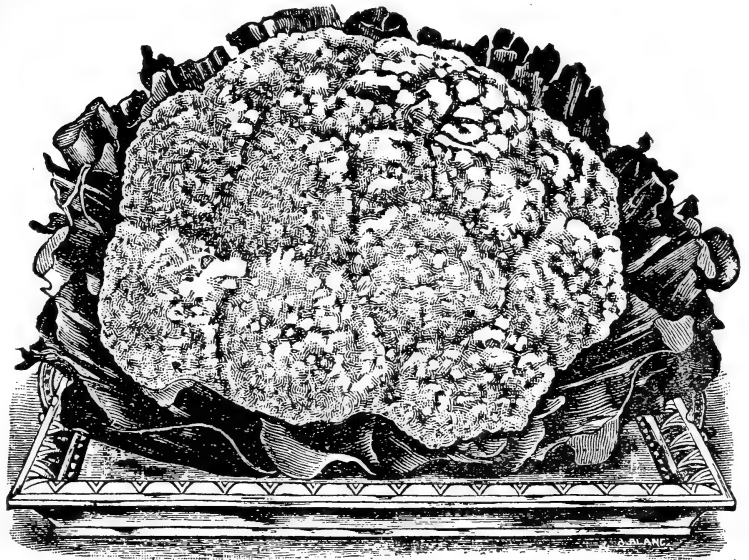
Early Dutch Dark Red Largely used for pickling. Early, hardy and a good keeper. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 60c; 1 lb., \$2.00.

Ratekin's Mammoth Rock Red The best variety of late red cabbage. It is sure heading, of large size and deep red color. Those who like a red cabbage will be pleased with this one. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 60c; 1 lb., \$2.00.

Cauliflower.

Early Snowball.

Admirably adapted for forcing or wintering over for early crop and the most popular sort for these purposes. It is also one of the best sorts for late summer and fall crop, and with reasonably favorable conditions every plant will form a large solid head of fine quality. The plants are compact, with few narrow, upright leaves and are well suited for close planting. The heads are solid, compact, round, very white and curd-like, and are developed earlier than those of any other sort. We know our stock of this variety is unsurpassed and is superior to much that is sold under such names as "Gilt-Edge," "Earliest," etc. Price: Pkt., 15c; 2 pkts., 25c; 1/2 oz., 75c; oz., \$2.50.

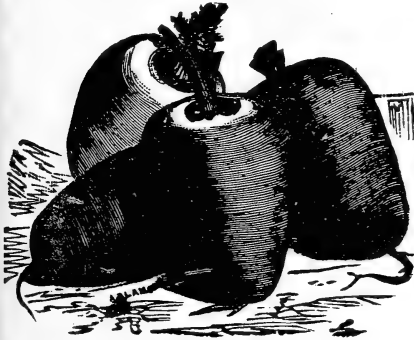


HENDERSON'S EARLY SNOWBALL CAULIFLOWER.

CARROTS.

The carrot is one of the most wholesome and nutritious of our garden roots and deserves to be more extensively used, both for culinary and stock feeding purposes. We urge our readers to give some of the early table sorts a trial. For feeding stock, especially horses and milch cows, the carrot cannot be surpassed, and it should be more largely grown by farmers for this purpose.

CULTURE While a sandy loam made rich by manuring the previous year is the best for the carrot, any good land, if thoroughly and deeply worked, will produce satisfactory crops. When it is possible to do so, it is advisable to sow as early in the spring as the ground is fit to work, though good crops may in this latitude be grown from sowing as late as June 15, but success from such late planting is uncertain. For table use sow the smaller kinds as early as practicable in rows 16 to 18 inches apart. For field culture prepare the ground thoroughly and sow in drills 18 to 24 inches apart, using from one and one-half to three pounds to the acre, according to the distance between the rows. Cover one-half to one inch deep and see to it that the soil is pressed firmly above the seed. As soon as the plants appear, use the cultivator or wheel hoe. Do not let the weeds get a start. Thin the smaller table sorts to 8 to 10 to a foot, and the field varieties to 3 to 6 inches apart in the row. For winter use gather and store like beets or turnips.

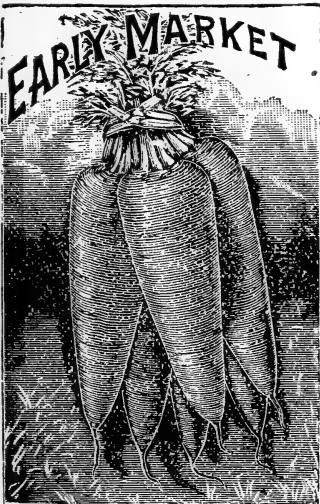
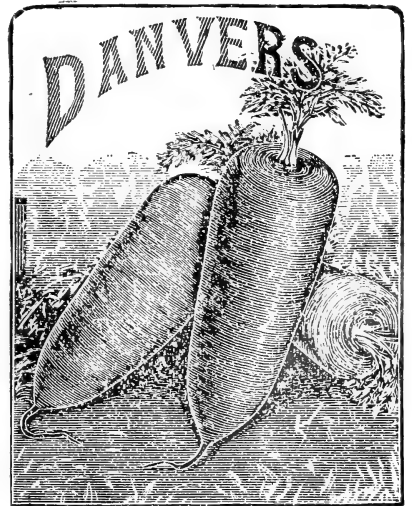


THE OXHEART.

OXHEART OR GUERANDE.

We do not hesitate to call this the most valuable variety in existence. It is intermediate between the Half Long and Horn varieties, attaining a diameter of 3 to 4 inches at the neck, of beautiful shape and rich orange color. Where other varieties require digging it is easily pulled. It will produce roots as early as any variety and continues of the best quality all the season. It is excellent for hogs and other live stock and has yielded 1,200 bushels per acre. Cut off tops with scythe and pull roots with potato hooks. Price: Pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; 1/2 lb., 25c; 1 lb., 70c.

Danvers' Half Long A popular standard variety of rich, dark orange color. Very smooth and handsome. In form half-way between Oxheart and the Long Orange, and wonderfully productive. Under special cultivation it has yielded from twenty to twenty-five tons per acre. One of the finest varieties in cultivation. Pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; 1/2 lb., 20c; 1 lb., 60c.



Early Market Stump rooted, grows about the size of our Cincinnati Market Radish, excellent forer; fine flavor; flesh a deep orange, fine grained. Price: Pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; 1/2 lb., 25c; 1 lb., 85c.

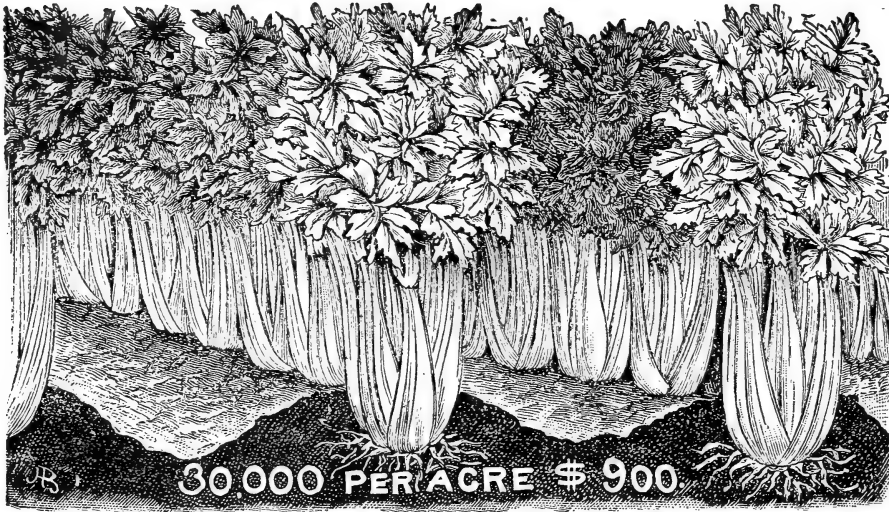
Long White Belgian Carrot Roots of mammoth size. Grows one-third above ground. Color above ground green, and beneath ground pure white. This variety is largely grown for stock feeding. We have grown of this variety on a piece of drained swamp land at the rate of a thousand bushels per acre. Probably no other green root crop will produce more feed, unless it be the New Mastodon Carrot. Price: Pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; 1/2 lb., 15c; 1 lb., 45c.

Improved Long Orange Carrot

The most popular of the older sorts for field culture. The roots are very large, long and tapering; rich orange in color and free from side roots. One of the best winter sorts and largely grown for market and stock. Pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; 1/2 lb., 20c; 1 lb., 60c.

EARLY SCARLET HORN The favorite extra early variety. Very early; color orange-scarlet; fine grained and agreeable flavor. Tops small; has a short, stump-shaped root; grows well in shallow soil. The best early variety for table use. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; 1/2 lb., 20c; 1 lb., 60c.

CELERY.



One Ounce Will Produce about 6,000 Plants.

This we consider one of the luxuries of the garden. For first crop sow the seed early in hotbeds, or in boxes in the house, in rich, moist soil, covering the seeds very lightly. For main crop sow seed in open ground in April or as soon as the soil is in good condition. Seed germinates slowly and if weather is hot and drying protect with light covering of hay or straw. Stir soil as soon as plants are well up; thin out and transplant so that they stand about an inch apart in the row. If they grow too rapidly shear the tops off when about four or five inches high and this will make them more stocky. For main crop set plants out between

June 15th and July 15th in rows three feet apart and the plants six inches apart in the row. Care should be exercised to firm the earth well around plants when setting and they will root better. Keep clear of weeds until about the middle of August, when it will be time to begin earthing up. Draw the soil up against the plants with a hoe as closely as possible, firming it enough to keep plants in an upright position. Late in the season the blanching process must be finished by digging the soil from between the rows and banking it clear to the tops on each side of the row of celery. Much labor is saved by growing the self-blanching varieties, but they do not keep as well for winter use.



Golden Self-Blanching This is by far the most popular variety now on the market. It is of medium earliness, of dwarf, compact habit, with thick, solid, heavy ribbed stalks, which blanch easily to a clear waxen yellow. When grown in rich, moist soil, the stalks are numerous and large with a solid heart of beautiful yellow. The best grade seed is scarce this year. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 30c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 90c; lb., \$3.00.

Henderson's Half Dwarf Entirely solid, possessing a rich nutty flavor, while it has much vigor of growth and heavy bunch. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 45c; lb., \$1.50.

White Plumb Stalks, portions of the inner leaves, and heart, naturally white and become fit for use by simply tying up closely with soft twine. More used than any other variety by market gardeners. Our seed is of the highest quality and sure to please all. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 50c; lb., \$1.75.

Golden Dwarf Waxy golden yellow, cylindrical, solid, crisp. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 40c; lb., \$1.25.

Giant Pascal Stalks remarkably large, thick, solid, entirely stringless, very crisp and brittle. A vigorous grower and is self-blanching, clear white. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 60c; lb., \$1.75.

Rose Ribbed Paris Self-Blanching The most beautiful of all pink celeries. A sport of the celebrated Golden Self-Blanching, and equal to that variety in all respects. It has the light golden color of its parent, and blanches with the same ease, differing only in the bright rose ribs. A good keeper. Height, 15 to 18 inches. One of the most desirable of the new celeries, especially for domestic use. Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 65c.

Hartwell's Perfection An excellent large growing variety of creamy white color. One of the finest market sorts and a good keeper. Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 40c; lb., \$1.40.

Andrew McCalley, La Grange, Ind., writes:

The potatoes you shipped me on the 14th reached me on the 22d inst., and I must say they were exactly as represented. All my dealings with you are perfectly satisfactory.

CUCUMBERS.

Cucumbers succeed best in a rich, loamy soil. For first early, sow in hot beds, in berry boxes, or in small flower pots, six weeks before they can be set out in the open ground. When danger of frost is over, transplant in hills four feet apart each way. For general crop plant in open ground in May, about twelve seeds in a hill. When danger of bugs is past thin to four strong plants in a hill. For pickling, plant in June. Sprinkle the vines with plaster or air-slacked lime to protect from bugs, or use Slug Shot to kill the bugs.

Each packet of Cucumber seed will contain a quarter of an ounce, sufficient to plant about 20 hills. Two pounds will plant an acre.

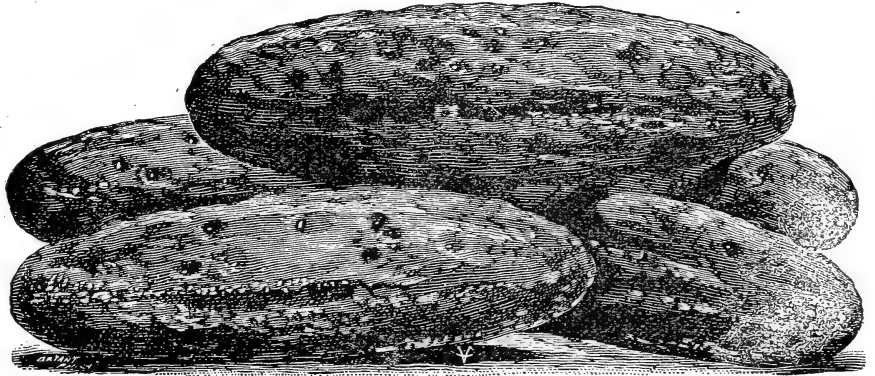
Improved White Spine.

One of the best sorts for table use. Vines vigorous, fruiting early and abundantly; fruit uniformly straight and handsome, dark green with a few white spines; flesh tender and of excellent flavor. In this country this variety is used more, perhaps, than any other for forcing under glass. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., \$1.75.

Five pounds or more by express, at \$1.50.

Ratekin's Crescent Cucumber

A new cucumber, and certainly the earliest cucumber we know. One especially adapted for the hot bed or early garden; it sets quickly and produces beautiful cucumbers in the shortest possible time, and we are confident if you once grow them you will never be without them. Price: Pkt., 10c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 55c; lb., \$2.



IMPROVED WHITE SPINE.



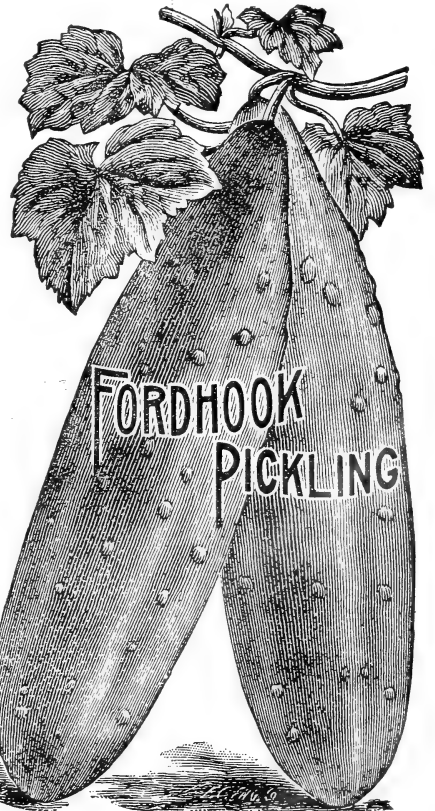
IMPROVED CHICAGO PICKLE.

Fordhook Pickling

A very small, oval prickly variety, quite distinct from all others. It is grown exclusively for pickles; is the smallest of all varieties, and should always be picked when young and tender. The seed is slow to germinate, requiring usually from two to three weeks. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 75c; lb., \$2.50.

Improved Chicago Pickle

This variety, which originated with a leading pickle grower near Chicago, is considered the best variety there is, as it is very prolific, matures early and produces an immense number of desirable shaped pickles. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., \$1.90.



Early Cluster

Vine vigorous, producing the bulk of the crop near the root and in clusters. Fruit short, with uniformly thick end, dark green, but paler at blossom end. A very productive sort. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; 2 oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 40c; lb., \$1.50.

Early Frame

An old and popular variety, of medium size, straight and handsome; excellent for pickles when young. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 40c; lb., \$1.45.

Improved Long Green

A standard sort. Vine vigorous and productive, forming fruit fit for the table nearly as early as the shorter sorts; fruit about four inches long, firm and crisp. The young fruit makes one of the best of pickles, and when ripe is the best of any for sweet pickles. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., \$1.90.

Boston or Jersey Pickle!

Is used almost exclusively by the market gardeners near Boston for pickling. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., \$1.60.

Why Not Ask Your Friends

for your trouble you may select extra seed to the value of 25c for each dollar in money you send us. For further instructions see inside cover page.

To join with you in ordering seed, and

SWEET CORN.

Sweet or Sugar Corn.

Peep O' Day. The Earliest Sweet Corn. The Sweetest Sweet Corn.

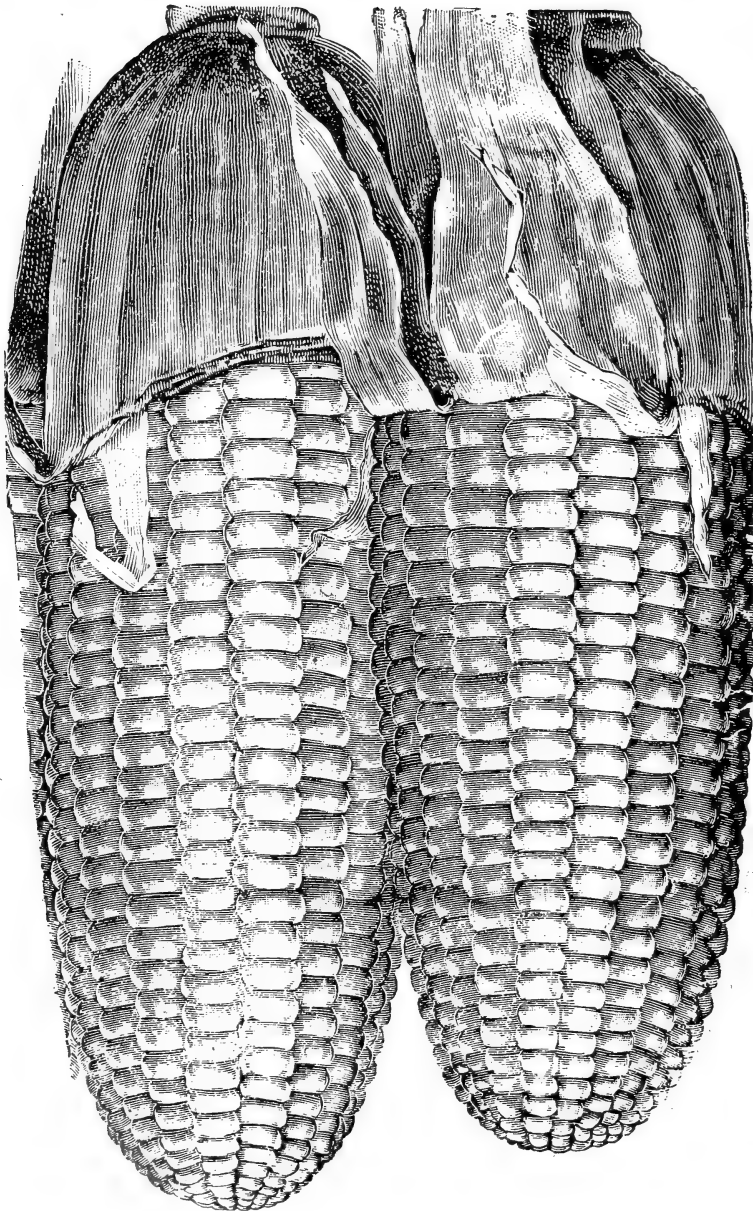
Most Productive.

Most Profitable.

We regard our new **PEEP O' DAY** Sweet Corn as the most important vegetable introduction of years. Think of a corn ten days to two weeks earlier than any other variety, and not only the **EARLIEST** but the **SWEETEST** of all sweet corn, early or late.

If you do not buy anything else in this catalogue, send at least for some **PEEP O' DAY** corn.

PRICE: Large pkt., containing 300 seeds (sufficient to plant 60 hills), 15c; pint, by mail postpaid, 25c; quart, by mail postpaid, 40c. By express or freight at purchaser's expense: Pint, 20c; quart, 30c; $\frac{1}{4}$ bu., \$1.75; bu., \$6.50.



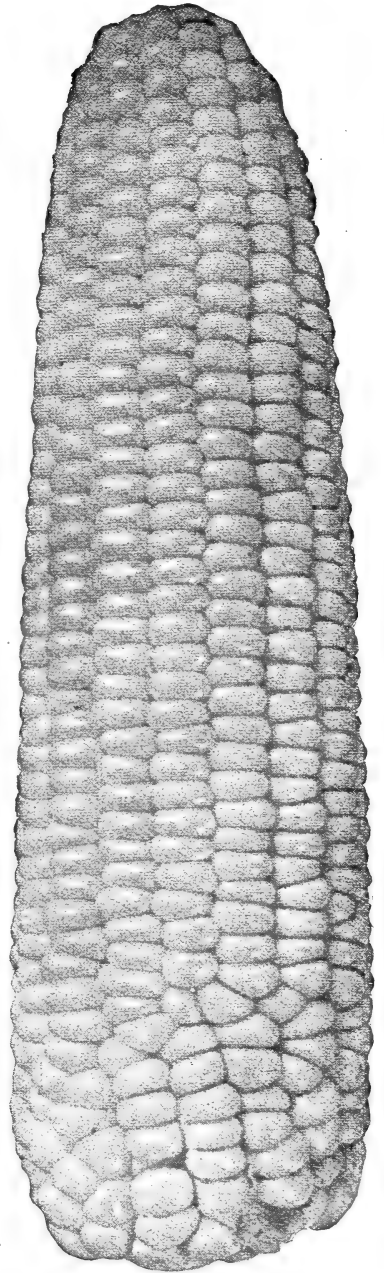
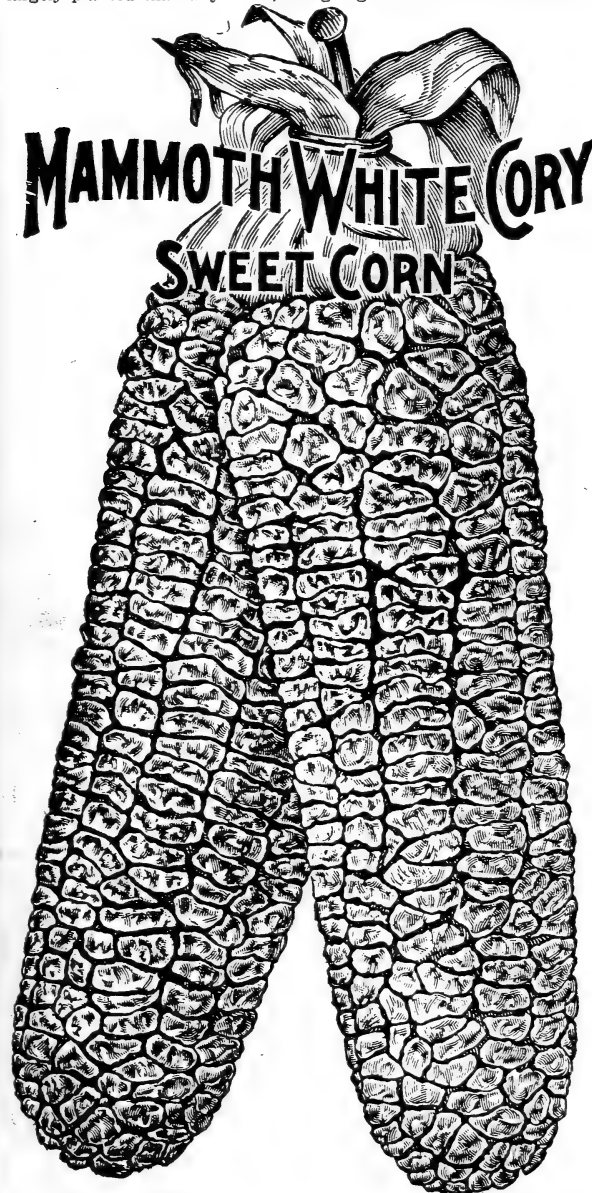
SWEET CORN==Continued.

MAMMOTH WHITE CORY.

Mammoth White Cory The largest and best extra early sweet corn. The stalks are no larger than those of the "White Cob Cory," but each stalk furnishes two or more large, fine shaped ears, which are fit for use before those of any other sort. The ears are twelve-rowed, very symmetrical and handsome, with no opening between the rows at the base. The grain is large, broad, very white and of remarkably good quality for such an early sort. The beauty and quality of this variety give it ready sale even when the market is overstocked. Price: Pkt., 10c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pt., 15c; qt., 30c; 4 qts., \$1.00.

IMPROVED STOWELL'S EVERGREEN

Improved Stowell's Evergreen For many years Stowell's Evergreen corn has been the most prominent main crop variety and is more largely planted than any other, being a general favorite with canners and market gardeners for late use. We have been selecting this for a number of years to improve it for family use. The ears are medium to large size, and our illustration was made by combining the picture of the lower part of an ear in fit condition for table use with part of an ear of dry seed corn. The grains are deep, exceptionally tender and remain a long time in an edible condition. The dried kernels are shriveled so much that they readily show its unusual sweetness. Pkt., 5c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pt., 15c; qt., 45c. By express, $\frac{1}{2}$ pk., 85c; pk., \$1.50.



Marshall County, Iowa,
Nov. 1, 1906.

The sweet corn I ordered from you last spring grew almost to a grain and the Stowell's Evergreen, made a yield of over five tons per acre and in addition to the fodder I saved after harvesting the crop for canning purposes, was worth easy five dollars per acre. In fact stock like it as well or better than clover hay.

Truly yours,
John Yarger.

Improved Stowell's Evergreen.

Chufas, or Earth Almond.

A nice little ground nut which is greatly liked by the children. In sweetness and flavor they resemble the cocoanut or almond and are considered very nice put on the table in a fruit dish with candies, and as an after-dinner relish. Very prolific, a single one yielding from two to four hundred. The nuts grow under ground, very near the surface, easily reached by pigs and poultry, and destroyed by them if they have free access. Plant in April, ten inches apart in two and one-half foot rows. Cover them lightly. If the seed is very dry, soak them well before planting. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 50c.

SWEET or SUGAR CORN==Continued.

Early White Cory

quarts, \$1.00.

The plants are usually about four feet high, and bear two or even three ears, which are eight rowed, with large, somewhat coarse but very sweet and tender grain. Price: Pkt., 10c; pint, 15c; quart, 30c; 4

Early Minnesota

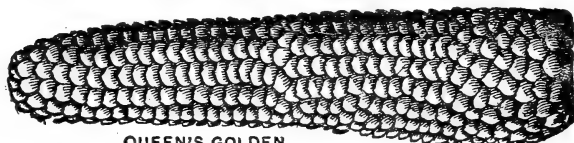
A standard early variety that has held a high place in the list of sweet corns ever since its introduction. The ears are of good size, well flavored and of the best cooking qualities. Valuable for either private or market use. Price: Pkt., 10c; ½ pint, 15c; quart, 35c; by express, ½ pk., 60c; peck, \$1.00.

Crosby's Early

For medium early use and general crop this is one of the most desirable varieties. Ears are of medium size and the cooking qualities excellent. A good cropper and profitable for family use and as a market sort. Price: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 10c; qt., 35c; by express, ½ pk., 60c; peck, \$1.

County Gentleman

Certainly a fine sort; ears average nine or ten inches in length, but what it lacks in size is more than equaled in superior quality and productiveness. It sometimes yields as many as five or six ears to the stalk. Deep grained and exceedingly sweet and juicy. One of the best for the family garden. Price: Pkt., 5c; pint, 15c; quart 20c; gallon, 75c.



QUEEN'S GOLDEN.



MONARCH WHITE RICE.

POP CORN.

White Rice A very handsome and prolific variety; ears short; kernels long, pointed, and resemble rice; color white. Probably no variety of pop corn is superior to this for parching. We supply lots of four quarts and less, shelled. Price: Pkt., 5c; pt., 20c; qt., 35c; pk., 85c.

Queen's Golden Color a peculiar lustrous golden yellow pops to a rich cream color; very prolific Price: Pkt., 5c; pint, 20c; qt., 35c; pk., 85c.

New Red Beauty A valuable new rice pop corn, introduced by an extensive pop corn grower in Illinois. Ears medium to large; color bright red; deep grains and small cob; extremely early and productive. Highly recommended. Price: Pkt., 5c; ½ pint, 15c; pint, 25c; qt., 40c.

EGG PLANT.

A tender plant, which should be started quite early in a hot bed or box in the house, which must be kept warm. Transplant late to open ground, two and a half feet apart.

EARLY ROUND PURPLE

The earliest variety in existence, being several weeks earlier than most others. Fruit is exactly the same shape and color as the "Improved New York Purple," but is somewhat smaller. It is fully equal in quality, and what it lacks in size is made up in productiveness. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 35c; ¼ lb., \$1.10.

IMPROVED NEW YORK

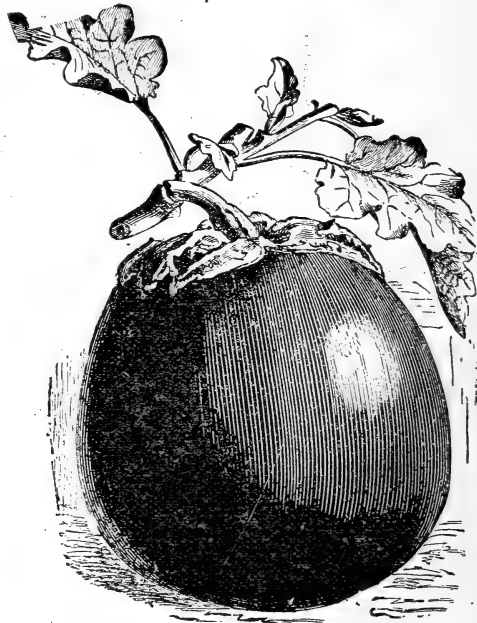
Our strain of this, the leading market variety, we believe to be unsurpassed. Very large size, skin deep purple, flesh white and of excellent quality. Very productive. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 40c; 1 lb., \$1.25.

KALE.

"Borecole, Kale and German Greens" are general terms applied to those classes of cabbages that do not form heads, but are used in their open growth. Some of the varieties are the most tender and delicate of any of the cabbage tribe. They are hardy and are not injured by the frost.



DWARF GREEN CURLED KALE.



EARLY ROUND PURPLE.

Don't Let the Trifling Difference in the Cost of the Best Farm Seeds

INFLUENCE YOU TO USE THE KIND YOU CAN BUY AT THE HOME ELEVATOR OR OF YOUR NEIGHBOR OR THAT YOU HAVE GROWN YOURSELF. If you pay a few cents an acre more for the best seed than you would have to pay if you bought from the elevator man or your neighbor, or used your own grain, you will see the economy of doing so when your yield is many bushels greater per acre, and the grain grades No. 1 instead of No. 3. It is just as easy to grow the best grains as to grow the second best. It is just as profitable to grow the best wheat and corn and oats and barley as it is to raise the best blooded horses and cattle and hogs and sheep. Our seeds are selected for their high quality and we do not offer a single variety that we cannot guarantee strictly first-class in every particular.

KALE==Continued.

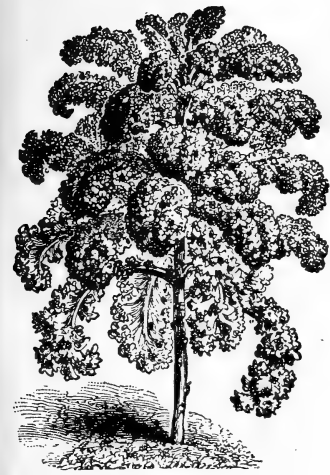
Dwarf Green Curled Scotch Plant low and compact, but with large leaves, curled, cut and crimped until the whole plant resembles a bunch of moss. It would be well worthy of cultivation simply for its beauty. One of the best sorts for use, and when well grown and cooked is one of the most palatable of vegetables. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 70c.

Tall Green Curled Scotch This is very hardy and is not injured by a moderate frost. About thirty inches tall, with an abundance of dark green leaves, which are densely curled and cut, forming a very beautiful plant. It stands the winters in the middle states without any protection. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 70c.

Kohl Rabi.

Culture Sow in light, rich soil, as early as possible, in drills sixteen inches apart, and when established thin to six inches apart in the row. One or two plantings at intervals of ten days will give a succession until hot weather, when they fail to grow well, but plantings may be made the latter part of July for fall use.

EARLY PURPLE VIENNA A bright purple. The leaf stems are tinged with purple. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 30c; 2 oz., 55c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., \$1.00; 1 lb., \$2.75.



TALL GREEN CURLED SCOTCH KALE.

Early White Vienna Flesh white and tender; good market sort. Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 60c; 1 lb., \$1.75.

LEEK.

Belongs to the onion family and by many preferred to that vegetable. Sow the seed and care for young plants same as for onions, but they need a little more room in order to develop more fully. When the young plants are double the size of a goose quill, transplant to a prepared bed in rows one foot apart and four or five inches in the row.

London Flag This variety is more cultivated in this country than any other. It is hardy and of good quality. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 30c; 1 lb., \$1.00.

LETTUCE.

One Ounce Will Sow 120 Feet of Drill.

Probably no vegetable is more universally used than lettuce, and to be thoroughly appreciated it must be brought to the table fresh and unwilted. The quality of lettuce depends largely upon a rapid and vigorous growth. Sow in hot bed in March and in open ground as early as it can be worked, thin in drills one foot apart. For a succession, sow every three weeks during the season. The soil should be rich and mellow. Thin out plants as they grow.

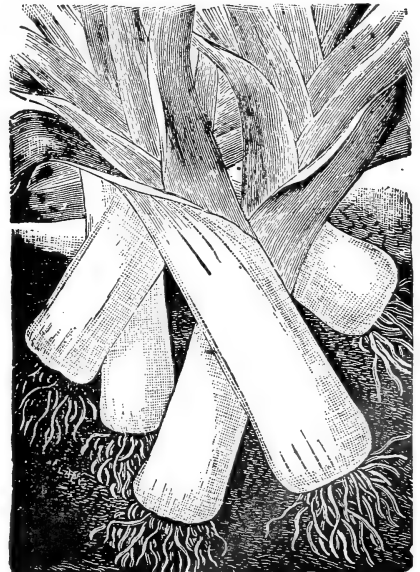
Early Prize Head It forms a mammoth head, and remains tender and crisp throughout the season; is prompt to head, but slow to seed, of superior flavor and very hard. Leaves of dark, reddish brown color, variegated with dark green. It is an immensely popular variety. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 75c.

Early Curled Simpson An improved variety of the Curled Simpson, with large, loose heads and excellent flavor. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 75c.

Selesia An excellent spring, summer and fall variety, forming good sized heads that stand drouth and heat longer without injury than any other sort; matures very early. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 75c.



EARLY PURPTE VIENNA.



LONDON FLAG LEEK.

SEED POTATOES.

Seed Potatoes There is no other crop in the world that responds to a change, or to new varieties more readily, if so profitably as a change in your seed potatoes. There is no other crop that runs out so quickly, except possibly oats, as do potatoes. Our seed potatoes are all grown in the Red River Valley of North Dakota from seed stock furnished by us. We make seed potatoes one of our great specialties. Everybody eats potatoes. Most people plant them. Read what we have to say about our new and improved varieties on pages 37 38, 39 and 40, in this book, and don't fail to include some of our superior varieties in your order.

LETTUCE==Continued.



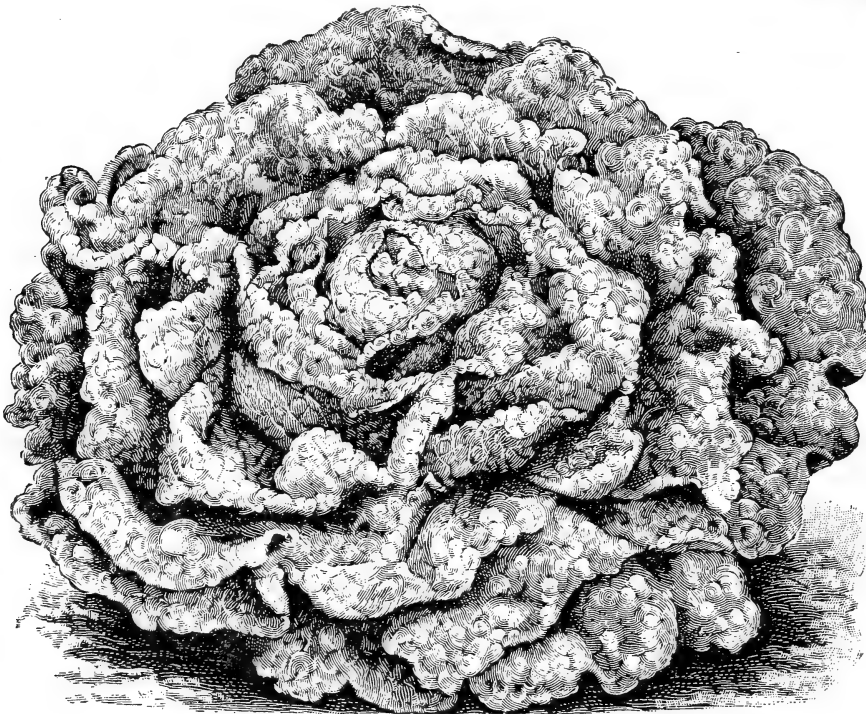
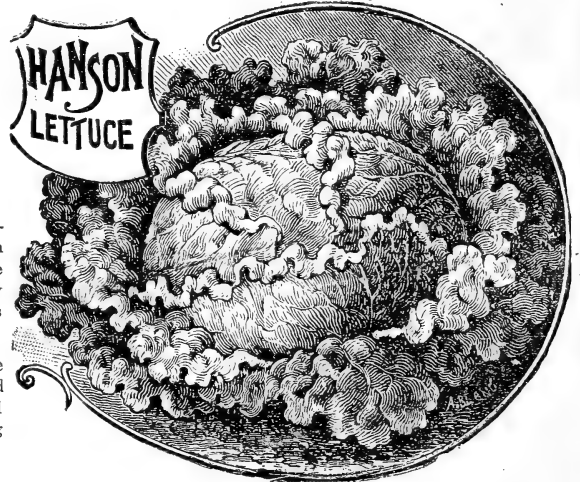
BLACK SEEDED SIMPSON

Brown Dutch (Seed Black.) An old sort noted for its hardness. Leaves large, thick, green, tinged with brown. It always forms a large, solid head which is somewhat coarse looking, but the inner leaves are beautifully blanched, exceedingly sweet, tender and well flavored. Desirable because of its hardness and fine quality. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c; lb., 80c.

Salamander (Seed Black.) A very bright green and attractive variety. It forms large, solid heads, composed of thick, smooth, very tender leaves, the inner ones finely blanched and all of finest quality. It remains a long time in head before running to seed. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c; lb., 80c.

Black Seeded Simpson It is much lighter colored than preceding; it grows nearly double in size, of fine quality. One of the best for forcing or outdoor planting. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 75c.

Improved Hanson For general use for market and gardeners we are sure that no variety can surpass our "Improved Hanson" Lettuce. Deliciously sweet, crisp and tender, and almost absolutely free from any rank or bitter taste. Resists the summer heat extremely well. It cannot be too highly praised. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c.



GRAND RAPIDS

Grand Rapids A forcing variety of superior quality and beautiful appearance, strong grower, free from rot, and keeps crisp and tender without wilting, when exposed for sale, longer than any other forcing lettuce. It is also a desirable variety for sowing in open ground. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 40c; lb., \$1.20.

California Cream Butter A variety of Cabbage Lettuce, with round solid heads. Outside of heads are of a medium green, slightly marked with small brown spots; within, the leaves are of a very rich, cream yellow color, most refreshing in appearance, and particularly rich and buttery to the taste. The heads are of a very good size, compact, very hard and solid. It is medium early and one of the very best summer varieties of head lettuce we have ever seen. Price: Pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

We Guarantee All Our Seed

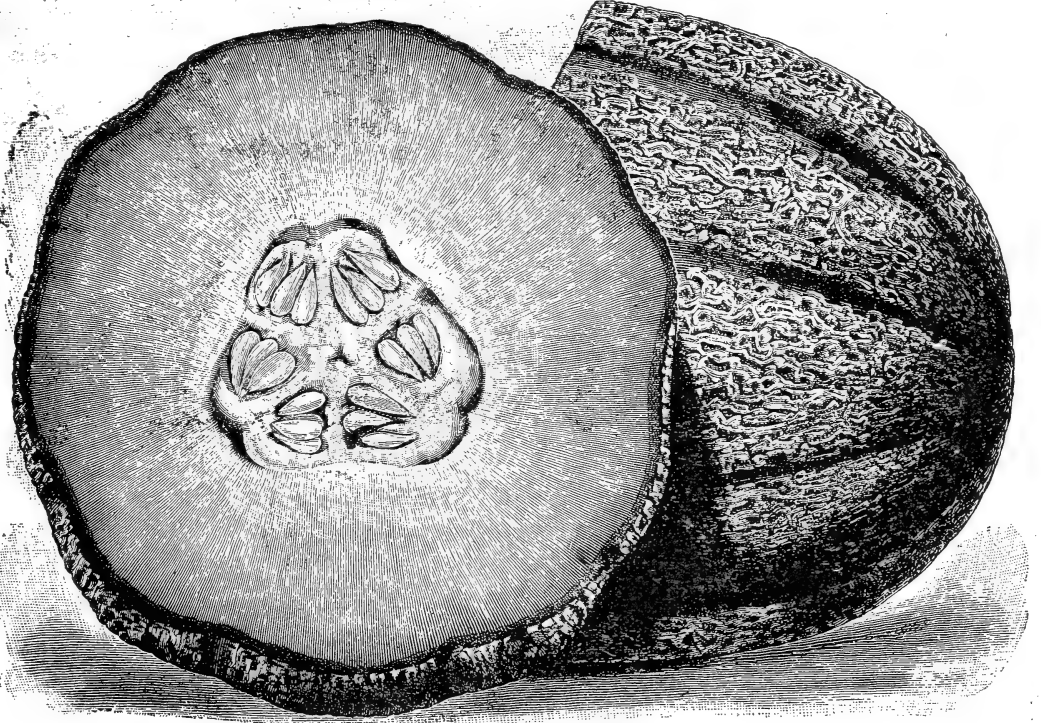
To be of highest quality and germination, and to be exactly as represented. We want every one of our customers to grow good, bountiful crops, and we will help you if you will give us a chance. Start right; the foundation is good seed. We hope you will read what we have to say about Selected Farm Seeds a little further along in this catalogue. Anything not made plain to you, be free to write us, and always remember that we have your welfare at heart, because by helping you we keep you for a continuous customer.

MUSK-MELONS.

The soil best adapted to the culture of melons is a warm, rich sandy loam. Plant in hills five or six feet apart, each way, ten or twelve seeds in a hill. When they begin to vine thin out, leaving only four of the most thrifty. As melons are very sensitive to the cold, they should not be planted until the settled warm weather begins—in this latitude about the middle of May. Cultivation should begin as soon as the plants appear above the ground, and be kept up once a week until the vines interfere too much. You will be pleased with our melon seed.

The Rocky Ford Musk Melon

The Melon known on the "bills of fare" of the leading hotels and restaurants of America as the "Rocky Ford Canteloupe" takes its name from the little town of Rocky Ford, Colorado, which has become as famous for its melons as Baltimore for its oysters. The shipping of these melons has reached such proportions as to cause it to become the leading industry of the town, thousands of crates being annually forwarded to the principal cities of the United States. The reason for the widespread popularity of this melon is two-fold. First, its superb table qualities, being firm, sweet and remarkably solid. Second,



THE ROCKY FORD MUSK MELON

its wonderful shipping qualities, which enable it to be carried great distances and yet arrive in first-class condition for market. The fruit is of medium size and oval-shaped, heavily netted and very solid. The flesh is green, thick and juicy. It is very early and wonderfully productive. It is acknowledged by many market gardeners as the best and most profitable Musk Melon that grows. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., \$1.00. Purchaser's expense: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 85c.



One of the best melons on the market for family use and also greatly liked by gardeners. The skin is thin, of dark green color and slightly netted. The flesh is a salmon color, remarkably sweet and spicy in flavor, extremely thick and delicious to the rind; the seed cavity is very small. It is seldom that one of poor quality is found. The whole crop is very even and extra heavy, owing to the thickness of the meat. All lovers of fine melons should try the Osage

Osage, Melon or Miller's Cream

One of the best melons on the market for family use and also greatly liked by gardeners. The skin is thin, of dark green color and slightly netted. The flesh is a salmon color, remarkably sweet and spicy in flavor, extremely thick and delicious to the rind; the seed cavity is very small. It is seldom that one of poor quality is found. The whole crop is very even and extra heavy, owing to the thickness of the meat. All lovers of fine melons should try the Osage

Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., 90c.

MUSK MELONS—Continued.

Paul Rose We have been great ly pleased with this new variety, and we consider it one of the finest sorts. It is a result of a cross of the Osage and Netted Gem, and it combines the sweetness and high flavor of the former, with the fine netting and superior shipping qualities of the Netted Gem. It is peculiarly sweet, rich, delicious flavor and a long keeper. If you are a gardener, plant it and catch top of market prices. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; Pound, \$1.00.

Extra Early Hackensack

We offer under this name a very distinct stock, different and much superior to that often sold as Extra Early Hackensack. The fruit is medium sized, nearly round with deep ribs and very coarse netting. The flesh is green, a little coarse, but very juicy and sweet. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., 90c.

Small Green Nutmeg

Fruit of medium size, slightly ribbed, globular. Skin dark green becoming yellow when over ripe, and nearly covered with broad, shallow netting. Flesh thick, a little coarse, but of fine flavor. This variety is in universal demand for both home and market use. It is the size best suited for hotel and restaurant use. Our stock is carefully grown and selected and will be found first-class in every particular. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., \$1.00.

Emerald Gem

This is one of the most delicious little melons that we have ever eaten. The flesh is thick, of a suffused salmon color, almost red, and ripens thoroughly to the extremely thin, green rind. It is peculiarly crystalline in appearance, juicy and rich. The flavor is sweet and luscious beyond description. Rather small for marketing but very nice for home use. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., 90c.

Improved Cantaloupe

A finely improved variety, often weighing from fifteen to twenty pounds. The flesh is thick, light in color and of fine quality. Quite early and a splendid keeper. Include this variety in your order. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ½ lb., 30c; lb., 90c.

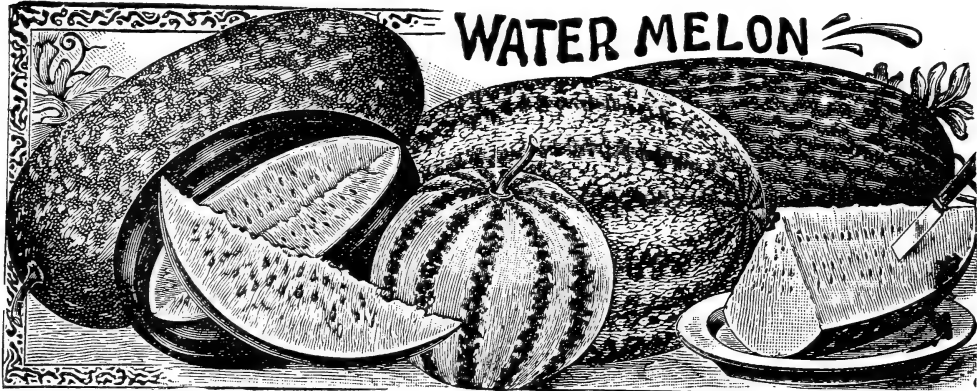


RATEKIN.
SHENANDOAH, IOWA.

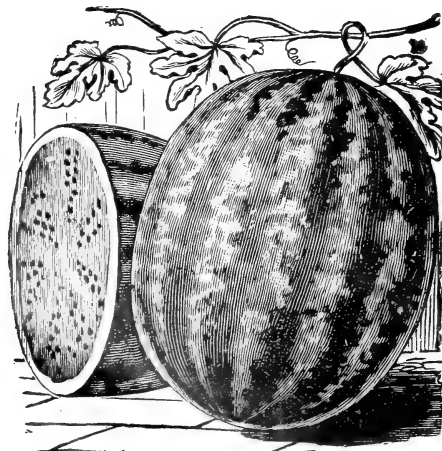
RATEKIN'S EARLY MARKET.

Ratekin's Early Market

Many years were spent in perfecting this decidedly distinct and beautiful melon. A most valuable characteristic is its close, strong netting. Its vigorous growth gives it great hardiness and ability to withstand drouth, blight and bugs. Its beautiful shape and handsome appearance are remarked upon when placed side by side on the market bench or counter with any of the popular sorts of the day. It ripens only a few days after the early Hackensack, is most prolific, more uniform, bears longer and quality are all that can be desired. It is green fleshed, with a small seed cavity. A valuable sort for a general crop. Price: Pkt., 10c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb. 50c; lb., \$1.75.



WATER MELON



KOLB'S GEM

and the fruit is more solid; seldom bursts at blossom end, flavor and quality are all that can be desired. It is green fleshed, with a small seed cavity. A valuable sort for a general crop. Price: Pkt., 10c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb. 50c; lb., \$1.75.

WATERMELONS.

One ounce is required for forty hills; three pounds will plant an acre. A light sandy soil, with good exposure to the sun, is the best for watermelons. It should be prepared deep, but receive shallow cultivation. Hoe often and thoroughly. Plant in hills eight or ten feet apart each way. Plant eight or ten seeds in a hill, and finally, when danger from insects is past, leave but three strong plants. Thousands of melon growers annually depend on us for their seeds and are universally pleased, claiming that nowhere have they ever obtained seed so pure and reliable. It pays to have the best. Packets contain about 100 seeds.

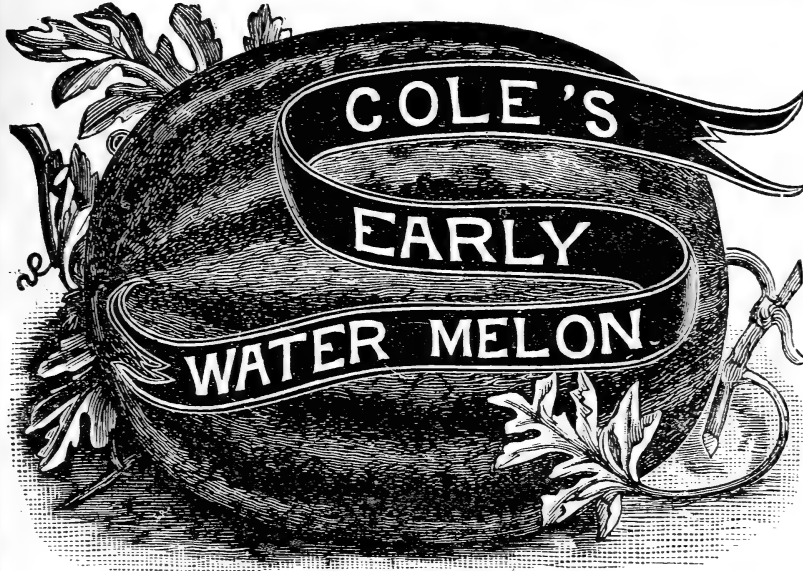
Mountain Sweet The old standard. Best quality. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

Phinney's Early Early, medium size and quite productive. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

Kolb's Gem This variety, on account of its excellent shipping qualities, is extensively grown for that purpose. Grow nearly round, and the color is a dark green with lighter narrow stripes—very thin and tough rind. Flesh bright red and of good flavor. Our seed is choice. Price: Packet, 5c; ounce, 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 65c.

Ratekin's Reliable Melon Seeds Please Everbody. They Grow.

WATERMELONS--Continued.



Cole's Early Decidedly the finest early variety for the private garden, but is too brittle for long shipments. It is very early and will mature further north than most other sorts. Of medium size, very productive, continuing to bear throughout the season. Flesh of bright red color, of granulated, sparkling appearance. In flavor it is lusciously sweet and refreshing. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

Sweet Heart Melon This melon is early, large, handsome, heavy, and productive. Shape is oval; color, mottled light to very dark green. Flesh bright red, solid, tender and very sweet. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

Cuban Queen This is a large variety, often weighing eighty pounds and upwards; striped light and dark green; an enormous cropper. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

Black Diamond One of the largest yet produced. A quick seller, and fine for home market and family gardens. It has a beautiful red core, and is sweet and delicious. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

Peerless or Ice Cream The great home market melon. This old stand-by is our best general cropper for the home market; has too thin a rind for shipping unless packed in straw. We have sold it for many years to our most extensive Nishna Valley growers, for whom it brings the highest prices, and meets with a ready sale, regardless of other varieties that may be on the market, because it has become a great favorite with market gardeners and melon dealers and consumers. Few, if any, surpass a True Ice Cream for quality and productiveness. Medium early; fruit oblong, large size; rind light mottled green; flesh bright scarlet, solid to the center, melting and delicious. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c; lb., 75c; 3 lb., \$2.00.

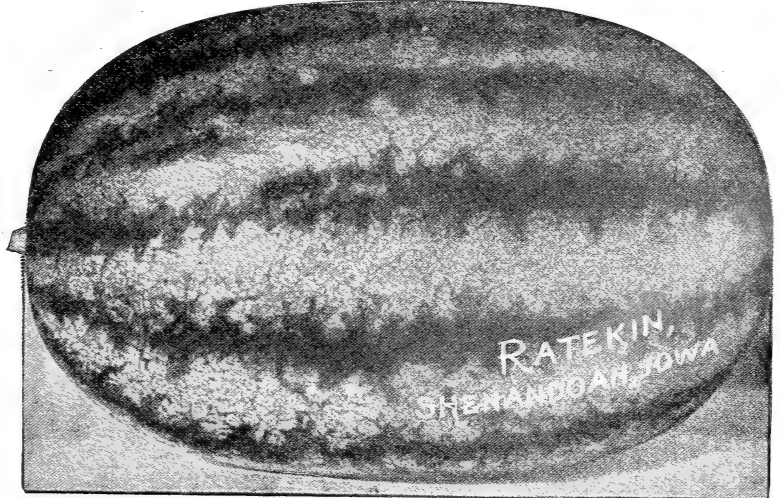
Triumph A southern variety which has become very popular with shippers. The fruit is uniformly large, nearly round, dark green, indistinctly striped with a lighter shade; rind thin and firm, making it an excellent shipper; flesh bright red and of good quality. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

McIver Wonderful Sugar A large, oblong melon of handsome appearance; skin shows broad bands of white, with narrower ones of green. Its soft, pink flesh is crisp, juicy, very sweet and solid to the center. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

Kleckley's Sweet Large oblong melon. The skin is dark green, flesh bright scarlet, the rind only about one-half inch in thickness. The scarlet flesh is sweet and sugary and is of such texture that it leaves no strings of pulp whatever in eating. The melon is better for home use than for shipping, and we believe it is the Best Table Melon To-day. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c; lb., 75c; 5 lb., by express, \$2.50.

Ratekin's Champion A cross between Kolb's Gem and Sweet Heart. All that could be said of Kolb's Gem as to good shipping qualities can be truthfully stated in a higher degree of Ratekin's Champion. All the praise of high quality bestowed on the Sweet Heart can be repeated of our new melon, but its prominent point of merit is its extreme size.

No melon ever yet produced anything like so uniformly large fruit nor approaching it in productiveness. Melons weighing from seventy-five to ninety pounds are frequent. It is the most prolific watermelon ever grown. Its color is a rich, dark green, almost black. Of uniform, symmetrical shape, roundish to bluntly oval, and this similarity of shape running through the whole field. Price: Pkt., 10c; oz., 15c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 35c; lb., \$1.10



RATEKIN'S CHAMPION

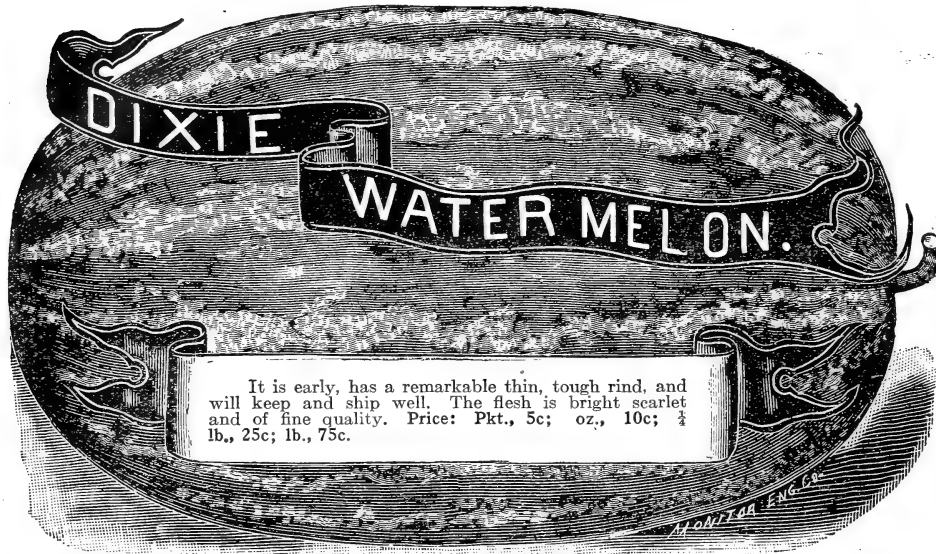
CITRON.

Citron For preserving; grows uniformly round and smooth; striped and marbled with light green; flesh white and solid. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 35c; lb., 90c.

Special Offer

We desire to have all our customers who order seeds try some of our superior varieties of Watermelon Seeds. You may select four packets of any of the varieties named in this catalogue excepting Ratekin's Champion, for 15 cents.

WATERMELONS--Continued.



It is early, has a remarkable thin, tough rind, and will keep and ship well. The flesh is bright scarlet and of fine quality. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

Seminole Water-Melon Very large, exceedingly productive, of the finest quality, and the beautiful red core makes it attractive. Sweet and very delicious. Beautiful shape for market. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c; 3 lbs., \$1.65.

Monte Cristo
In our trial grounds this has proven to be a northern strain of "Kleckley's Sweet," and is certainly a very sweet and delicious melon. It is very large, dark green color outside, and has beautiful red core and is never stringy. It is a grand variety for both market and the family garden. Price, postpaid: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c. Purchaser's expense: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 65c.

Mixed Water-Melons Twelve varieties of the finest watermelons, the largest, 25c; lb., 75c.

earliest, sweetest, grown separately and seed carefully mixed by us. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

Dark Icing or Green Mountain Fruit round and of medium size; rind dark green, thin, but very strong; flesh deep scarlet; rich, juicy and delicious. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

Light Icing Similar to the preceding but light variety. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

Apple Pie Grows uniformly, round and smooth, striped and marbled with light green. Flesh white and solid, seeds red. It should be borne in mind that this variety is not for eating in the raw state, but for preserves, pickles, etc. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; 2 oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., \$1.00.

Pride of Georgia
A much better table variety than the "Kolb's Gem," though not so good a shipper, owing to the exceeding thinness and tenderness of the rind. In form the melons are an oblong oval, bearing indentations somewhat like the musk melon. The vines are exceedingly prolific. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

Gipsy or Georgia Rattlesnake A superior early market variety; large, oblong, the skin green, mottled and striped. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

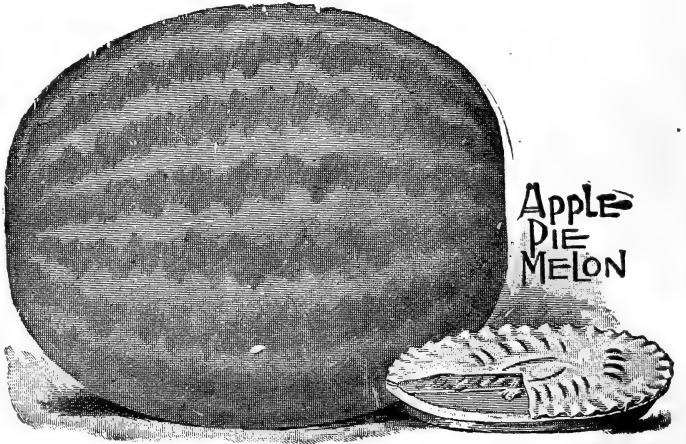
Mustard SOUTHERN GIANT CURLED. This true curled-leaf variety is popular in the South for planting in the fall, to furnish an early spring salad. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

Black Boulder Nearly round, very large and heavy. Skin a dark black-green. Rind very thick. A good shipper. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 90c. By express or freight, not prepaid, lb., 80c.

Ostrich Plume Mustard.
Ornamental as well as useful. The leaves are long, ruffled and frilled, and curved as gracefully as an ostrich plume. The edges are curled and lacinated like double curled parsley, making the leaves equally as desirable for garnishing. It stands well, even during the hot summer months, while the young leaves can be cut quite as early as those of other sorts. Pkt., 5c; 5 oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 65c.
WHITE ENGLISH or LONDON.—Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 45c.



Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

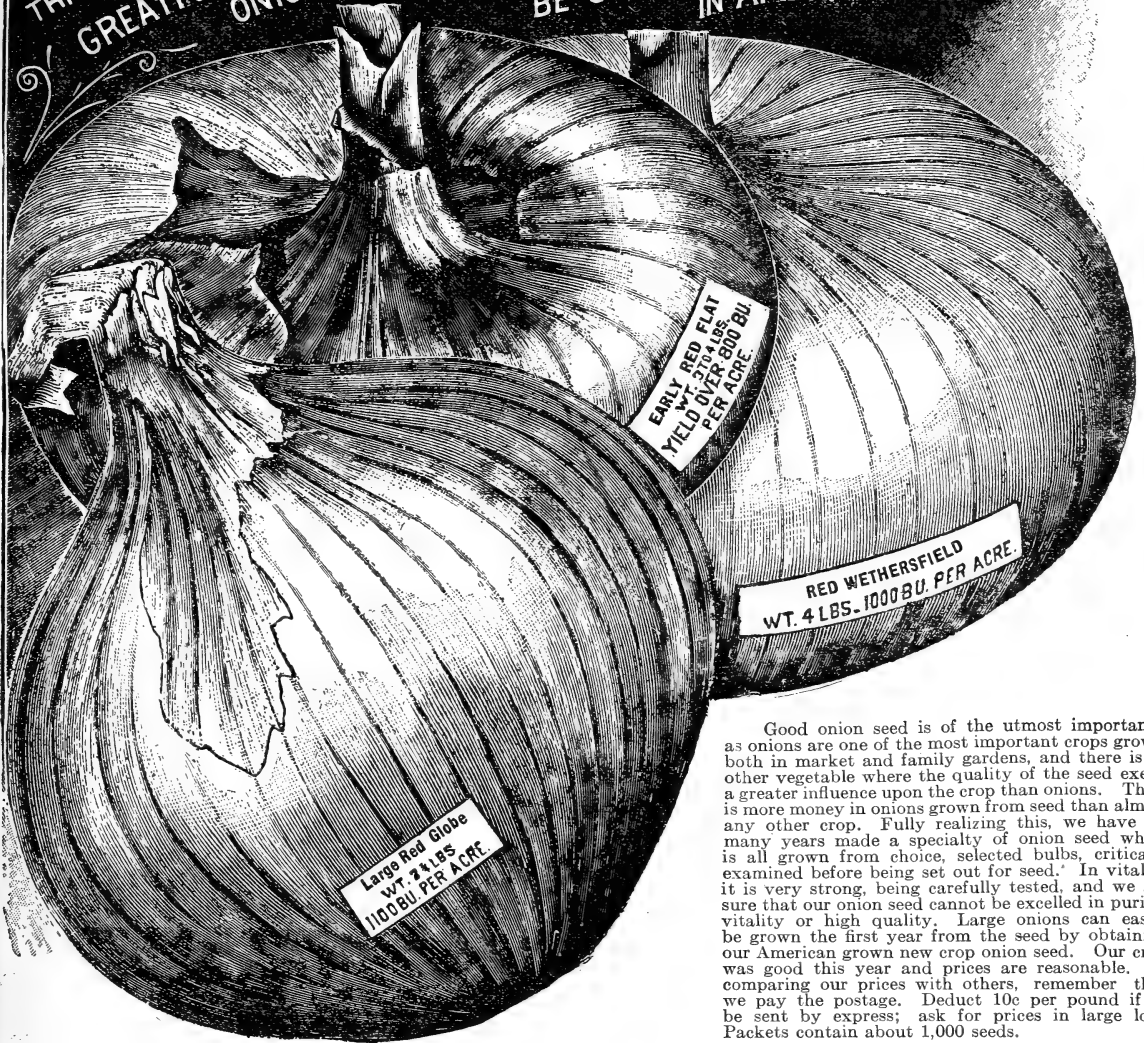


Apple Pie Melon

Don't fail to include in your order several varieties of our melon seed. There's lots of money in growing melons for the market.

CHOICE ONION SEED.

THREE GREATEST ONIONS THAT CAN BE GROWN IN AMERICA.



Good onion seed is of the utmost importance, as onions are one of the most important crops grown, both in market and family gardens, and there is no other vegetable where the quality of the seed exerts a greater influence upon the crop than onions. There is more money in onions grown from seed than almost any other crop. Fully realizing this, we have for many years made a specialty of onion seed which is all grown from choice, selected bulbs, critically examined before being set out for seed. In vitality it is very strong, being carefully tested, and we are sure that our onion seed cannot be excelled in purity, vitality or high quality. Large onions can easily be grown the first year from the seed by obtaining our American grown new crop onion seed. Our crop was good this year and prices are reasonable. In comparing our prices with others, remember that we pay the postage. Deduct 10c per pound if to be sent by express; ask for prices in large lots. Packets contain about 1,000 seeds.

CULTURE.

One ounce will sow about 1,000 feet of drill; four pounds will sow one acre. The soil for onions should be a rich loam, thoroughly enriched with well rotted manure and pulverized before sowing the seed. It should be as free from weeds and grass as possible. As early as the ground can be worked in the spring, sow the seed in drills fourteen inches apart, covering one-half inch. Commence hoeing as soon as the rows can be seen; skim the ground over the surface; avoid stirring deeply, and work the soil away from the bulbs. At second hoeing weed carefully and thoroughly by hand. When the tops die, pull and spread evenly over the ground; stir or turn until thoroughly dried, then cut the tops one-half inch from the bulb. For pickles or sets the seed should be sown very thickly, about fifty pounds to the acre for sets, and fifteen to twenty pounds for pickling.

White Portugal Very desirable for family use. Flavor mild and pleasant; skin silver-white; of handsome appearance, highly esteemed for pickling when young; also for market in the early winter. This is the variety from which white onion sets are grown. You will make no mistake by planting this excellent sort. It will please you immensely for any purpose. Buy your seeds from first hands. Selected stock seed of our own growth. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; 1/4 lb., 65c; lb., \$1.75; 4 lbs., not prepaid, \$6.00.

Yellow Globe Danvers A very handsome, round or globe shape variety of large size, with thin, yellow skin, white flesh, fine grained, mild, very firm and the best of keepers. It ripens early, sells readily at the highest prices in our markets. This is one of the best cropping varieties in existence, has yielded 1,000 bushels per acre, and one of our customers states that his crop averaged over 800 bushels per acre for nine years. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; 1/4 lb., 75c; lb., 90c; 4 lbs., not prepaid, \$3.00.

Large White Globe The handsomest market variety in existence, making beautiful, clean, pure silvery white bulbs of large, even size, globe shape, mild and pleasant flavor, and outsells every other variety. It is comparatively a good keeper and undoubtedly the best white sort. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; 1/4 lb., 60c; lb., \$2.00; 4 lbs., not prepaid, \$7.00.

Ratekin's Red Globe This early strain of the well known Southport or large "Red Globe" onion is a most valuable improvement. The handsome shape, color and keeping qualities of this onion make it one of the very best varieties, which are always in demand toward spring. Price: Pkt., 10c; oz., 20c; 1/4 lb., 60c; lb., \$1.75; 4 lbs., not prepaid, \$6.00.

Mammoth Prize-Taker This is the large, beautiful Spanish variety, sold in the fruit stores and markets of all large cities. Enormous size, fourteen to sixteen inches in circumference. Although of such great size, it is very hard and a good winter keeper. Outside skin is rich yellow, while the flesh is white, sweet and tender. They bottom well, are free from stiff-necks, and have produced more bushels of marketable onions to the acre than any other variety in America. In market they attract attention, sell readily at advanced prices. True American grown seed. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; 1/4 lb., 45c; lb., \$1.60.

ONIONS--Continued.

Mammoth Silver King Attractive form, flattened but thick through. Single bulbs often attain weights of from two and a half pounds to four pounds each. The skin and flesh are white and of a particularly mild and pleasant flavor, matures early and is of uniformly large size and perfect form, and will bring a large price in market. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 65c; lb., \$2.00.

Australian Brown Onion Extra early, long keeping; the most valuable variety introduced in a generation. The Australian Brown Onion is of medium size, wonderfully hard and solid, and most attractive for market, both as to form and appearance. They are extremely early in ripening and never make stiff-necks or scullions. Every seed seems to produce a good sized onion, and the bulb begins to form very quickly — when the plant is not over three inches high. The coming onion. Planted at the same time as Red Wethersfield, it proved to be nearly four weeks earlier and ripened off more uniformly. From its firmness and hardness, it will keep in good condition longer than any other onion known. The color of the skin is a clear amber-brown. So widely contrasted from any other onion is this color that it will be noticed on market, and when once bought purchasers will most likely call again for those "beautiful brown onions." Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 35c; lb., \$1.00; 5 lb., \$4.50.

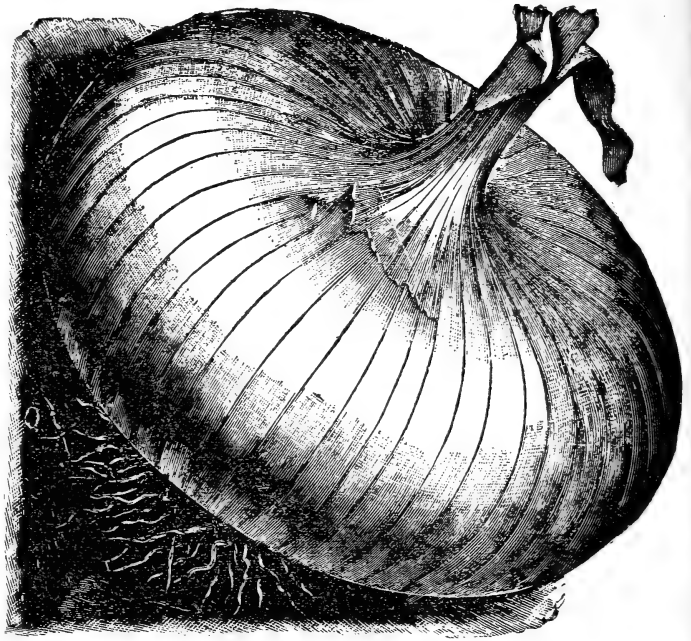
Good Onion Seed Good onion seed is a blessing, but cheap onion seed is an abomination. The country is every year flooded with impure or ancient seed that is offered at a low price, but such seed is in reality a high-priced, wholly unsatisfactory article. We are sure that first-class onion seed of the crop of 1906 cannot be purchased at lower prices than those quoted in this catalogue, and confident that no onion grower in America can really do better than to send direct to headquarters, Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa.

For 25 Cents One packet each of the following big onions: Mammoth Prize-Taker, Large White Globe, Ratekin's Red Globe, Mammoth Silverskin, Red Wethersfield, White Portugal. tion in your order — you will not regret it.

New White Queen Small; noted for extreme earliness and mildness of flavor; much used for pickling. Price: Large pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 50c; lb. \$1.80.

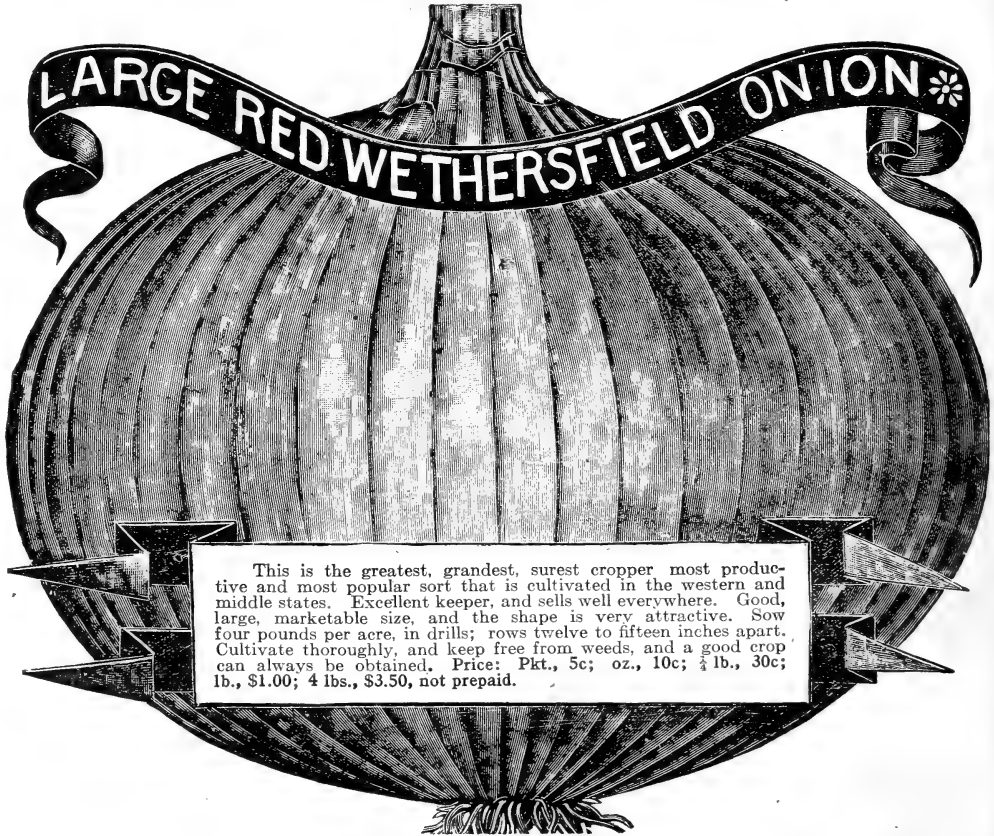
Extra Early Barletta This is a new, distinct variety; the very earliest onion in cultivation. It is fully two weeks earlier than the Early White Queen, which heretofore has been the earliest variety on the market. They are pure paper white color, very mild and delicate in flavor, one and one-half inches in diameter and three-fourths of an inch in thickness. For table use and pickling it is most valuable. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 65c; lb., \$2.00.

Special Prices As prices on onions are subject to change during the season, we request people desiring to purchase in large quantity to write for SPECIAL QUOTATIONS.



Mammoth Silver King.

Each packet of onion seed will contain about $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce. Include this collection in your order — you will not regret it.



This is the greatest, grandest, surest cropper most productive and most popular sort that is cultivated in the western and middle states. Excellent keeper, and sells well everywhere. Good, large, marketable size, and the shape is very attractive. Sow four pounds per acre, in drills; rows twelve to fifteen inches apart. Cultivate thoroughly, and keep free from weeds, and a good crop can always be obtained. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 30c; lb., \$1.00; 4 lbs., \$3.50, not prepaid.

Cheap Onion Seed is Expensive Even as a Gift.

The country is flooded with it, but we are satisfied that good, fresh seed, crop of 1906, cannot be purchased at lower prices than quoted in this book. The figures given herewith are the lowest prices we will likely be able to quote for many years to come. Bear in mind, good, sound, plump seed has always been one of our greatest specialties, and that more than 10,000 onion growers look to us annually for their supply of seed.

PARSNIP.

One ounce will sow 200 feet of drill five pounds to an acre.

Sow early in spring in good rich soil, which has been plowed deep, in drills fifteen inches apart, covering half an inch. Thin to five or six inches apart in rows. They are improved by frost.

Long Sugar or Hollow Crown

The old standard. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 20c; lb., 40c.

Improved or Table Guernsey

A greatly improved and wonderfully fine strain of the Guernsey

Hollow Crown Parsnip. The roots do not grow as long as the Hollow Crown, but are of greater diameter and more easily gathered. A very heavy cropper; the roots are smooth, with a deep hollow crown and a small top. The flesh is fine grained and sweet and of excellent quality; cooks evenly all the way through to the center, which is as fine, soft, and even quality as outside portions. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 25c; lb., 65c.

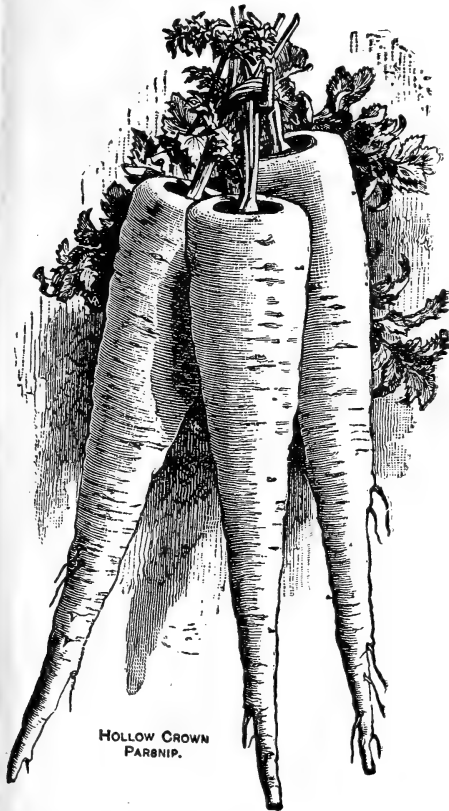
PARSLEY.

One Ounce Will Sow 150 Feet of Drill.

Sow in March, thinly in drills one foot apart and half an inch deep. Soak seed in warm water a few hours before sowing. For winter use protect in a glass frame or light cellar. Very useful for flavoring soups and stews and for garnishing. The green leaves are used for flavoring, or they may be dried crisp, rubbed to a powder and kept in bottles until needed.



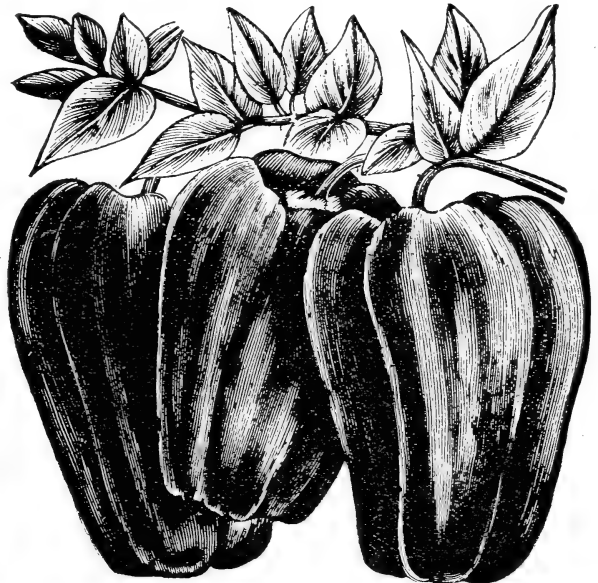
MOSS CURLED PARSLEY.



HOLLOW CROWN PARSNIP.

Moss Curled A very select stock, most beautifully crimped and curled. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 25c; lb., 80c.

Hamburg A turnip-rooted variety, used for flavoring soups, etc. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 20c; lb., 65c.



LARGE BELL OR BULL NOSE PEPPER

PEPPERS.

One ounce will produce about 1,800 plants.

The culture of Pepper is the same as for Egg Plant; the plants need quite as much heat to perfect them; though they mature sooner and may be sown a little later. Guano, hen dung, or any other bird manure, hoed into the surface soil when the plants are about six inches high, will wonderfully increase the product and also improve the quality of the fruit.

Sweet Mountain

Plants very productive, growing upright, with moderately large leaves. Fruit very large, long, often eight inches or more in length, by two in diameter, very smooth and handsome, being when unripe of a bright, deep green color, entirely free from any purple tinge, and when matured of a rich red. Flesh very thick, sweet and mild flavored. Well suited to use as a stuffed pickle. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 60c.

Large Bell or Bull Nose

Our stock of this well-known variety, which is sometimes called Sweet Mountain, is a great improvement on the best stock obtainable only a few years ago. Plant vigorous, compact, very productive, ripening its crop uniformly and early. It is one of the most popular and desirable sorts. Fruit large, cylindrical, with thick, mild flesh; quality for use in salads and pickles; color bright red when ripe. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 50c.



Mammoth Ruby King Monstrous, large productive sort of recent introduction. Desirable for Mangoes. Bright, glossy, ruby-red color, and largest known. A great, large, mild, sweet, attractive variety, and valuable acquisition. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 30c; 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 60c.

RED CAYENNE—Per pkt., 5c; oz., 25c; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 90c.

PEAS--NORTHERN GROWN.

Peas are extremely hardy and will endure a great deal of cold, either in or above ground. By sowing as early as the ground can be worked and making repeated plantings at intervals of two weeks, peas of excellent quality may be had far into the summer. Sow in drills two to three inches deep, and from three to four feet apart, narrow for the dwarf and wide for the tall-growing sorts. Dwarf-growing peas require rich soil and no support; tall-growing varieties should be trained to wire trellises or supported by brush. If the soil is rich they will run too much to stalks. Wrinkled peas marked (*) contain a greater amount of saccharine matter than the smooth sorts.

Crop of seed peas was very short the past season, as was the previous year, so none were held over, and prices are somewhat higher than they have been for several seasons. Our crop was fair and we have a liberal supply, so are able to offer them down low and of the best quality. All peas are put up in large two-ounce packets, sufficient for twelve to fifteen feet of drills. Prices quoted by the peck or bushel do not include delivery. For the convenience of purchasers, we are listing the different varieties in order as they mature, commencing with the earliest and ending with the latest varieties.

Alaska Height two feet, pods rather small, dark green color, well filled, the earliest pea known, being two days earlier than the Rural New Yorker, and seventy per cent of the pods can be gathered at the first picking. Price: Pkt., 5c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pt., 20c; qt., 50c. By express: $\frac{1}{2}$ pk., \$1.25; pk., \$2.25.

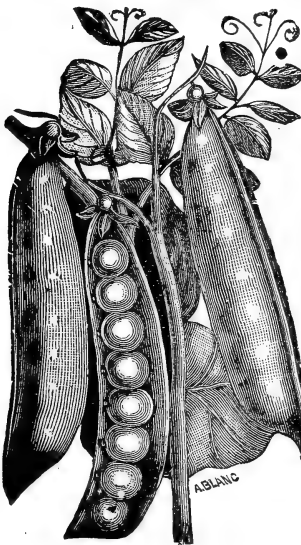
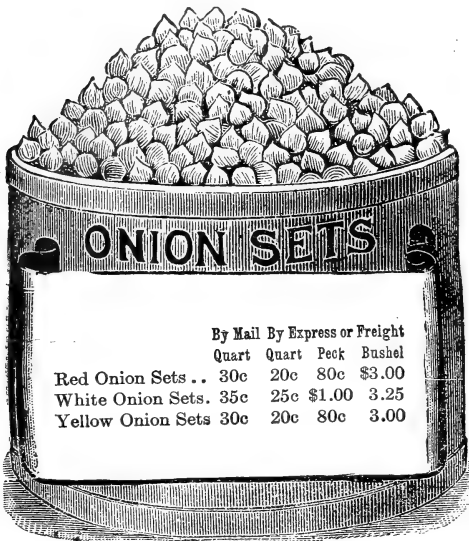
American Wonder The most popular extra-early variety for the family garden; being very sweet, it can not be planted quite so early as the above, as it will not stand as much cold, wet weather, but is far superior to the extra early smooth sorts in flavor and table qualities and is quite productive. Of dwarf and robust habit, growing about ten inches high, and produces a profusion of good sized, well filled pods, fairly packed with the finest flavored peas; on good soil each vine will average twelve pods and each pod six peas. The vines grow from eight to twelve inches high.

Price: Pkt., 5c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pt., \$1.25; pk., \$2.25.

First and Best A standard first early variety, popular with gardeners in all parts of the country. This variety is perhaps more largely grown by market gardeners for first early than any other. Crop is very short this year. Price: Pkt., 5c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pt., 12c; qt., 40c. By express: $\frac{1}{2}$ pk., 90c; pk., \$1.65.

***Premium Gem** Height 1 foot; early and prolific; a type of and an improvement on the McLean's Little Gem; pods long and of dark green color. The most popular sort for family use. Price: Pkt., 5c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pt., 15c; qt., 45c. By express: $\frac{1}{2}$ pk., \$1.10; pk., \$2.00.

Iowa Challenge Pea An extra early variety of superior merit which is a favorite with Shenandoah market gardeners. We can, in confidence, say that after a trial of nearly all extra early varieties offered to the trade we have not found one possessing more merit—hence its name. For the market gardener it has no superior. It is not only extremely early and prolific, but it is of good flavor. All the good qualities of the Extra Early are most nearly brought to perfection in the Challenge. Vines eighteen inches. Price: Pkt., 5c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pt., 12c; qt., 40c. By express: $\frac{1}{2}$ pk., 90c; pk., \$1.50.

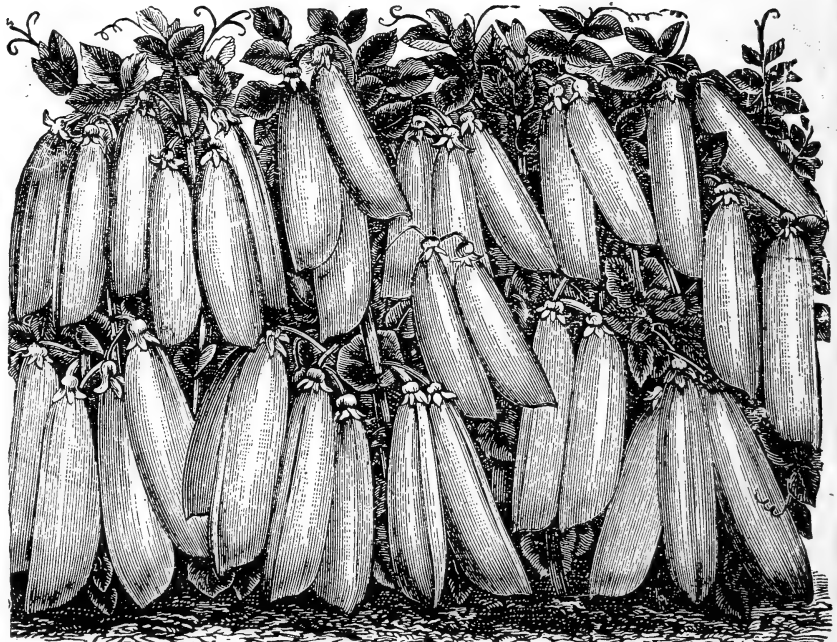


IOWA CHALLENGE PEAS

McLean's Little Gem An early dwarf, green, wrinkled variety, growing about fifteen inches high. When green it is very large, sweet and of delicious flavor. Price: Pkt., 5c; pt., 30c; qt., 50c.

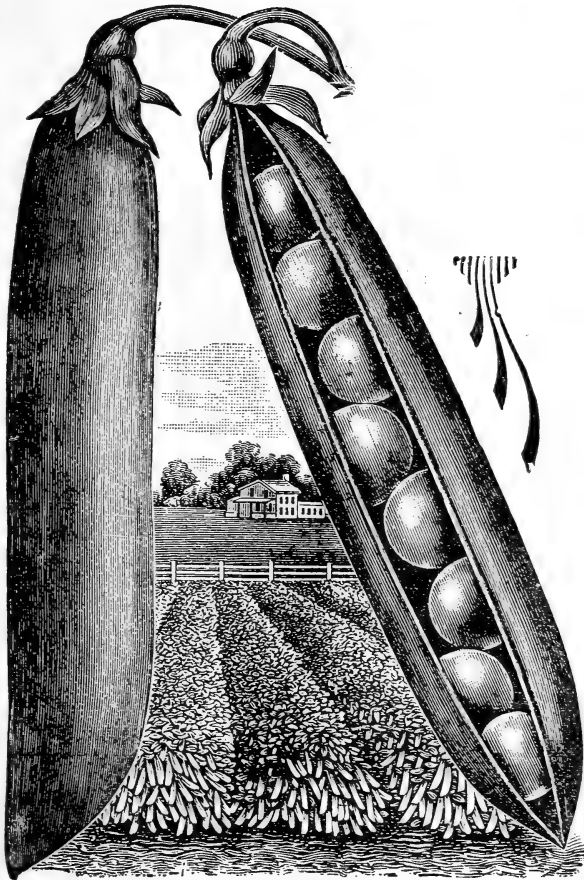
***Nott's Excelsior** A superb new variety, and we are sure our customers will welcome it as an ideal family and market pea. It is fully as sweet and delicious as the American Wonder, and grows one-half taller. Pods are larger and it is far more productive than the Premium Gem, and it is within a day or two as early as the first early smooth pea. The peas are ready for table use within forty-three days from planting. Quality very superior. Price: Pkt., 5c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pt., 15c; qt., 55c. By express: $\frac{1}{2}$ pk., \$1.25; pk., \$2.25.

***Everbearing** Height two feet; late to very late; hardy, vigorous, enormous cropper; pods and peas of large size and good quality. Price: Pkt., 5c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pt., 15c; qt., 45c. By express: $\frac{1}{2}$ pk., 75c; pk., \$1.25.



NOTT'S EXCELSIOR

PEAS==Continued.

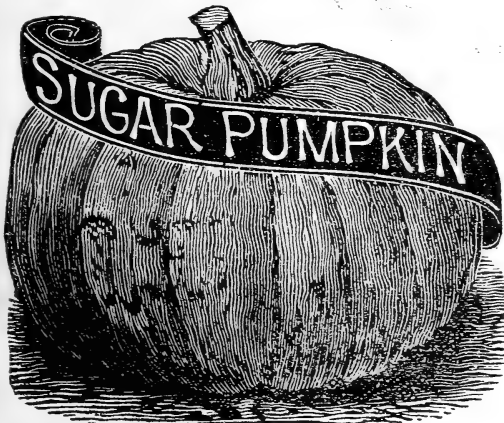


IMPROVED STRATEGEM

here is a chance for you. Think of growing peanuts in your own garden and having plenty of them to eat. Shell the nuts carefully, so as not to break inside skin, and plant as soon as the ground becomes warm, from two to three feet apart each way, four or five to the hill, covering two inches. The soil should be deep and mellow. They produce 25 to 70 bushels per acre and are as easily cultivated as corn. Price: Large package, 10c; lb., 40c. By express: 5 lbs., or more, 25c per lb.

Spanish A very early variety, but the pods are small. Price: Package, 10c; lb., 50c.

Sweet Peas While you are ordering peas for the vegetable garden, don't forget the beautiful Sweet Peas. We have something to say along this line that will certainly interest you.



PUMPKIN.

One Ounce Will Plant Twenty-five Hills. Four Pounds Will Plant One Acre.

Pumpkins are not so particular in regard to soil as melons or cucumbers, but in other respects are cultivated the same, though on a larger scale. They are generally raised between hills of corn, but may be planted with success in fields by themselves.

Pumpkins are sold in the markets in large quantities every fall and are considered a very profitable crop. They are also valuable for feeding to stock.

Include a few pounds in your order. Planted with corn, two pounds will plant one acre.

SWEET OR SUGAR Fruit small and round. A very prolific variety and superior for pies and table use. The skin is deep orange yellow; an excellent keeper. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

Improved Statagem Late variety for family or market use. Half-dwarf, vigorous, branching habit, and under favorable conditions an enormous cropper. Pods long and filled with seven to nine large peas of extra fine quality. Price: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 50c. By express: ½ pk., 85c; pk., \$1.50.

Champion of England One of the richest, best flavored peas grown. Price: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 40c. By express: ½ pk., 65c; pk., \$1.15.

***Bliss' Everbearing** Height two feet; late to very late. Hardy, enormous cropper; pods and peas of large size and good quality. Price: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; pt., 20c; qt., 35c; pk., \$1.50.

Yorkshire Hero (Big Gem.) Height one and one-half feet. Seeds large, yellowish green, wrinkled. Quality fine. Price: Large pkt., 5c; qt., 40c. By express or freight: qt., 25c; ½ pk., 75c; pk., \$1.25.

Tom Thumb This variety was introduced thirty years ago. Vine bushy, growing to a height of ten inches; foliage heavy; productive; matures in thirty-five days after sprouting. Price: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 40c.

Marrowfat Is grown largely by gardeners and also sown as a field pea for stock. Price: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 10c; qt., 35c. By express: ½ pk., 60c; pk., \$1.00.

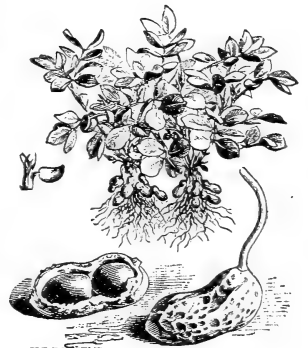
Field Peas See list of Miscellaneous Field Seeds.

PRICES AS GIVEN ARE POSTPAID. IF ORDERED BY FREIGHT OR EXPRESS, AT SENDER'S EXPENSE, DEDUCT 7c PER PINT, 15c PER QUART FROM PRICES GIVEN.

Improved Ground Pea or Peanut.

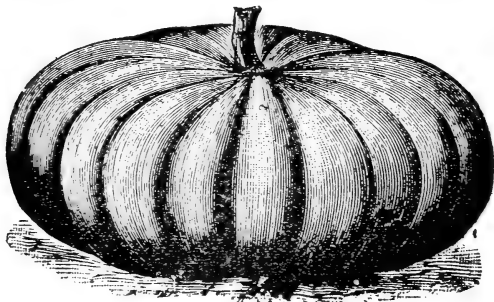
Peanuts can be grown in Iowa, and every one should plant a few for themselves and children.

Red Cross This very desirable variety is as early as the earliest, the most hardy, very prolific and of the best quality. Boys,



PUMPKIN==Continued.

Large Cheese--Kentucky Field.



LARGE CHEESE PUMPKIN.

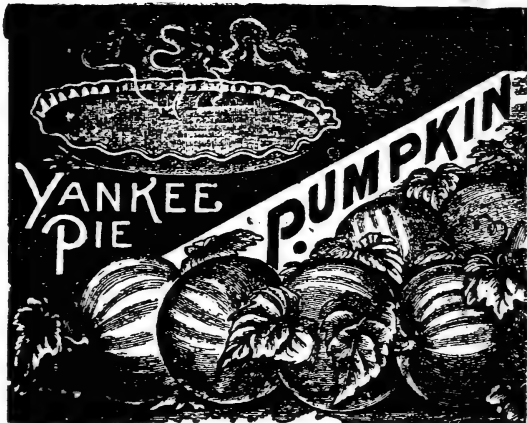
Large, round, flattened fruits with creamy buff skin. It is an excellent keeping variety, with thick flesh of exceptionally fine quality. Commonly called sweet pumpkin throughout the west. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 50c.

Mammoth Tours Also called "Mammoth Whale." Originated near Tours, France, where it is largely grown, both for feeding cattle and table use. Grows to an immense size, sometimes three feet in length, and to a weight of 100 to 200 lbs. Flesh of salmon color. Seed of a peculiar shape. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 30c; lb., \$1.00.

Yankee Pie This is the noted New England Pie or Small Sugar Pumpkin. Same shape and color as the "Connecticut Field," but smaller, very sweet, fine grained and one of the best varieties for table use. We have sold this to thousands of customers in all parts of the country and it pleases everyone for making pies. Early and very productive. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

Connecticut Field The common field or cow pumpkin. If you have any live stock to feed, it will pay you to put in a few acres of these. Price: oz., 5c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 10c; lb., by mail, 35c. By express or freight: 10 lbs., \$1.75; bu., of 25 lbs., \$3.00.

WE WANT EVERY ONE OF OUR FARMER FRIENDS, AND THAT MEANS ALL WHO RECEIVE THIS BOOK, TO PLANT SOME OF OUR PUMPKINS THIS YEAR.



RADISHES.

Ratekin's Radish



One ounce for 100 feet of drill; eight to ten pounds for an acre.

Radish seed should be sown in light, rich soil as early as the ground can be worked, and for a succession, at intervals of two weeks until midsummer. Radishes must be grown quickly and have plenty of room or they will invariably be tough and pithy. Sow in drills one foot apart and thin to two or three inches apart as soon as the rough leaves appear. Most of our radish seed was grown for us in France, "the natural home of radishes," and we think it cannot be surpassed.

Early Scarlet Turnip One of the handsomest of the turnip radishes and a great favorite in many large markets, for early satisfaction where extreme earliness is not the primary object. Roots slightly flattened on the under side; color very deep scarlet with a white tip; flesh white and of the best quality. Price: Pkt., 5c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 15c; lb., 50c.

Early Long Scarlet Short Top An old standard variety of quick growth, with long, slender roots. Radishes are ready for market about twenty-five or thirty days after planting seed; flesh crisp and mild. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

Rosy Gem An improvement on the "Scarlet Turnip, White Tip." Their shape is perfectly globular, with rich, deep scarlet top, blending into pure white at the bottom, exceedingly tender, crisp, delicious, equally desirable for either the market or home garden. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

White Strasburg Of handsome, oblong, tapering shape, both skin and flesh are pure white. The flesh is firm, brittle and tender, and possesses the most desirable character of retaining crispness even when old and large. Excellent for summer use, and withstands severe heat and grows very quickly. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

Radishes==Continued.



FRENCH BREAKFAST RADISH.

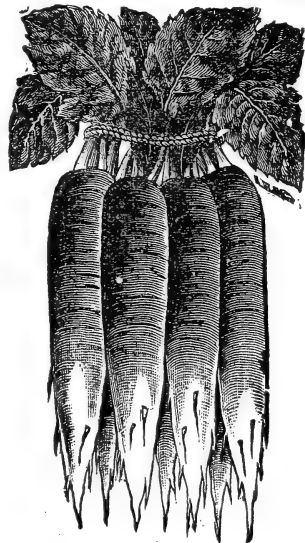
Early Frame Smaller and about ten days earlier than "Long Scarlet," which it very much resembles. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 50c.

French Breakfast A small, handsome variety of very quick growth; one-half inch in diameter and two inches long. Color bright carmine with clear white in lower portion. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

Non Plus Ultra An improvement on the "Deep Scarlet Turnip." Remarkably fine in quality, of very quick growth, and ready to pull within twenty days after sowing. Perfectly globular little roots of very bright color and excellent shape; certain to insure ready sale on the market. It is one of the best strains of early radishes for forcing. Beds are planted, the crop matured and sold and the bed made ready for a second planting, all in thirty days. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

Improved Chartier.

Is decidedly distinct in appearance from any radish in cultivation. Its form is well defined by our engraving, the color at the top being crimson running into pink about the middle, and from thence downward is a pure, waxy white. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.



IMPROVED CHARTIER

Icicle A new early white radish. This magnificent novelty received its name from the almost transparent whiteness of the root. Although a long radish of good size, it vies in earliness with the first forcing sorts. It will produce a radish three and one-half to four inches long in twenty-two days from sowing the seed. The leaves are short, admitting of close planting in the hot-beds. The flesh is very white, crisp and brittle as glass, and of fine mild flavor. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c; lb., 85c.

White Lady Finger An improvement on "White Naples," or "Vienna." Large, white, crisp variety, about as long as "Long Scarlet," and similar in shape. A very desirable sort. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

Scarlet Turnip, White Tip Handsome bright scarlet, white tip. Many gardeners make sowing of it every two weeks during summer, its fine appearance attracts customers; quality always pleases. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

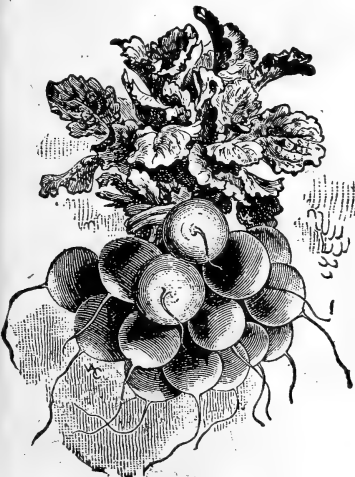
WINTER RADISHES.

Black Spanish A late and hardy variety of large size. Skin a very dark brown or black. Keeps well during the winter. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

Rose China Winter Of excellent quality, and a good keeper. Skin a bright rose color, flesh very crisp and brittle. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 65c.

Ratekin's Radish Mixture A superb mixture of all kinds of radishes, early, medium, fall, winter, Chinese, etc. Sow a row of it and it will furnish you delicious radishes throughout the year. The early and medium ones, as they mature and are pulled, make room for the larger growth of the fall and winter varieties. This mixture is made up of twelve best varieties, and with it is necessary to make but one sowing for the entire year. You will be surprised and delighted with our popular radish mixture. Price: Pkt., 10c; oz., 15c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 30c; lb., \$1.00.

Long White A late and hardy variety of large size. Skin a very dark brown or black. Keeps well during the winter. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 70c.



Scarlet Turnip White Tipped.

Rush County, Missouri, Sept. 15.
Gentlemen: In regard to the Iowa Silver Mine Seed Corn I purchased from you, will say I am well pleased with it, and regardless of the unfavorable season we have had, my corn planted from your seed will make five bushels more per acre than native corn.

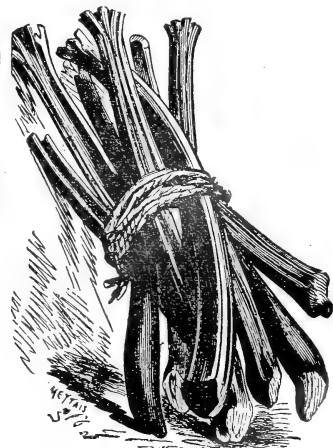
Very truly,
S. P. HUDSON.

RADISHES.

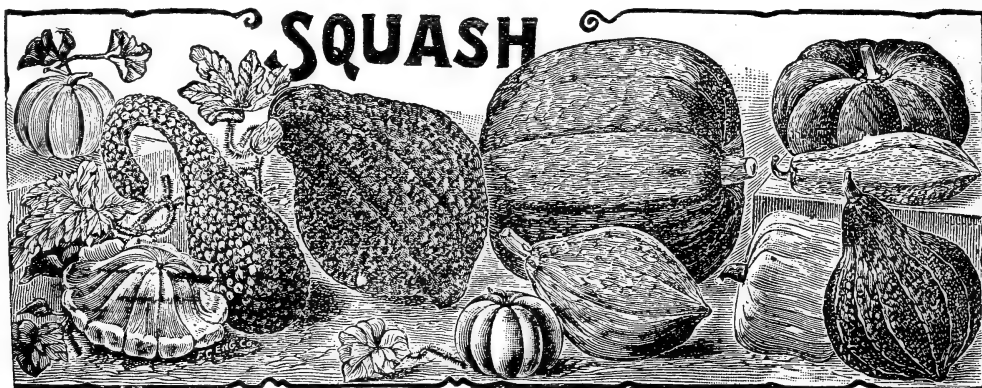
OUR LIST CONTAINS ALL THE VERY BEST RADISHES IN CULTIVATION, AND PRICES ARE BY MAIL, POSTPAID. ALL OF OUR RADISH SEED IS THE BEST FRENCH GROWN AND CAN BE RELIED UPON AS BEING THE BEST IN THE MARKET.

New Ideal Mammoth Rhubarb.

The rhubarb (or pie plant) is a vegetable which it is difficult to improve and it takes many years to fully establish a new variety. About 25 years ago Dr. Kennicott, of Illinois, in growing roots from seed, found one which was so far superior to, and different from, all others, that he saved it carefully, and the root has been divided and propagated from year to year until finally we purchased the stock. Like all other highly improved sorts it seeds sparingly and comes more nearly true to name when grown from seed than most other sorts. The stalks are as large, if not larger, than the Victoria, and are produced in much greater abundance. Price: Pkt., 10c; oz., 25c. Strong roots: 20c each; doz., \$2.00.



RHUBARB.

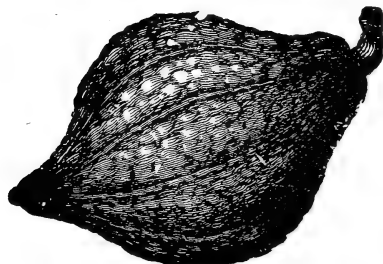


SQUASHES.

The squash is one of the most nutritious and valuable of all our garden vegetables. Few farmers appreciate the value of winter squash as food for stock. We think an acre of squash costing no more to cultivate, and much less to secure, will give as much food available for feeding stock as an acre of corn, and we strongly urge our readers to try a "patch" for this purpose. One ounce early varieties will plant about forty hills; one ounce late varieties will plant about twenty hills; 3 to 4 lbs. to the acre.

Early Bush Crookneck Splendid summer sort early, productive, very fine quality. With all the new varieties recently brought out, many claim that there is no summer squash superior to this Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; 1-4 lb. 20c; 1 lb. 65c.

White Bush Scalloped Similar to the Golden Bush; color creamy white; an excellent variety for the family garden for early use. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; 1/4 lb., 25c; lb., 75c.



WARTY HUBBARD

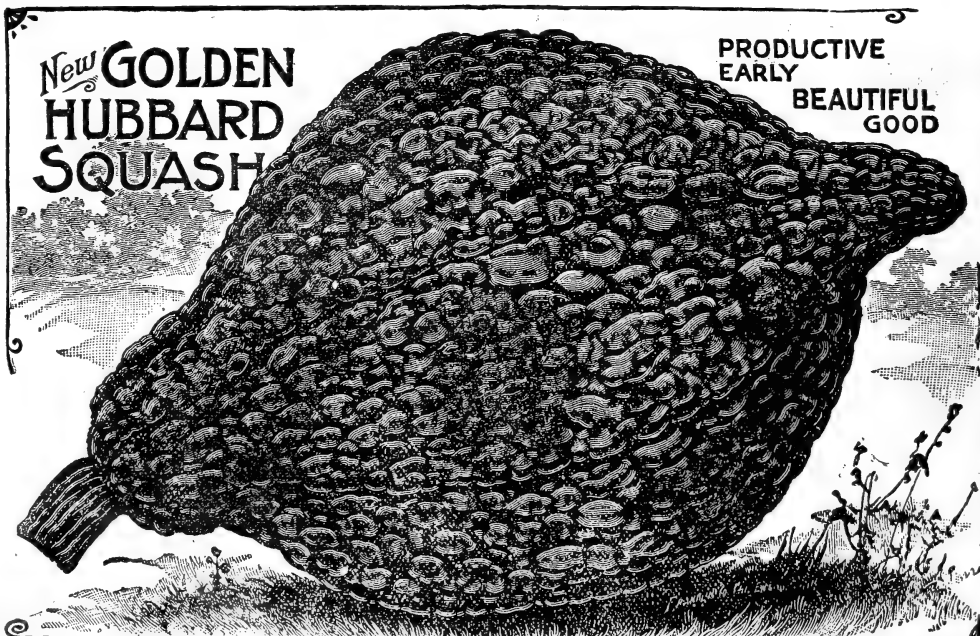
True Hubbard This old variety has for years stood the test of all rivals, and is the most popular winter squash grown; hard, green shell; flesh bright orange yellow, fine grained, very dry, sweet and of rich flavor; keeps in perfect condition throughout the winter. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; 1/4 lb., 35c; lb., \$1.25.

Warty Hubbard A new strain of the Hubbard. The wartiness indicates a very hard shell, which is one of the best features of a long-keeping squash. It also denotes extra choice quality—the harder and more warty the shell of a Hubbard, the more delicate and sweet the flesh. The flesh, however, is not so thick as the above. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; 1/4 lb., 25c; lb., 90c.

Blue Hubbard or Marblehead A splendid winter variety. Shell very hard, light blue color; flesh similar to the Hubbard in quality; Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; 1-4 lb., 35c; lb., \$1.00.

New Golden Hubbard Squash
Productive, Early, Beautiful, Good

This is a True Hubbard Squash, except in color, which is bright golden. The vine is a vigorous but not rampant grower and wonderfully productive, expending the energy derived from liberal fertilizing in the production of an increased number rather than of overgrown and coarse fruits, as some varieties are apt to do. It ripens its crop very early and uniformly, thus making it a certain cropper. The fruits are very uniform in size, weighing from six to eight pounds, and in shape are like the Hubbard. Though maturing early they are wonderfully long keepers, so they can be held over in good condition for spring use. The shell is warty, hard and strong and a very beautiful orange red color, except for a bit of olive green on the blossom end.



The flesh is a deep orange and uniformly so to the rind, never having the green tinge so objectionable in other sorts. It cooks very dry, fine grained and good flavored. We believe this is the best fall and winter sort yet introduced, and that it deserves to and will become a most popular variety. It certainly has no superior as a table squash. Send to RATEKIN'S for the Best Seed. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; 1/4 lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

There is no vegetable you will appreciate more than our early squashes. Try them.

Salsify—Vegetable Oyster.

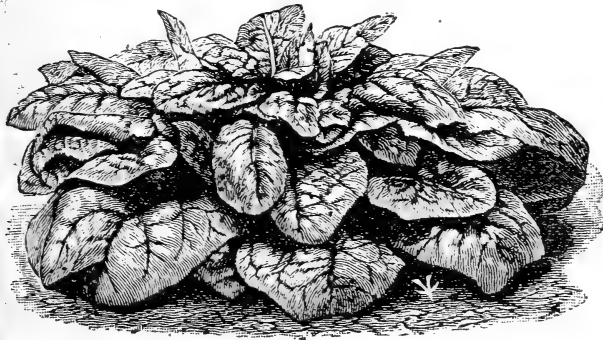
One ounce will sow about fifty feet of drill center.

Why don't you grow salsify? We are certain that if you grow it one year you will never be without it. Salsify is one of the most delicious and nutritious of vegetables and should be more generally cultivated for use in winter when the supply of really good vegetable is so limited. The soup and salad made therefrom have a delicious oyster flavor. Treat as carrots, grow rapidly. No vegetables excels this for soups, that is, if you are fond of the oyster flavor, and makes a delicious and inexpensive substitute for them in soup. Cultivate like parsnips.

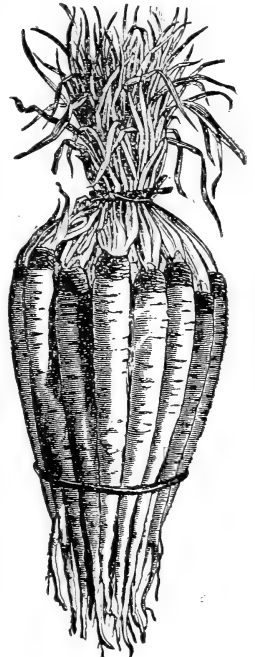
Mammoth Sandwich Island.

Average fully double the size of the "Long White." The roots, notwithstanding their enormous size are of superior quality. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 30c; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 90c.

Long Standing An improved, round seeded strain of excellent merit, having all the good qualities of other sorts and continuing in condition for use much longer. The leaves are smooth and very dark, rich green. Very popular with market gardeners. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 15c; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 25c; lb., 40c.



LONG STANDING



SALSIFY

SPINACH

One ounce will sow about eighty ft. of drill; 10 lbs. to the acre.

The finest greens of any plant in cultivation. For summer, sow early in the spring, in deep, rich soil, in drills one foot apart; cover one inch. Sow at intervals of two weeks throughout the season. For very early spring use, sow the winter varieties first of September; protect by covering with straw. Price: Pkts. containing about 800 seeds, 5c; oz., 10c.

TOMATOES.

One Ounce for 1,500 Plants.



Tomatoes do best in a light, warm, not over rich soil, sowing into hotbeds during March. When the plants are about two inches high, transplant in boxes three inches deep and four or five inches apart. Set out of doors as soon as danger from severe frost is over. The fruit will come easier if the vines are tied to a trellis.

Ratekin's Earliest Tomato Unquestionably the earliest of all. If you sow "Ratekin's Earliest," you will have, with favorable weather, fine tomatoes in ninety days from sowing the seed. It is an excellent shipper, being exempt from rot or cracking, ripens all over at once, and is a wonderfully smooth tomato—none smoother. Price: Pkt., 10c; oz., 25c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 75c; lb., \$2.50.

Favorite Medium-size fruit of rich, dark red color. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 50c; lb., \$1.65.

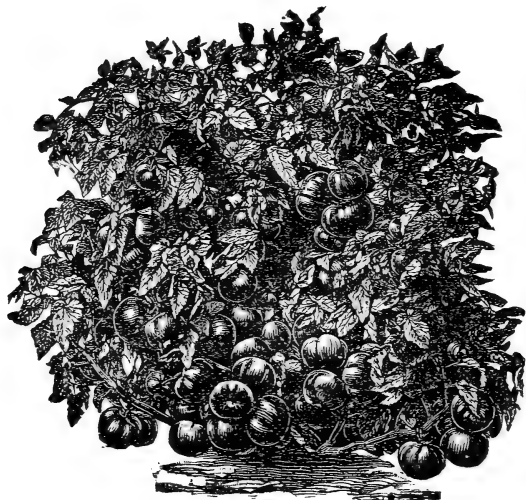
Acme A popular early variety, with smooth, round, purple fruits of medium size. Ripen a large number early in the season; fruits are rather soft and liable to crack. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 60c; lb., \$1.75.

Improved Trophy First of modern improved kinds. Our "Improved Trophy," is a sort whose vigorous and productive, large, solid, smooth, fine-flavored, beautiful fruit will satisfy the most exacting. Much liked for canning as well as fresh. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 65c; lb., \$2.00.

Sparks' Earliana The Earliest Large Tomato in the World. Probably no early tomato introduced in many years has attracted so much attention, and has so large a sale as Sparks' Earliana. Early tomatoes are invariably small in size. This valuable new variety, originated by George C. Sparks, of New Jersey, is not only extremely early, but is remarkable for its large sizes, handsome shape and beautiful bright red color. Its solidity and fine qualities are fully equal to many of the best late sorts. Extra early tomatoes are one of the most profitable crops for the market gardener. You will make no mistake by planting Sparks' Earliana. Price: Pkt., 10c; $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., 30c; oz., 50c.

Ponderosa This is the largest-fruited tomato and of fine quality for slicing. Vines are of strong, rather open growth; fruit oblong in form, deep through, and generally ribbed; deep purple in color. Solidly fleshy, with small seed cells; of sweet flavor. In good soil fruits frequently attain a weight of one pound and over; late to ripen. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 40c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., \$1.25; lb., \$4.00.

TOMATOES—Continued



DWARF CHAMPION TOMATO

Dwarf Champion Its habits of growth are peculiar, for not only is it dwarf and compact, but the stem being thick, stiff and short-jointed, it is almost self supporting when laden with fruit. In productiveness it is unsurpassed. It is also very early; the fruit is of a purplish pink color, always smooth and symmetrical and the flesh solid and of fine quality. Can almost be called a tree tomato. The best variety to grow for plants for sale, as they are so stocky. Seed is very scarce this year. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 75c; lb., \$2.50.

Ratekin's Beauty Tomato

Its size, beauty, shape, color, flavor, durability and productiveness, make it desirable to all classes of tomato growers; glossy crimson with slight tinge of purple. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 25c; 1-4 lb., 75c; lb., \$2.25.

Golden Queen

The superior flavor of the yellow varieties is bringing them into favor as table fruit, and those who think of a yellow tomato as the rough fruit of the old yellow sorts will be surprised at this smooth, beautiful fruit, as smooth as the best of red varieties, and of a fine and distinct flavor. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 75c; lb., \$2.50.

Perfection

Solid flesh, always smooth, and of blood-red color. This is a general favorite, equally desirable for the home garden, for shipping and for canning. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., \$1.75.

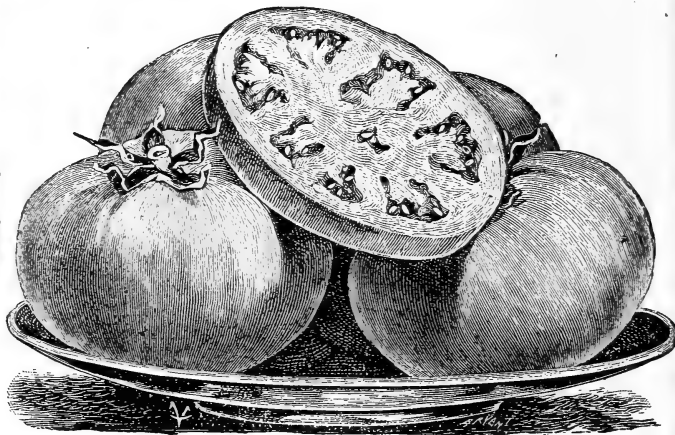
Mixed Tomatoes

For the advantage of some of our customers who would like to try all kinds, we have prepared this mixture of the varieties named and several others which we think will please all. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 30c; ¼ lb., 85c.

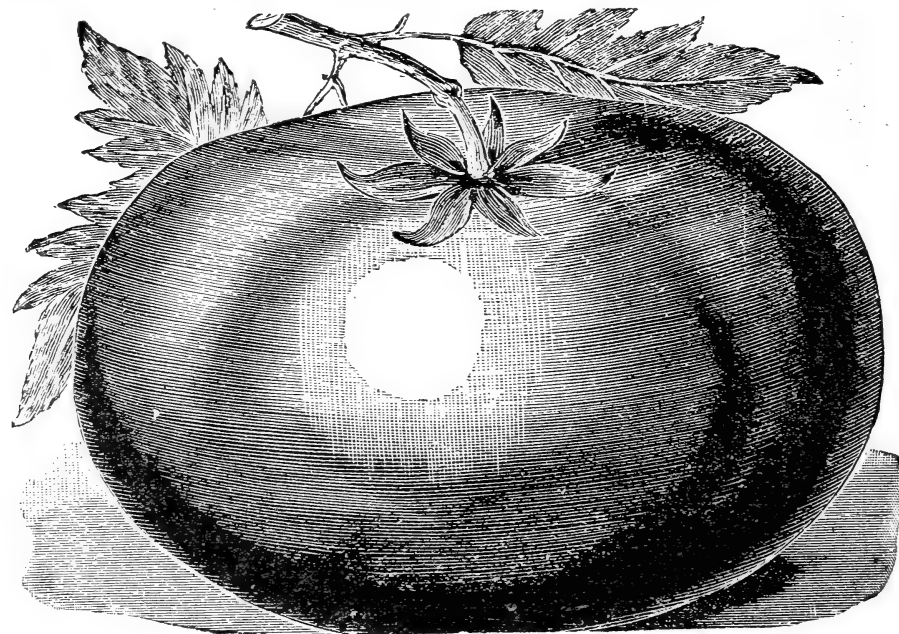
Matchless

Well worthy of its name, for in beauty of color and symmetry of form it is indeed without a peer. The vines are of strong, vigorous growth, well set with fruit; are entirely free from core, of the finest flavor, of a very rich cardinal red color and not liable to crack from wet weather; of largest size, and the size of the fruit is maintained throughout the season. Solid, a fine quality, and keeps well. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 75c; lb., \$2.50.

Extra Early Advance Unquestionably the earliest of all. If you sow "Advance" you will have, with favorable weather, fine tomatoes in ninety days from sowing the seed. It is an excellent shipper, being exempt from rot or cracking, ripens all over at once and is a wonderfully smooth tomato; none smoother. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., \$1.65.



EARLY ADVANCE TOMATO



RATEKIN'S BEAUTY TOMATO.

Yellow Plum or Pear

For pickling and preserves. Fruit uniformly oval, lemon colored and smooth skinned. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 75c; lb., \$2.25.

For 25 Cents

We will send postpaid seven packets of any variety of our tomatoes you may select. Value 40 cents for 25 cents.

Harrison County, Iowa, Sept. 12.

Dear Sirs: I purchased both; Pride of Nishna and Iowa Silver Mine Seed Corn from you last spring; planted between showers from May 8th to 23d; gave good cultivation, and yield promises 60 bushels per acre, and is safely out of the way of frost now.

Very truly,
C. W. HUFF.

TOMATOES— Continued.



New Stone This is the heaviest and most solid fruited of the large tomatoes of good quality. Our stock is distinctly superior to most of that offered under this name, being more uniform, better colored and larger. Vines vigorous and productive. Fruit round, apple shaped, very large, very deep red in color and astonishingly heavy. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 65c; lb., \$2.25.

For 25 Cents

we will send postpaid seven packets of any variety of our tomatoes you may select. Value 40 cents for 25 cents.

Increase Your Corn Crop.

Every farmer who strives to increase his corn crop has two ways to do it. He can increase the yield per acre or plant more acres. The farmer who wants more corn will do well to study the latter method before he decides on the latter. Good Seed, and Change of Seed, is the first essential to a larger yield of better corn; therefore, plant Ratekin's Improved varieties and add 20 to 50 per cent to your corn crop. Read what we to say about corn further on.

TURNIPS

Extra Early Purple Top Milan

One of the earliest sorts in cultivation. The bulb is very flat, of medium size, quite smooth, with a bright purple top. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

Early White Milan

Much like the above, but it is pure white all over, instead of having purple top. Quite popular with gardeners. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., \$1.00.

Golden Ball or Orange Jelly

A very beautiful and bright yellow turnip of medium size. It is hardy and one of the best of keepers. Flesh extremely firm and solid. Always brings a good price in the market. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

Early Snowball

A globe-shaped, white-skinned turnip, which is exceedingly productive, very early and particularly adapted for family or market use. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

Purple Top Strap-Leaved

The standard for this part of the country for late planting. Round, flat, good sized, small top, good flavor. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c; 5 lbs., or more, not prepaid, 35c, per lb.

Early White Flat Dutch

An early garden variety of excellent quality. Good size and tender. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c.

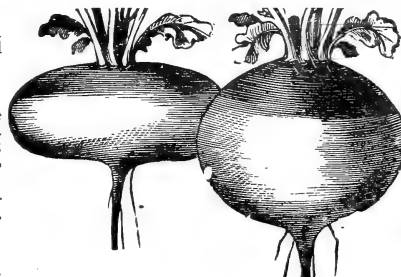
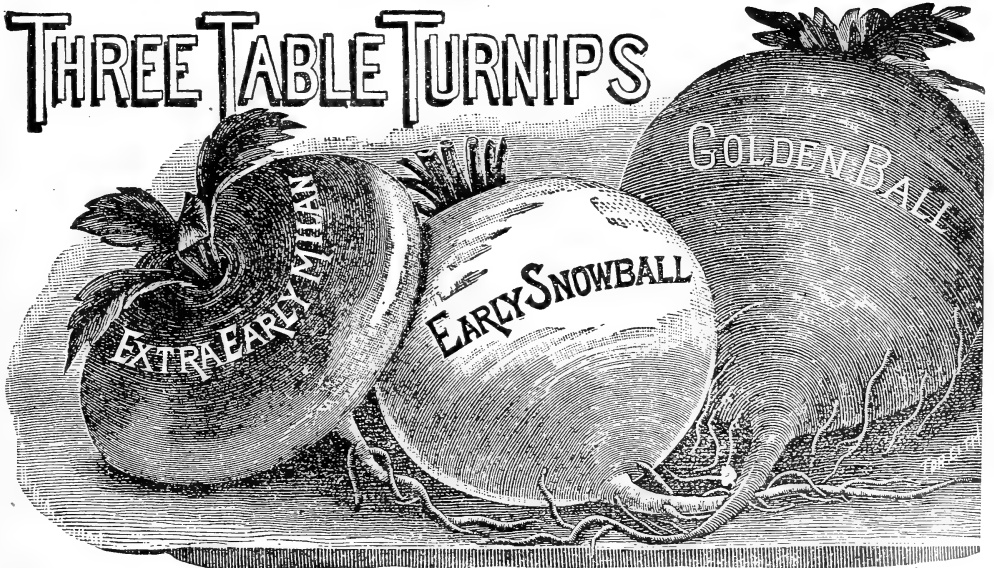
White Egg

A quick growing, egg-shaped, perfectly smooth, pure white variety with small top and leaves. The flesh is very sweet, firm and mild, never having the rank, strong taste of some of the early varieties. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 70c.

Mixed Turnips

All the table varieties of turnips mixed in equal proportions. A desirable mixture for family use. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

THREE TABLE TURNIPS



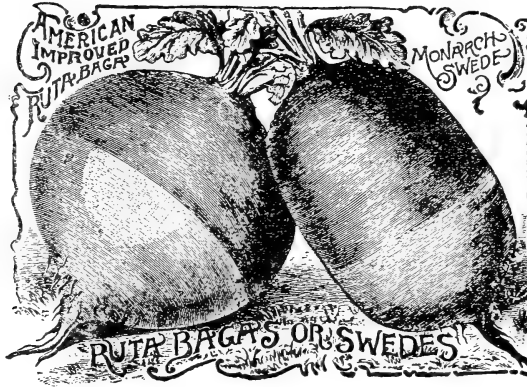
Purple Top Globe

Similar in shape, except in shape. The largest yielder of any turnip on the list; desirable for table use or stock. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c; 5 lbs., or more, not prepaid, 35c per lb.

PURPLE TOP GLOBE

We conscientiously believe our Seed Corn the BEST THAT CAN BE GROWN or produced by any one anywhere, and want every farmer who orders and buys seeds from us, it matters not what kind, to get as good or better returns and results than from seeds purchased elsewhere. We fully realize that we must satisfy the exacting demands of the intelligent and progressive farmers who now buy seeds, and we are in position to do it, if good reliable seeds is all they want; seeds that WILL GROW and give as good or better results as any seeds to be found in the world.

RUTABAGAS



Purple Top A large early sort of fine quality. Roots globe shaped, skin purplish red above ground and yellow below; flesh yellow, necks small. An excellent variety in every way. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 50c.

ROOTS

Horseradish Fine, large, thick roots may be grown in a single season by planting the young roots early in the spring in good, rich loose soil. Fresh plantings should be made from year to year as the old roots grow rough and prongs. Small roots by mail, doz., 25c; per 100, \$1.00.

RHUBARB

Culture Usually multiplied by division of roots. Plant four feet apart each way, in very rich soil. Can easily be grown from the seed which we herewith offer. Rhubarb is a gross feeder and will make good use of the strongest manure, either fresh or rotted. Pull as long as demand continues, which is usually one or two months. Cultivate well and top dress liberally twice a year, in early spring and at the end of pulling season. Plants are easily grown from seed and used for forcing during winter.

Victoria A good market sort. Stalks red. This is sometimes called "wine plant," and is very much superior to the common kinds of pie plant. Price: Pkt., 10c; oz., 25c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 75c.

HERBS

- ANISE** Used for garnishing and flavoring; the seeds have an agreeable aromatic taste. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c.
- DILL** Stems and seeds are used for flavoring and pickling with cucumbers. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c.
- SAGE** Much used for flavoring and dressing. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c.
- SUMMER SAVORY** For flavoring soups, etc., Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c.
- THYME** Used for seasoning soups, sausages, etc. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c.

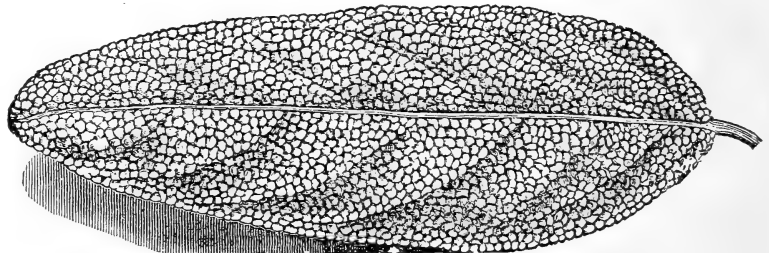
TOBACCO

It is not generally known that Tobacco can be successfully grown in the West. A year's supply of good smoking Tobacco can be easily produced on a small plot of ground. The seed should be sown on a finely prepared seed bed early in the spring, and when about six inches high the young plants set out two feet apart in rows three feet apart and cultivated frequently.

Connecticut Leaf Best adapted to the northern and middle states, as it is hardier and matures its crop earlier than other varieties. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 25c.

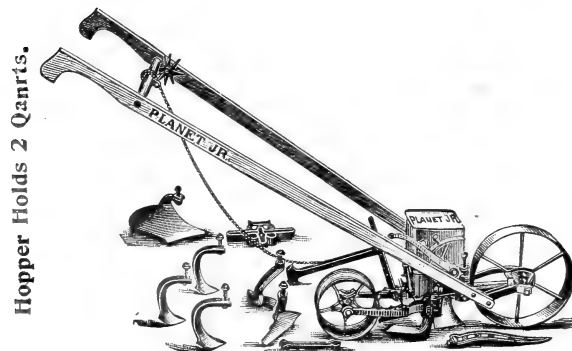
Choice Havana An Americanized strain of this popular Cuban variety. Fine texture and superior flavor. Largely used for making the famous Havana cigar. Price: Pkg., 5c; oz., 30c.

COMPLETE
"PLANET JUNIOR"
 Descriptive Catalogue
 SENT FREE



HOLT'S MAMMOTH SAGE.—(Average size leaf.)

"PLANET JR." No. 4 Combined
 Hill and Drill Seeder and
 Single Wheel Hoe.



Hopper Holds 2 Quarts.

If you have a vegetable garden you will find the "Planet Jr." No. 4 Combined Hill and Drill Seeder and Wheel Hoe Cultivator and Plow to be almost indispensable. In sowing it equals our best seeders; in cultivating it is the equal of our best wheel hoes. Drills or drops all garden seeds regularly, producing regular stand and even growth. Cultivates all vegetables between the rows, on each side of the row, throws dirt to or from the row, hills up, marks out, plows, levels, etc. Instantly changed from one to the other. This tool cannot be too highly recommended. Price: complete: \$9.50. As a Drill only, \$7.50.

"PLANET JR." No. 1 Combined Drill and Wheel Hoe.

Satisfactory in every way, both as a drill and as a cultivator. It has a complete set of cultivating tools and all its operations are rapid, easy, perfect and delightful. When used as a drill the seed is sown with great regularity and at uniform depth. Hopper holds one quart. From a drill it is changed to its other uses by unscrewing but two bolts, when any of the attachments shown in the cut can be quickly made ready for use. Price: \$8.50.

A Note for the Ladies

The best advertisement of Ratekin's Seeds has been the kind words spoken by admiring friends. We have over 65,000 customers on our books, most of whom were first induced to try Ratekin's seed, plants or bulbs through the recommendation of mutual acquaintances.

We naturally want this good work to keep right on, and every catalogue sent out this year to bring not only one order but two, if possible.

This Seed Annual is certainly one that we are proud of, and one which we are sure will interest every lover of beautiful flowers. When, visiting some friend or when a friend may be visiting you this winter or spring, if she is not already acquainted with Ratekin's seeds, plants, etc., won't you show them this Seed Annual, calling attention to the many liberal offers, such as: 25 cents extra in seeds for every dollar sent us for seed by packet or ounce. Special offers on different vegetable seeds. Also the many other offers all through our Seed Annual.

In connection with all named above we are going to give the following special premium free: To any of our lady customers who may send us an order for 50 cents worth, or more, of our Flower Seeds, their choice of any one of our Rambler Roses listed further on in this Seed Annual. Postpaid to any postoffice in the United States, when mentioned in your order.

We are after 10,000 new customers this season and we trust you will assist us to find three or four in your neighborhood.

Hoping we will have the pleasure of sending you some of our flower seeds along with other seeds for the coming season, and assuring you we are always at your command when we can serve you.

J. W. RATEKIN, Manager.



A Very Selected List of Flower Seeds

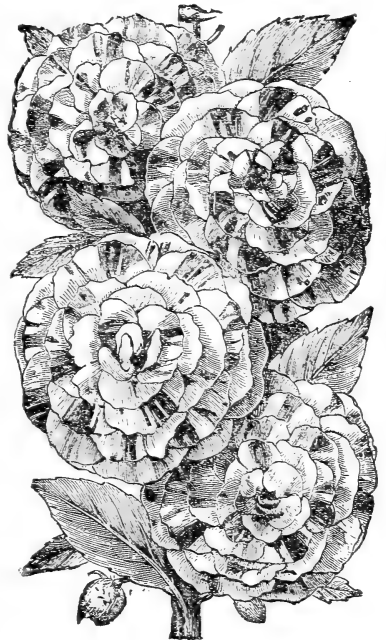
We are pleased to offer a very choice list of the most popular and easily grown flower seeds. They are all strictly fresh and first-class, and the best obtainable. We know you will be pleased with them, as they will undoubtedly prove a thing of joy and beauty. We urge every farmer (under the supervision and efficient assistance of the good wives to plant and adorn the home with flowers; it will pay in more ways than one.

We regret that we cannot illustrate every one of the varieties we list, but space forbids. Many varieties that are usually listed separately we have included in a single package under the name of mixed varieties.

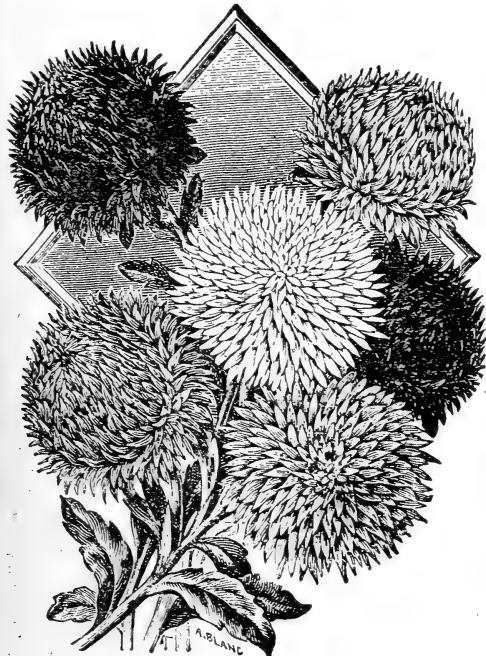
The pleasure resulting from a large and varied collection of flowers will amply repay for the time and labor used.

The grade and varieties we handle are of the best, so we cannot make any great cut on prices, filling the packages as we do. We can guarantee you great value for the money, and know you will be fully satisfied if you pass us your order. Our list contains the up-to-date varieties.

Asters It is unnecessary to dwell on the great beauty of these popular favorites, as they are appreciated by every-



BALSAM.



ASTERS.

one. Our seed is the finest that France and Germany produce. We recommend our friends to plant a number of varieties, as no other annuals afford so magnificent a display during the summer and fall. Hardy annual.

For \$1.00 you may select Seeds in Packets amounting to \$1.25. For \$2.00 you may select Seeds in Packets amounting to \$2.50. For \$3.00 you may select Seeds in Packets amounting to 3.75. For \$4.00 you may select Seeds in Packets amounting to 5.00.

DWARF CHRYSANTHEMUM — FLOWERED. — Very desirable on account of its large and perfect flowers, great beauty and late blooming; mixed, 10-inch. Price, 5c.

QUEEN OF THE MARKET. — Of graceful spreading habit; its great merit is its early flowering character, being in full bloom fully two weeks before any other Aster begins to blossom; mixed colors, 12-inch. Price, 8c.

FINE MIXED. Embracing a great many varieties and colors. Price, 5c.

ANTIRRHINUM (Snapdragon). Gaily colored flowers. Choice mixed. Pkt., 5c.

Bachelor's Buttons It is a beauty, the national flower of Germany, and a great favorite in all parts of the old country. A unique little plant, forming a dense mass of foliage, over which are borne hundreds of lovely blue blossoms, beautifully fringed and serrated. Hardy annuals; two to three feet high. Pkt., 5c.

Canna Stately and highly ornamental foliage plants, growing from five to ten feet high, and forming a most beautiful object for the lawn or for large circular beds. Mixed, all colors. Pkt., 5c.

Algeratum Valuable plants for large beds or borders, and very useful where cut flowers are in demand; in bloom the whole summer; also good for winter blooming in pots; succeeding in any soil. Indispensable for bouquets. Hardy annuals.

FINE MIXED. 13-inch. Price, 5c.

Adonis Scarlet flower; best mixture. Pkt., 5c.

Balsams **LADY SLIPPERS** or **TOUCH-ME-NOT.** These are old favorites with everyone, owing to their handsome double flowers, brilliant colors and stately growth. Half-hardy annuals.

CAMELIA, FLOWERED. Double, very choice; spotted and variegated with white, mixed. Price, 5c.

FINE MIXED. Finest varieties and colors, mixed. Price, 5c.

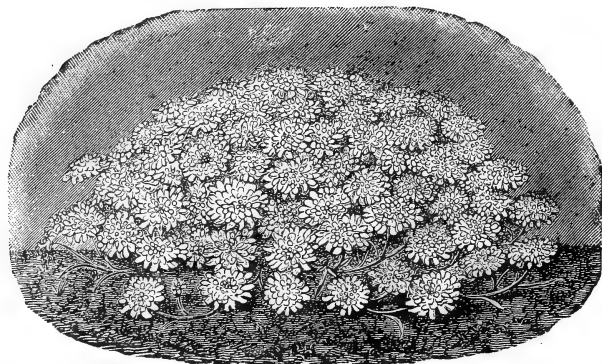
DOUBLE CAMELIA — FLOWERED. These are (like Asters, Pansies, Phlox and Peas) one of our specialties, which we sell to the best trade all over the country, and we know that our seed will produce fine, large, double flowers in great abundance.

Alyssum Sweet White in color; beautiful for borders. Pkt., 5c.

Balloon Vine.

A very pretty, rapid growing climber, succeeding best in a warm situation. Remarkable for its inflated, semi-transparent capsules. Sometimes called "Love in a Puff." Flowers white. Pkt., 5c.

FLOWERS--Continued.



CANDYTUFT.

Cypress Vine

A beautiful rapid climber with delicate, dark green foliage, and an abundance of bright star-shaped scarlet and white blossoms, which in the bright sunshine is a mass of beauty. Mixed colors. Pkt., 5c.

Calceolaria
Mixed colors. Pkt., 10c.
Canterbury Bells.
Very ornamental garden plants of easiest culture; hardy biennial, 2½ feet high, producing large, bell-shaped flowers of exquisite colors. Fine mixed. Pkt., 5c.



CANTERBURY BELLS.

Carnation
The finest of the Pink family, very fragrant. Our seed is unsurpassed. Finest mixed, the best greenhouse varieties. Pkt., 10c.

Cineraria
As will be seen by the illustration from a single plant, the Cineraria is a wonder for wealth of bloom and symmetry of form.
LARGE FLOWERING MIXED.
Pkt., 10c.

Daisy (Bellis Perennis)

Will make young, strong plants to carry over winter with protection, and blooms very early in the spring.
FINE DOUBLE MIXED. Six inch. Pkt., 5c.
NEW GIANT SNOWBALL. A most charming variety of this handsome little flower. Don't fail to give this little beauty a fair trial, and it will be sure to please you. Price, per pkt., 10c.

DAHLIA. Every one knows and admires the Double Dahlia, but few are aware that it can be grown so easily from the seed, and flowers the first season.

DOUBLE MIXED. Finest varieties, two to four feet. Pkt., 5c.
FOX-GLOVE (DIGITALIS). Showy for backgrounds and borders and are very beautiful when planted among shrubs. Thrives in any ordinary garden soil. Fine mixed colors. Pkt., 5c.

DIANTHUS (PINK). The China and Japan Pinks are deservedly very popular, as few flowers can equal them in beauty and profusion of bloom.

CHINESE. (Double Chinese Pink.) A splendid mixture; one of the finest varieties; 1ft. Pkt., 5c.

FANCY MIXED. Pkt., 5c.
CANDYTUFT (IBERIS). Among the most useful of perfectly hardy annuals. Will grow in any soil, requires no care, and produces neat clusters of flowers very freely.

EMPRESS. A beautiful, pure white variety of branching habit, producing trusses of flowers. We can recommend this for a fine bed of early white flowers. Pkt., 5c.

FINE MIXED. Including many colors. Pkt., 5c.
CALLIOPSIS. Bright golden flowers, rich velvety and orange colors in choicest mixture. Pkt., 5c.

COCKSCOMB. A class of very magnificent, attractive and showy annuals, producing massive heads, of rich shades and colors, of great effect in the garden or in pots. Well adapted to our climate, as they will stand drouth well.
FINEST MIXED. All colors; 2 ft. Pkt., 5c.

COSMOS.
MAMMOTH PERFECTION. Seed sown in April or May and transplanted to open ground will produce plants 5 to 6 feet high by September, and from then till November will be covered with hundreds of blossoms 3 inches across, resembling single dahlias. All colors mixed. Pkt., 5c.

HYBRIDUS MIXED. A choice mixture of all colors and sorts. Pkt., 4c.

FORGET-ME-NOT. Well known garden favorites. Flowers freely from seed the first summer. Blue, sky-blue, white, mixed. Pkt., 5c.

GOURDS. (Climbing.) These curious and interesting plants should be more largely grown. All varieties mixed. Pkt., 5c.

FOUR O'CLOCK, Marvel of Peru. Everyone knows this favorite annual. Pkt., 5c.

CHRYSANTHEMUM. A handsome plant, with striking and brilliant flowers, blooming till late in the autumn, when it is in full glory; producing double and single flowers of various shades; very attractive for bouquets and vases. Sometimes called "Painted Daisies." Hardy annuals.

Single Annual, Mixed. Pkt., 5c.
Crimson and Double Annual, Mixed Colors. Pkt., 5c.

GERANIUM. Started early, this favorite flower can be produced from the seed, and will flower the first season. Finest mixed. Pkt., 5c.

GALLARDIA
(Annual varieties.) Very showy garden annuals, 1 to 2 feet high. Grown in masses they are especially effective; large flowers, 2 or 3 inches across, produced from early summer until frost; unrivalled for cutting. Pkt., 5c.

HELIOTROPE.
A well-known, profuse flowering and deliciously fragrant plant that everyone loves. Splendid for bedding or pot culture. Can be easily raised from seed, but should be started early in the house. Half hardy perennial.

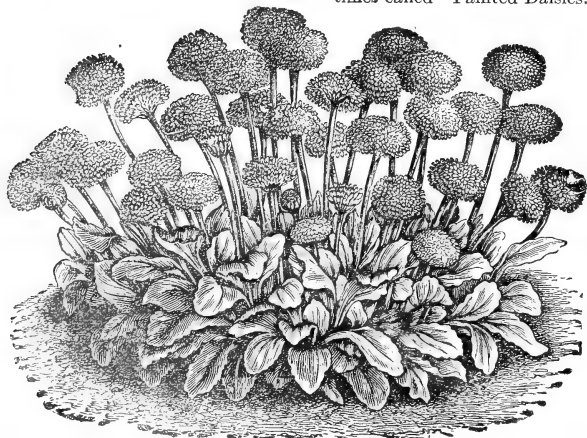
FINE MIXED. Choicest varieties mixed; 18-inch. Pkt., 5c.
SWEET WILLIAM.

FINEST MIXED. Hardy plants about one foot high, of extreme richness and variety of color, and also deliciously sweet-scented. Our mixture is of the large flowered strain and contains many bright and beautiful colors and markings. Pkt., 5c.

SUNFLOWER. Some varieties of this well known plant are very ornamental, and are effective in proper situations in shrubby borders or as screens. Pkt., 10c.



CARNATION.



DAISY.



HELIOTROPE.

DISCOUNTS

In spite of our very low prices by the packet, we still offer flower seeds in packets only to the amount of \$1.25 for \$1.00. This discount does not apply to collections of seeds by weight or measure. All flower seeds are sent free by mail on receipt of price.

FLOWERS--Continued.



HOLLYHOCKS

All our seeds of this beautiful plant have been saved from the finest and largest double flowers only and will produce flowers extremely double and in the best, brightest and most charming colors. Sow early. Double, Pkt., 5c. Single, Pkt., 5c.

HIBISCUS

Robust garden annuals; large saucer-shaped flowers of creamy yellow with purple center 2 feet. Pkt., 5c.

HYACINTHUS CANDICANS

Giant summer-flowering Hyacinth, of robust growth, producing spikes 3 feet long, of white bell-shaped flowers. 5 feet. Pkt., 5c.

ICE PLANT

Pretty summer annual trailer for vases and rockwork; leaves covered with ice-like drops. Much used in Europe for garnishing. ½ foot. Pkt., 5c.

LARKSPUR (DELPHINIUM)

Plants of great beauty, richness and endless variety of colors, with great duration and profusion of bloom.

DOUBLE FINE MIXED—Many varieties and colors. Pkt., 5c.

LANTANA

Rapid-growing, constant blooming, tender perennial plants for pot culture in the winter or garden decoration in the summer; clusters of flowers, orange, white, pink, etc. 2 to 3 feet. Mixed colors, Pkt., 10c.

MARIGOLD (TAGETES)

A free-flowering plant of easy culture, with double flowers of rich and beautiful colors, producing a splendid effect, whether planted in beds or borders, and continuing in beauty until destroyed by frost. Half-hardy annuals.

AFRICAN MIXED—Best double colors, two feet. Pkt., 5c.

LEGION OF HONOR—Dwarf, compact, with dark-green, fern-like leaves; rich golden-yellow, marked with velvety brown. Blooms abundantly from July until cut down by frost. 15 inch. Pkt., 5c.

DOUBLE FRENCH, MIXED—Yellow, brown and crimson, beautifully striped. 1 foot. Pkt., 5c.

MIGNONETTE (RESEDA ODORATO)

This fragrant little plant is probably the most popular annual grown. If the plants are thinned out they will grow stronger and produce larger spikes of flowers.

SWEET SCENTED—(Odorato)—The old variety very fragrant. 1 foot. Pkt., 5c.

MIGNONETTE, MIXED—Many varieties.—Pkt., 5c.

MORNING GLORIES.

FINE MIXED—A mixture of the old varieties. Pkt., 4c.

MOON FLOWER.

FINEST MIXED—Pkt. 5c.,

FINE MIXED—Fine varieties and colors mixed. Pkt., 5c.

PETUNIAS

Indispensable flowering plants for both garden and pot culture, flowering continuously. They flower in a few weeks' time from seed. Height about 1 foot.

SINGLE, FINE MIXED—White, crimson pink, striped, blotched, etc. Pkt., 5c.

PHLOX DRUMMONDII

We invite particular attention to the large flowering especially fine. Easy of culture, eighteen inch. Hardy annual.

ALBA—Pure white. Pkt., 5c.

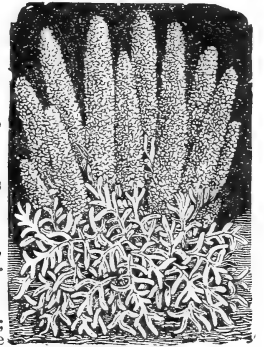
FINE MIXED—All varieties and colors. Pkt., 5c.

DRUMMONDII—This variety is a profuse bloomer, and of great value for bouquets. Pkt., 8c.

PORTULACA

In brilliancy and beauty of colors Portulacas are unrivaled. They delight in sunny situations and light soils, where they rapidly carpet the ground.

FINEST SINGLE MIXED—A great variety of colors. Pkt., 5c.



HOLLYHOCKS.



Double and Single Petunia



DOUBLE PORTULACA.

DOUBLE ROSE — FLOWERED MIXED. Unsurpassed for brilliancy of color and great beauty. Pkt., 5c.

RICINUS (CASTOR OIL BEAN)

Ornamental plant of stately growth and picturesque foliage, with brilliant colored fruit, producing a sub-tropical effect; fine for lawns.

ZANZIBARIENSIS—The largest castor bean in cultivation. An entirely new class from Africa, with leaves often measuring two feet across, some being light green, others bronze brown. Pkt., 5c.

FINE MIXED—The best and choicest varieties mixed. Pkt., 5c.

WALLFLOWER

Greatly prized for their exquisite fragrance. They grow in long, brilliant colored spikes of flowers. There are many varieties. Plants removed to pots in autumn will produce an abundance of delightfully fragrant flowers.

DOUBLE VARIETIES MIXED—Pkt., 10c.

NASTURTIUM (Dwarf)
One of our showiest and most popular annuals, forming compact plants, making gorgeous masses of rich colored and brilliant flowers.

KING OF TOM THUMBS—Intense scarlet flowers, with rich dark foliage. Pkt., 5c.

CLOTH OF GOLD—In striking contrast to the above, the foliage is a clear, bright yellow, while the deep scarlet flowers add much to its beauty. Pkt., 5c.

FINEST MIXED—Many varieties and colors. Pkt., 5c.

FINEST MIXED TALL NASTURTIUM—Many bright colors. Pkt., 5c.

PANSY (Heartsease)

The pansy is the most popular of all flowers grown from seed. It is everywhere popular, both for the brilliant beauty of its flowers and the long continuation of bloom.

FAUST OR KING OF THE BLACK—Deep, cool black, coming constant from seed; a group of this variety presents a fine appearance. Pkt., 5c.

PANSY

WHITE OR SNOW QUEEN—Flowers of a delicate, pure satiny white. Pkt., 5c.

FLOWERS—Continued. SWEET PEAS.

There is no annual grown that is more popular, or that is more admired by all than the Sweet Pea, with its dainty colors and delicate perfume.

To succeed best they should be sown as soon as the ground can be worked in spring, and when well up given bush or strings to support them. If allowed to form seed they will soon stop flowering and die down.

BLANCHE FERRY. Popular pink and white. Pkt. 4c; oz., 15c; lb., 50c.

BLANCHE BURPEE. A new, large white; one of the finest yet produced. Pkt., 4c; oz., 15c; lb., 50c.

ECKFORD MIXTURE. This mixture contains over forty varieties, including the novelties of 1900 and other choice varieties. By mail, postpaid, per lb., 55c; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 30c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 15c; oz., 10c; pkt., large size, 4c.

COUNTRESS OF RADNOR. One of the handsomest, standard rich lavender mauve, wings lighter. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c.

CUPID. An unique novelty, of dwarf, shrubby growth, therefore desirable for bedding. Flowers pretty and freely produced. Mixed colors. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c.

BARGAIN MIXTURE OF SWEET PEAS

We find ourselves with large stocks of some of the best named kinds and we have taken a few hundred pounds and mixed them. Bargain Mixture Sweet Peas, prepaid: lb., 30c; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 12c; pkt., 4c.

EMILY HENDERSON. Earliest blooming standard pure white variety. It begins to flower nearly as soon as the Extra Early Blanche Ferry. Flowers of snowy whiteness, with reflexed standard. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c.

EMILY ECKFORD. A superb, large flower of rosy heliotrope color. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c.

EXTRA EARLY BLANCHE FERRY. Earliest of all. An improvement on Painted Lady. Delicately handsome and a profuse bloomer. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c.

MAID OF HONOR. An exquisite variety. Flowers daintily shaded light blue on a white ground, and boldly edged with a narrow border of deep violet. Pkt., 4c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 15c; lb., 45c.

MARS. Crimson scarlet. Pkt., 4c; oz., 8c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 15c; lb., 45c.

WILHELMINA. Very large and perfect shaped flower; white, striped with bright rose carmine. Pkt., 4c; 1 oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 15c; lb., 45c.

LADY PENZANCE. Orange-pink, wings pure white. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 50c.

FANCY MIXED. A very choice collection of the newest and best large flowering Sweet Peas. Parties who want everything good and want to grow them with the least amount of care should grow our mixed seed. A better mixture can not be bought anywhere at any price. Pkt., 5c; oz., 8c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 15c; lb., 50c; postpaid.

SPECIAL COLLECTION of Sweet Peas; there is no other flower which is grown so extensively, or one so popular as Sweet Peas; we have made up a special collection, so that every one may try our different varieties; you may select one packet each of all of the named varieties of Sweet Peas, including 15 varieties, for 35c; this collection is worth 60c; don't fail to include it in your order.

SALVIA (Flowering Sage). The Salvia is one of the most beautiful of all flowers; the brilliant spikes of the scarlet flowers produce for months a dazzling effect.

ALL COLORS MIXED.

This is also a very good mixture; contains over twenty varieties and will furnish fine flowers all through the season. By mail, per lb., 40c; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 25c; pkt., 4c.



Of easy culture and fine for massing and bouquets. Pkt., 10c.

NEW DWARF OR BONFIRE. (Large flowering scarlet sage.) A splendid new sort, blooming much earlier than old variety. Pkt., 10c.

STOCK (TEN WEEKS)

The Ten Week Stock is one of the most popular, beautiful and important of our garden favorites; whether for bedding, massing or pot culture, it is unsurpassed, either for brilliancy or color, exquisite fragrance, or profusion and duration of bloom. Hardy annual.

NEW LARGE FLOWERING habit dwarf, with magnificent spikes of very large double flowers of all colors; mixed; eighteen inches. 5c. pkt.

VERBENA

A well-known favorite, and is valuable for bedding on account of its low trailing habit; blooms freely from seed, and is more healthy and makes larger and hardier plants than if grown from cuttings; requires a very rich, mellow soil. Half-hardy perennials.

ALBA. Pure white, a desirable variety for florists or for the cemetery. 6c., pkt.

EXTRA CHOICE MIXED. Seed saved from the finest collection of named sorts. 7c., pkt.

VIOLET (VIOLA ODORATA)

Well-known fragrant early spring blooming plants; thriving best in the summer in a shady situation in a rich, deep soil; seed takes from 3 to 6 months to germinate.

SINGLE MIXED. Blue and white. Pkt., 10c.

WISTARIA One of the most popular hardy vines, climbing to a height of fifty feet or more. It is perennial and easily grown from seed. Of luxuriant and rapid growth, bearing in the spring immense panicles of purple flowers producing in great profusion. Pkt., 10c.

SPECIAL OFFER: We want your neighbors, as well as yourself, to test our seeds, and will make it an object to you to interest them. Secure orders from your friends for four Surprise Collections, and remit us \$1.00 in payment thereof, and we will mail you an extra collection for your trouble. If goods are not as represented, return them and we will refund your money.

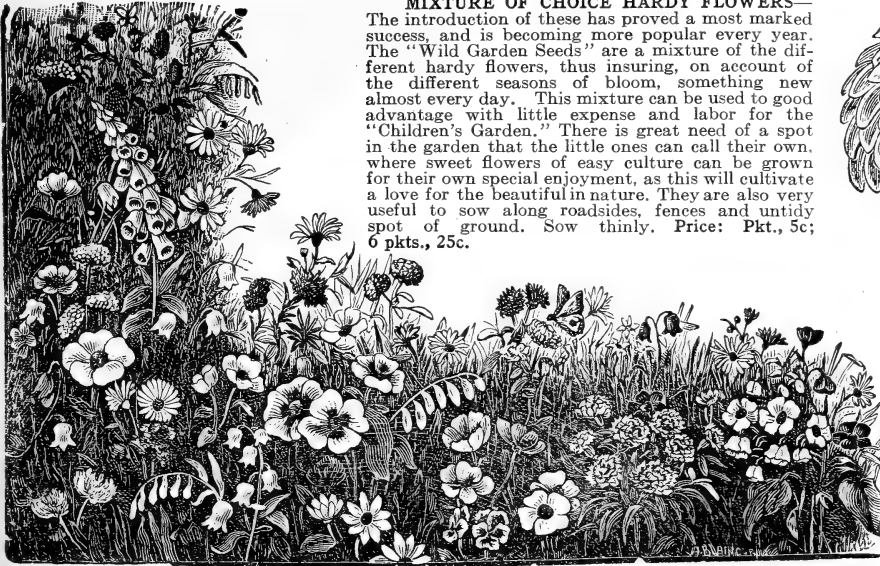


FLOWERS==Continued.

WILD FLOWER GARDEN

MIXTURE OF CHOICE HARDY FLOWERS—

The introduction of these has proved a most marked success, and is becoming more popular every year. The "Wild Garden Seeds" are a mixture of the different hardy flowers, thus insuring, on account of the different seasons of bloom, something new almost every day. This mixture can be used to good advantage with little expense and labor for the "Children's Garden." There is great need of a spot in the garden that the little ones can call their own, where sweet flowers of easy culture can be grown for their own special enjoyment, as this will cultivate a love for the beautiful in nature. They are also very useful to sow along roadsides, fences and untidy spot of ground. Sow thinly. Price: Pkt., 5c; 6 pkts., 25c.



WILD FLOWER COLLECTION.



ZINNIA.

ZINNIA (YOUTH AND OLD AGE)

Plants of great beauty, of branching habit, and splendid brilliant colored double flowers; begins to bloom when quite small. Easy of culture; thrives in any good soil. Half-hardy annuals.

DOUBLE CHOICE MIXED — Finest large flowering varieties; three feet. Pkt., 5c.

TOM THUMB — These Dwarf Double Zinnias produce compact dwarf bushes, varying from six to 12 inches in height and from six to 14 inches in diameter, coming mostly true from seed. Plants are very free flowering and continue in bloom until destroyed by frost. Pkt., 5c.

Special Collection for the Ladies

FLOWERS FOR EVERYBODY

Price Very Low

No Trouble to Select

40 for \$1.00

Complete Garden Collection

Can One Dollar be Better Invested?

Consisting of one full sized packet each of Ageratum, Mexicanum, Aster, all kinds mixed, Alyssum, Antirrhinum, giant, mixed colors, Balsam, choice mixed, Calliopsis, Golden Wave, Candytuft, best mixed, Chrysanthemum, mixed varieties, Canary Bird Flower, Canna, Crozy mixed, Cockscomb, Calendula, Cypress Vine, Dianthus, all kinds mixed, Eschscholtzia, Geranium, Grass Pink, Godetia, Gaillardia, Heliotrope, Hollyhock, Larkspur, Morning Glory, Mignonette, Marvel of Peru, Ice Plant, Nasturtium, Imperial, Petunia, fine mixed, Portulaca, Grandiflora, Pansy, Imperial German, Poppy, all kinds mixed, Phlox, Grandiflora mixed, Ricinus, Sensitive Plant, Salpiglossis, Variveined, Sweet Peas, Perfected Mixed, Sweet William, Scabiosa, Stocks, Dwarf German mixed, Verbena, choice mixed, Zinnia, fine double mixed. Total 40 packets for \$1.00.

20 for 50c

Popular Collection

**Bargain Collection
12 for 25 cents**

Consists of one packet each of Aster, Balsam, Cypress Vine, Eschscholtzia, Mignonette, Petunia, Phlox, Pansy, Pink, Sweet Peas, Verbena and Zinnia.

Our 10 cent Trial Collection

Consisting of one packet each of Balsam, Candytuft, Pinks, Mignonette, Pansy and Sweet Peas.

Consists of one packet each of Sweet Alyssum, Aster, Balsam, Candytuft, Convolvulus, Cypress Vine, Canna, Cockscomb, Dianthus, Larkspur, Ice Plant, Mignonette, Nasturtium, Petunia, Pansy, Poppy, Phlox, Sweet Peas, Sunflower and Zinnia. Total 20 packets for 50 cents.

THESE COLLECTIONS CANNOT BE CHANGED OR DIVIDED.

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE! We want to make these collections popular with our customers, and can assure you all the varieties named in them are desirable, and the seeds are just as fresh, pure and good as any ever offered. The varieties in the different collections do not duplicate with each other. AN EXTRA—In addition to the sorts named we will send free with each collection one packet of some desirable new variety which is not listed in our catalogue this year.

NURSERY STOCK

Nothing is more healthful than fruit, and nothing more easily grown. No farm, garden or city lot is complete without a few fruit trees and small fruit plants. It is essential that you secure good plants and trees in order to grow good fruit. We aim to send out only the very best stock, which with necessary care in planting and cultivating will surely give satisfactory results. The following prices are all for first-class stock, carefully packed and charges prepaid, except where otherwise noted. Fifty or more of any variety at the 100 rate. Orders for nursery stock must amount to at least 50c. Ask for special prices on large orders, sending list of wants.

And should there be any other fruits not listed in our catalog, give us a list of what you want and we will quote you, as we are in position to supply you with any and all kinds of nursery stock grown.

HARDY GRAPES IN VARIETY

(All Two-Year Vines)

AGAWAM—Berries large, of bronze color. Bunches of good size and form. Each, 12c; 10 for 90c; 100 for \$7.50.

BRIGHTON—The best grape in its color for table use. Bronze black; ripens with the Delaware. Each, 12c; 10 for 90c; 100 for \$7.50.

CONCORD—One of the best old sorts. Bunch and berries large; color black, with a rich bloom. Each, 10c; 10 for 70c; 100 for \$6.00.

DELAWARE—Red; bunches compact; berries small, sweet and of the most excellent flavor. Each, 15c; 10 for \$1.00; 100 for \$9.00.

EATON—Equal to Concord in growth, health, hardiness and quality. Superior in size. Each, 15c; 10 for \$1.00; 100 for \$9.00.

GOLDEN POCKLINGTON—Very large; deep amber in color. One of the most attractive grapes grown. Each, 15c; 10 for \$1.00; 100 for \$9.00.

GAERTNER—Beautiful light red, rich bloom; fruit sweet and tender. Each, 15c; 10 for \$1.00; 100 for \$9.00.

LINDLEY—Bunch medium; a rich shade of red; tender and sweet, rich flavor. Each, 15c; 10 for \$1.00; 100 for \$9.00.

MOORE'S DIAMOND—A grand white grape; first quality fruit. It ripens very early. Each, 35c; 10 for \$2.00; 100 for \$17.00.

MOORE'S EARLY—Resembling the Concord somewhat, but ripening two weeks earlier. Each, 20c; 10 for \$1.10; 100 for \$9.50.

MARTHA—Greenish white. Each, 12c; 10 for 90c; 100 for \$7.50.

MERRIMACK—Large berry; jet-black; fine quality. One of the best. Each, 15c; 10 for \$1.00; 100 for \$9.00.

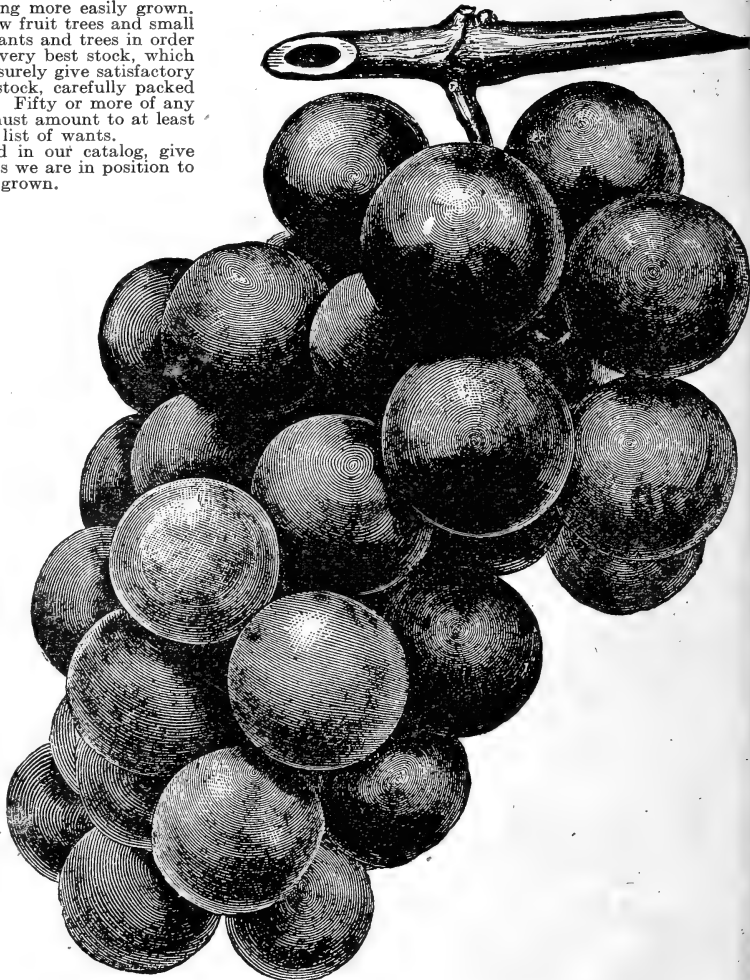
NIAGARA—A grand white grape; hardy, fine quality. This is unsurpassed in its color. Each, 12c; 10 for 90c; 100 for \$7.50.

SALEM—A splendid coppery red grape, ripening with the Concord. Each, 12c; 10 for 90c; 100 for \$7.50.

WARDEN—Black; very juicy, large size; early. One of the grandest grapes for family use. Each, 10c; 10 for 70c; 100 for \$6.00.

WILDER—An excellent variety. Berries medium; bunches large; color black. Each, 12c; 10 for 90c; 100 for \$7.50.

SPECIAL OFFER—Full set of 16 Hardy Grapes for \$1.75.



GRAPES.

STRAWBERRIES.

From new beds are worth four times as much as from old wornout beds. When you buy from us you get new plants, long white roots. Perfect flowered varieties are marked (s); the imperfect, marked (p), must have perfect flowered sorts planted with them or they will not fruit. Ask for low prices by the thousand.

Nick Ohmer

(s) To see the plants of this is pleasing to the eye. It is a strong grower with heavy crowns, sending out plenty of very strong runners. The fruit is of the largest, a giant among strawberries. Dark glossy red, firm and of excellent flavor.

Parker Earle

(s) Plant very robust, enormously productive; flowers perfect, protected from late frosts by abundant leaves; berries regular, conical, with short neck. Bring highest prices. Season early to medium.

MICHEL'S EARLY

(s) The earliest of all good and reliable strawberries; large and very uniform.

Bederwood

(s) Large, roundish, conical, bright scarlet, moderately firm; fair quality. A very valuable early sort for home use or near market, following Michel's Early.

Bibel

(p) For quarts and quarts of large, beautiful berries, this variety has few equals. Flavor sweet and pleasant; a profitable and early variety in rich soil.

Bubach

(p) A wonderful berry in vigor of plant and yield of fruit, even under careless culture. It is exceedingly productive and valuable for early market. Mid-season.

CAPTAIN JACK

(s) A most vigorous grower, healthy and productive; berries large, handsome and solid.

Crescent

(p) Medium size, bright light scarlet, not very firm; continues a long time in fruit; plant very vigorous and hardy, and will produce good crops under greater neglect than any other strawberry, and is a good variety for family use or market.

Dunlap

(s) Greatest all-round variety yet produced; of the Warfield type, with perfect blossom and ripening at the same time; hardy, productive and able to hold its own under any "rough and tumble" method of culture.

Enhance

(s) A vigorous and healthy grower, with dark green foliage; one of the most prolific in pollen; berries large size, firm, bright crimson color.

Gandy

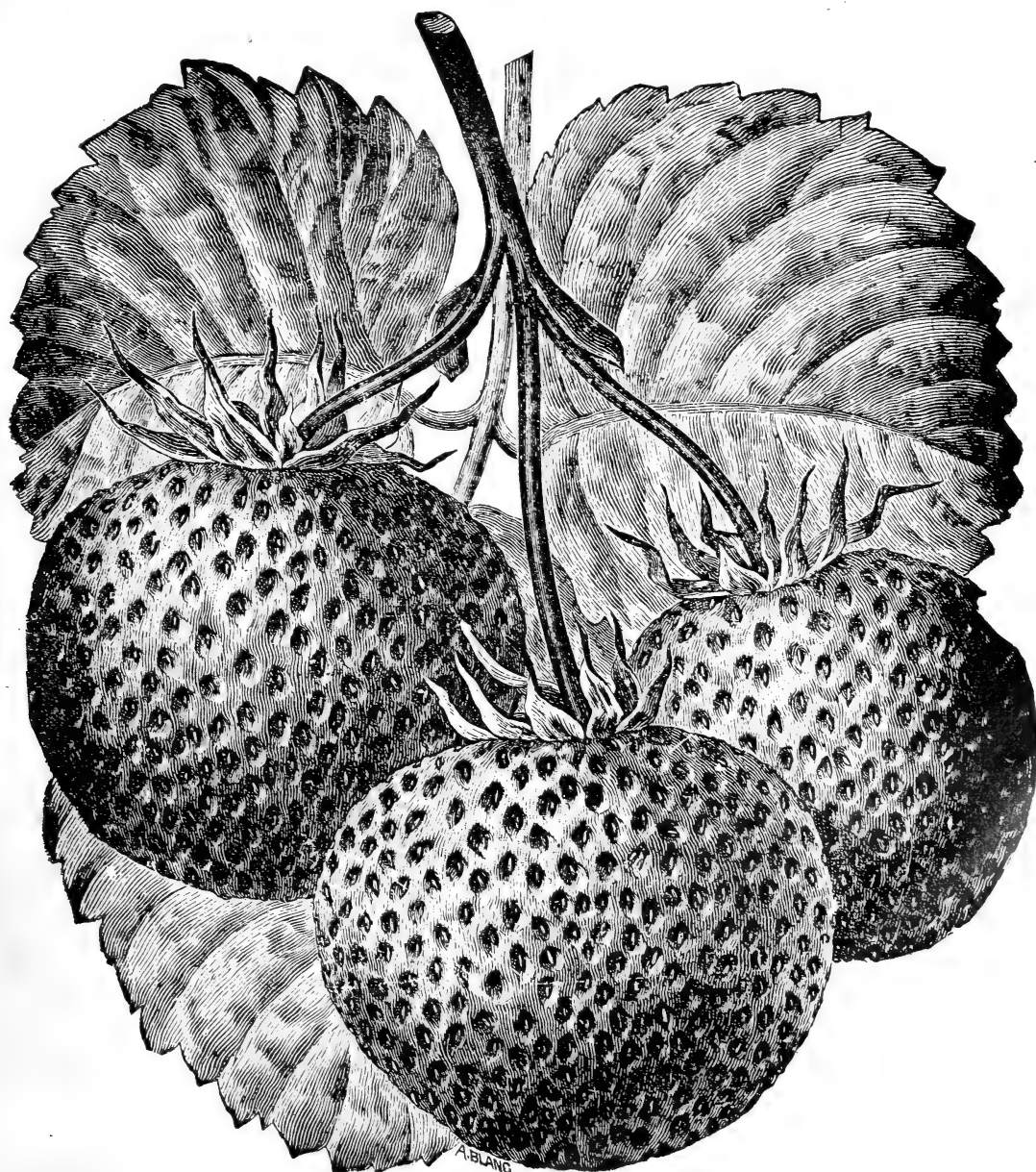
(s) A reliable late variety; berries bright crimson, very uniform in size and shape, large and firm; plants vigorous and healthy.

NURSERY STOCK—Continued.

STRAWBERRIES—Continued.

- Great American** (s) A reliable late variety, berries bright crimson, very uniform in size and shape, large and firm; plants vigorous and healthy.
- Haverland** (p) Profitable by reason of its productiveness and earliness; hardy, firm enough for distant shipment; requires deep, heavy soil; fruit large, handsome and good, though not of best quality; rather long in shape and of a bright, glossy crimson.
- Lovett** (s) The plants are rank and vigorous growers; fruit large and uniform size, firm, of a high color, splendid flavor. One of the best for general planting.
- Princess** (p) A vigorous, healthy sort, very productive, of large, regular sized berries; firm and holding size well to end of season.
- Rough Rider** (s) A good runner and enormously productive; berries very large, dark red color, like Gandy; extreme firmness enables the grower to ship to distant markets; season late.
- SHUCKLESS** (s) Large, conical, light crimson; parts from the calix in picking; mid-season.
- Sharpless** (s) This is one of the very best varieties in certain soils; large in size; delicious flavor, good bearer, bright color; specimens exhibited weighed 1½ ounces and measured 7 inches in circumference.
- Splendid** (s) We can offer it to our customers with great confidence; bears abundantly; fruit large and quality above the average.
- WARFIELD.** (p) Quality pleasant, good; the plant is a vigorous grower, with bright, healthy foliage; early.

Prices: 50c per 25; \$1.50 per 100; \$10.00 per 1,000. Tied in bundles of 25; hence we do not sell less than 25 of any one variety.



NURSERY STOCK—Continued.

BLACKBERRIES

- Rathbun** This is said to surpass any blackberry yet introduced. Berries very large and superior quality and an intense jet black. Each, 25c; doz., \$1.50, prepaid. By express, per 100, \$3.50.
- Erie** Very productive. Fruit large and of fine quality; makes a very attractive appearance on the market. Each, 20c; doz., \$1.25, prepaid. By express, per 100, \$3.00.
- Ancient Briton** This is regarded as one of the hardiest blackberries and especially adapted to Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Each, 15c; doz., \$1.00, prepaid. By express, per 100, \$2.25.
- Early Harvest** This is one of the earliest blackberries yet introduced, a compact, stalky grower; fruit medium size and firm quality. Very attractive. Each, 15c; doz., \$1.00, prepaid. By express, per 100, \$2.25.
- Snyder** Extremely hardy and very productive. The standard sort for the west. Each, 15c; doz., 75c; prepaid. By express, per 100, \$2.00.

RASPBERRIES

Redfield Introduced by us several years ago and we doubt if any variety will be brought out for many years to come equal to it. The berries are unusually large and luscious. The canes are very vigorous and unusually free from thorns or spines. In our trial grounds, beside a great many old and new sorts it yielded 3 to 4 times as much fruit as any of them. Each, 20c; doz., \$1.25, prepaid. By express, per 100, \$3.00.

Cumberland This is undoubtedly the best black cap variety yet introduced. It is of very large size, good quality, firm and handsome, and an excellent shipper. Plants vigorous and hardy, productive and free from disease. Each, 20c; doz., \$1.25, prepaid. By express, not prepaid, per 100, \$2.50.

Conrath Resembles the Gregg in many ways, but is much earlier, better quality and hardier. It makes a very strong, healthy growth, and is considered one of the iron-clad varieties. Each, 15c; doz., \$1.00, prepaid. By express per 100, \$2.25.

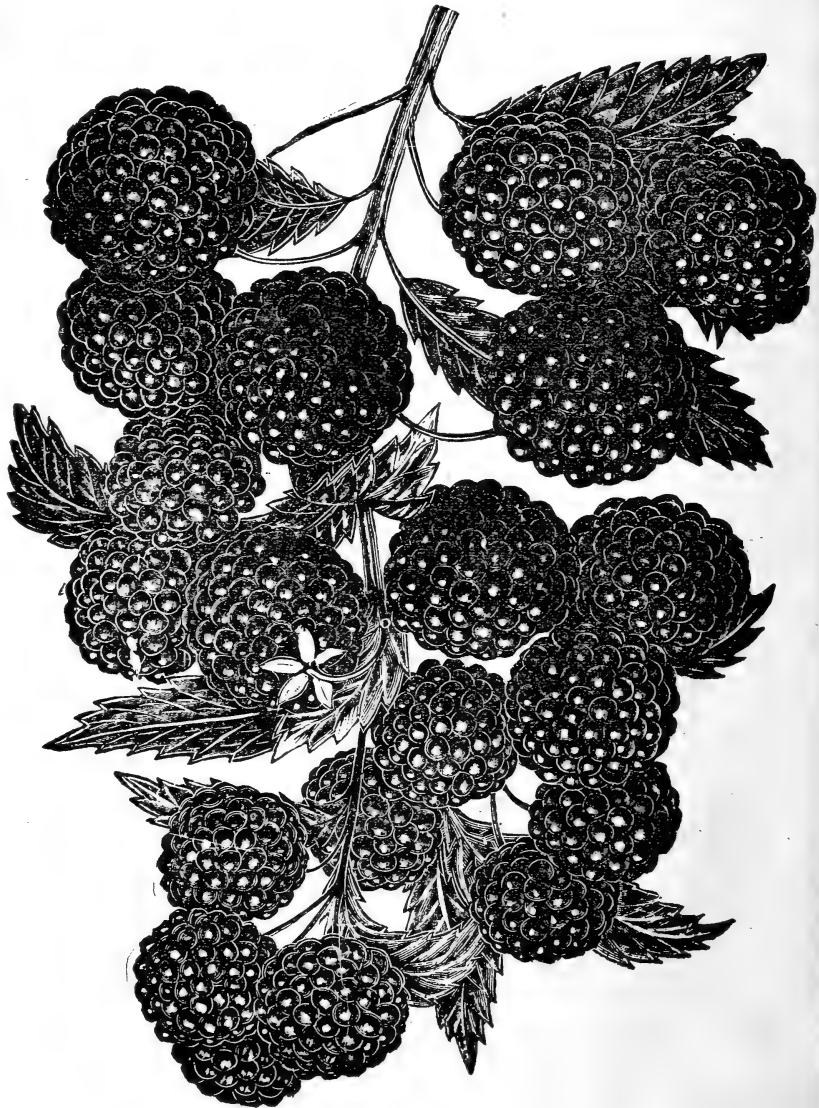
Gregg Too well known to need description. Has been one of the leading blackcap varieties for many years. Each, 15c; doz., 75c, prepaid. By express, per 100, \$2.00.

Eureka This is an early variety; fruit large and firm; almost equalling the Gregg in size, but is considerably earlier. Is of excellent quality. Makes an attractive appearance in the box. Canes strong and hardy. Each, 15c; doz., \$1.00, prepaid. By express, per 100, \$2.25.

Wallace's Red Considered by many to be the best flavored red raspberry grown. Is healthy and roots from tips; does not sucker; commences to ripen about July 1st, and continues bearing for several weeks. Each, 15c; doz., \$1.25, prepaid. By express, per 100, \$3.00.

Loudon This variety seems to hold its place in the front ranks of red raspberries; propagates from the roots. Very large, solid, good color; ships well, plants very hardy and attractive. Each, 15c; doz., \$1.25, prepaid. By express, per 100, \$3.00.

Haymaker Purple red color cap, not so dark as Columbian or Shaffer, but larger and firmer than either of those varieties; never crumbles and stands up well in shipping. Considered the best purple-cap yet introduced. Roots from the tips. Each, 25c; doz., \$2.00, prepaid.



Orders for nursery stock must be held until about March 15th to April 1st, on account of our being unable to ship before that time, the ground not being in condition to dig.

NURSERY STOCK—Continued.

DEWBERRY.

LUCRETIA—The best dewberry yet introduced for this section. Berries much larger and better in quality than blackberries. Each, 15c; doz., \$1.25, prepaid; by express, per 100, \$3.00.

GOOSEBERRIES.

JOSSELYN—A new variety of gooseberry of superior merit. Very large, hardy, productive. Regarded the best. Be sure to secure one or more plants of this variety. Each, 35c; doz., \$2.75, prepaid.

PEARL—One of the most prolific gooseberries known, very hardy, entirely free from mildew. One of the best of recent introduction. Each, 25c; doz., \$2.25, prepaid.

INDUSTRY—The best English sort yet introduced in this country. Each, 25c; doz., \$2.25, prepaid.

DOWNING AND HOUGHTON—Each, 20c; doz., \$1.25, prepaid.

CURRANTS.

LONDON MARKET—A new currant of great merit; a sure cropper. It is by all means the most profitable currant to grow. It is a good grower, an early bearer, enormously productive. Two-year plants.

FAY'S PROLIFIC—Fruit large, bright red and of good flavor; less acid than Cherry, which it is rapidly superseding. Two-year plants.

LARGE RED CHERRY—A most popular market sort. Bunches large, berries very large, bright, very acid.

WHITE GRAPE—The largest and decidedly the best white variety, and one of the best of any for the home garden.

BLACK NAPLES—A fine black currant and a general favorite. Two-year plants.

Prices for any of above Currants: Each, 15c; per 10, \$1.25; per 100, \$10.00.



Ratekin's Wonderful Collection

Of Special Merit.

One packet each of the Seven Novelties, only 25 cents, postpaid.

RATEKIN'S EARLIEST TOMATO—Unquestionably the earliest of all. If you sow "RATEKIN'S EARLIEST," you will have, with favorable weather, fine tomatoes in 90 days from sowing the seed. Is a wonderfully smooth tomato. Price: Pkt., 10c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 75c; lb. \$2.50.

NEW GOLDEN HUBBARD SQUASH—Productive, Early, Beautiful, Good. This is a true Hubbard Squash, except in color, which is bright golden. It ripens its crop very early and uniformly, thus making it a certain cropper; and in shape is like the Hubbard. The shell is warty, hard and strong, and a very beautiful orange red color, except for a bit of olive green on the blossom end. Will become a most popular variety. It certainly has no superior as a table squash. Send to RATEKIN'S for the best seed. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

EARLY DARK BEAUTY BEET—One of the earliest ever grown. Beautiful oval shape, and the color is a rich dark red. Flesh is fine grain and cooks tender, rich and sweet. Its flavor is superb. Is free from side roots, and smooth, and is very beautiful in market. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 18c; ½ lb., 30c; lb., 50c.

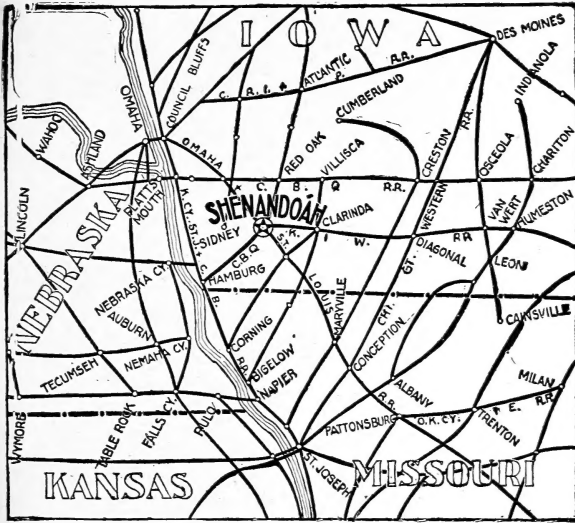
RATEKIN'S CHAMPION WATERMELON—A cross between Kolb's Gem and Hoosier King. All that could be said of Kolb's Gem as to good shipping qualities can be truthfully stated in a higher degree of Ratekin's Champion. All the praise of high quality bestowed on the Sweet Heart can be repeated of our new melon, but its prominent point of merit is its extreme size. Price, postpaid: Pkt., 10c; oz., 15c; lb., \$1.10.

RATEKIN'S EARLY MARKET MUSK MELON—Many years were spent in perfecting this decidedly distinct and beautiful melon. A most valuable characteristic is its close, strong netting. Its vigorous growth gives it great hardiness and ability to withstand drouth, blight and bugs. It ripens only a few days after the Early Hackensack, is most prolific, more uniform, bears longer, and the fruit is more solid. A valuable sort for a general crop. Price: Pkt., 10c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 35c; lb., \$1.10.

RATEKIN'S IDEAL CABBAGE—As now improved, the most profitable cabbage ever offered to the American cabbage grower. Absolutely sure heading. 999 out of 1,000 plants make perfect, salable heads averaging 16 to 20 pounds. Interior is creamy white, compact and crisp, unequaled for cooking or slicing; flavor especially fine. It is, without exception, the best winter keeper in the world. Price: Pkt., 10c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 80c; ½ lb., \$1.50; lb., \$2.75, postpaid.

RATEKIN'S CRESCENT CUCUMBER—We have never seen a strain so uniform in size, color and evenness, so complete in all the requirements that go to make a good cucumber, as our Crescent, both for market and table use. It is an extra early cucumber, and twice as large as the ordinary early cucumber. We trust every one of our customers will try this new variety this season. Price: Pkt., 10c; 3 pkts., 25c; oz., 30c; lb., \$3.00

THE NISHNA VALLEY



Greatest Corn Growing District in the Greatest Corn State in the United States.

Shenandoah Is located on the line between Page and Fermont counties, which are in the extreme southwest corner of Iowa. It is the greatest corn growing section in the world, and because of the central location and predominance of Shenandoah, the two counties are frequently referred to as the Kingdom of Shenandoah. It is the very heart of the great Nishna Botna River Valley.

The city has 5,000 inhabitants, is on the great Wabash railroad, and on the main line of the Keokuk & Western, known as the "Burlington Route" on the Red Oak and Lincoln line of the C. B. & O., Burlington System, thus giving Shenandoah the benefit of three trunk lines centering into Omaha, Kansas City, Chicago and St. Louis and other intermediate points.

Page County And the "Great Nishnabotna Valley" have long ago become famous throughout the United States, if not the world, for the corn and other grains it grows. Its location, climate and soil all unite and combine to the most perfect growth and maturity of the finest corn the world can produce. As far back as 1850, and before all its broad prairies were broken and brought under the magic hand of man and the plow, the county of Page, 22x24 miles square, produces the enormous and unprecedented yield of SIX MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND THIRTY TWO BUSHELS OF INDIAN CORN, as shown by the United States census report—over three hundred and twenty bushels of corn for each inhabitant, man, woman and child, resident in the county at that time. This is equal to the combined corn product, the same year, of the following states; Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut and in addition equal to more than any one of ten other States.

REFERENCE TABLES

Weight of Various Articles

	Per bu.
Apples.....	48 lbs.
dried.....	22 "
Barley.....	48 "
Beans.....	60 "
Buckwheat.....	48 "
Blue Grass, Kentucky.....	14 "
" English.....	14 "
Bran.....	20 "
Canary Seed.....	60 "
Clover Seed.....	60 "
Corn, field, shelled.....	56 "
" on ear.....	70 "
" sweet, sold by measured bushel.....	
Corn Meal.....	50 "
Cranberries.....	40 "
Dried Peaches.....	28 "
Flax Seed.....	56 "
Fowl Meadow.....	12 "
Hemp Seed.....	44 "
Hungarian.....	48 "
Millet.....	50 "
Oats.....	32 "
Onions.....	54 "
Orchard Grass.....	14 "
Osage Orange.....	33 "
Peach Pits.....	50 "
Peas, smooth.....	60 "
" wrinkled.....	56 "
Perennial Rye.....	20 "
Potatoes, heaping measure.....	60 "
Rape.....	50 "
Rye.....	56 "
Red Top.....	14 "
Salt, coarse.....	50 "
" Michigan.....	56 "
Sweet Potatoes.....	56 "
Timothy Seed.....	45 "
Turnips.....	58 "
Wheat.....	60 "
Flour, per bbl., net.....	196 "
Salt, per bbl.....	280 "
WEIGHT PER CUBIC FOOT.	
Hay, well settled.....	4½ lbs.
Corn, on cob, in bin.....	22 "
" shelled.....	45 "
Wheat, in bin.....	48 "
Oats.....	25½ "
Potatoes.....	38½ "

Quantity of Seed Requisite to Produce a Given Number of Plants to Sow an Acre.

	Quantity per acre.	Quantity per acre.	
Artichoke, 1 oz. to 500 plants.....	6 oz.	Grass, Orchard, Perennial Rye, Red Top, Fowl Meadow, and Wood.....	2 bu.
Asparagus, 1 oz. to 800 plants.....	1 lb.	Meadow.....	2 "
Asparagus Roots.....	1,000 to 72,500	Hemp.....	½ "
Barley.....	2½ bu.	Horse Radish Roots.....	1,000 to 15,000
Beans, dwarf, 1 pint to 100 feet of drill.....	1 bu.	Kale, 1 oz. to 5,000 plants.....	2 oz.
Beans, pole, 1 pint to 100 hills.....	½ bu.	Kohl, Rabi, ½ oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	4 lbs.
Beets, garden, 1 oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	7 lbs.	Leek, ½ oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	4 "
Beets, Mangel, 1 oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	5 "	Lettuce, ¼ oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	3 "
Brocoli, 1 oz. to 5,000 plants.....	2 oz.	Martynia, 1 oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	5 "
Brussels Sprouts, 1 oz. to 5,000 plants.....	2 "	Melon, Musk, 1 oz. to 100 hills.....	1 to 3
Buckwheat.....	½ bu.	Melon, Water, 4 oz. to 100 hills.....	1½ to 4
Cabbage, 1 oz. to 5,000 plants.....	2 oz.	Nasturtium, 2 oz. 100 feet of drill.....	15 "
Carrot, ¼ oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	2½ lbs.	Okra, 1 oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	8 "
Cauliflower, 1 oz. to 5,000 plants.....	2½ oz.	Onion Seed, ½ oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	4 to 5
Celery, 1 oz. to 15,000 plants.....	2 oz.	Onion Seed, for Sets.....	40 to 80
Chicory.....	4 lbs.	Onion Sets, 1 quart to 40 feet of drill.....	8 bu.
Clover, Alsike and White Dutch.....	6 "	Parsnip, ¼ oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	3 lbs.
Clover, Lucerne.....	15 to 25 "	Parsley, ¼ oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	3 "
Clover, Crimson Trefoil.....	10 to 15 "	Peas, garden, 1 pt. to 100 feet of drill.....	1 to 3 bu.
Clover, Large Red and Medium.....	8 to 12 "	Peas, field.....	2 "
Collards, 1 oz. to 5,000 plants.....	2 "	Pepper, 1 oz. to 1,500 plants.....	3 oz.
Corn, rice (shelled).....	2 qts.	Pumpkin, ½ qt. to 100 hills.....	3 to 4 lbs.
Corn, sweet, ¼ pint to 100 hills.....	6 "	Radish, ½ oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	10 to 12 "
Cress, ¾ oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	12 qts.	Rye.....	1½ bu.
Cucumber, 1 oz. to 100 hills.....	1 to 3 "	Salsify, ¾ oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	8 lbs.
Egg Plant, 1 oz. to 2,000 plants.....	4 oz.	Spinach, ½ oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	8 "
Endive, ¼ oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	4½ lbs.	Spurry.....	15 "
Flax, broadcast.....	½ bu.	Summer Savory.....	¾ "
Garlic, bulbs, 1 lb. to 10 feet of drill.....	2 "	Sunflower.....	8 "
Gourd, 2 oz. to 100 hills.....	2 "	Squash, Summer, 4 oz. to 100 hills.....	2 "
Grass, Blue, Kentucky.....	2 bu.	Squash, Winter, 8 oz. to 100 hills.....	2 "
Grass, Blue, English.....	1 "	Tomato, 1 oz. to 4,500 plants.....	1 oz.
Grass, Hungarian and Millet.....	½ "	Tobacco, 1 oz. to 5,000 plants.....	2 "
Grass, Mixed Lawn.....	3 to 5 "	Turnip, 1 oz. to 250 feet of drill.....	1 to 8 lbs.
Grass, Red Top, Fancy Clean.....	6 to 10 lbs.	Vetches.....	2 bu.
Grass, Timothy.....	¼ bu.		

LAST WORDS

ERRORS—We make them, so does everyone; and we will cheerfully correct them if you write to us. Try to write us good naturedly; but if you can not, then write us anyhow. Our best efforts will be put forth in filling all orders carefully, and with the additional room and facilities, we hope to get along the coming season without an error, and make 1907 the banner year.

When you sow, you want to reap, not sparingly, but bountifully. That is eternally right.

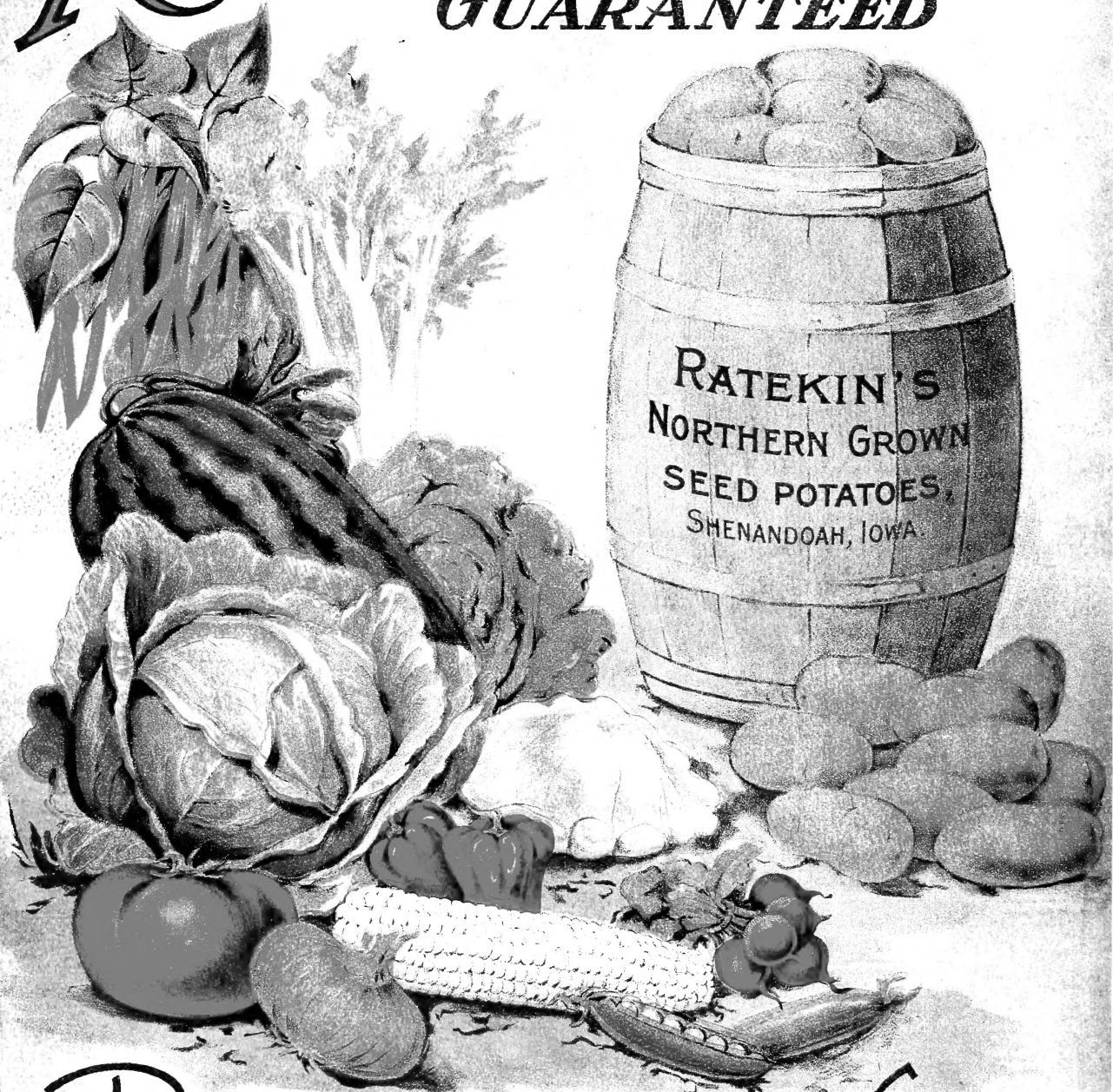
It is our honest and earnest endeavor to furnish you with only good, live, vigorous seeds, so that your crop may be generous—yes, bountiful. We believe that if any seeds can produce good yields and fine specimens, ours can, and we earnestly solicit your orders, which will have our careful and prompt attention. Sincerely yours,

RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE, - Shenandoah, Iowa.

EVERYTHING FOR THE FARM AND GARDEN

RATEKIN'S SEEDS

GUARANTEED



RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE

SHENANDOAH, IOWA, U.S.A.

THE LARGEST MAIL ORDER SEED HOUSE IN THE WEST
SELLING DIRECT FROM THE GROWER TO THE PLANTER AT WHOLESALE PRICE.