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* Spring of 1890. *

DESCRIPTIVE CIRCULAR

—OF—

* STRAWBERRIES, *

—OFFERED AT THE—

BLUE GRASS NURSERY

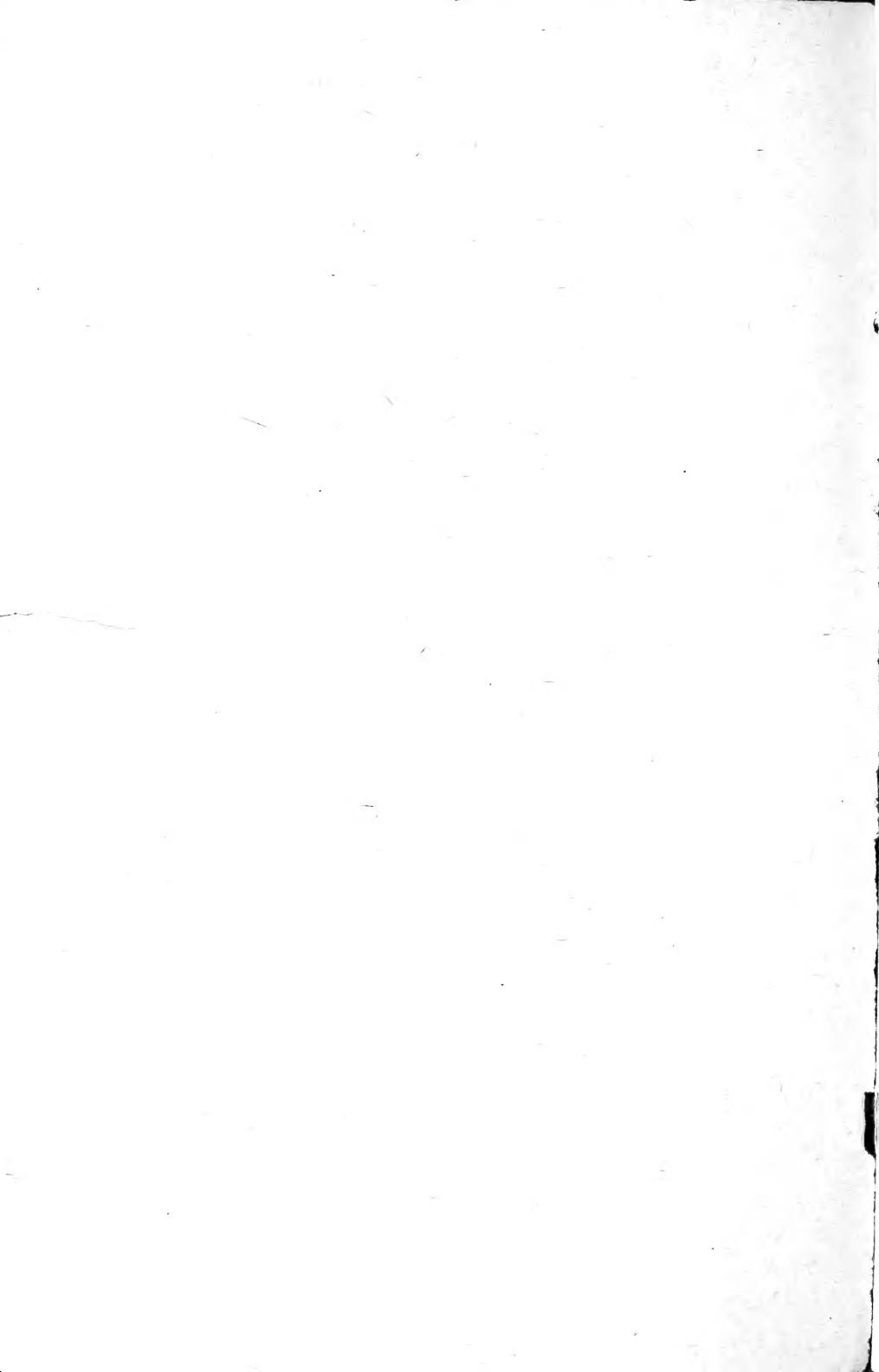
—BY—

H. F. HILLENMEYER, - Proprietor,

LEXINGTON, KY.

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LEXINGTON, KY. :
TRANSYLVANIA PRINTING CO.
1890.



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STRAWBERRY CATALOGUE

—OF THE—

❖BLUE GRASS NURSERIES,❖

—FOR THE—

≡ **SPRING OF 1890.** ≡

THE STRAWBERRY is justly the most popular of the small fruits, and is second only to the apple in commercial value. It ripens the last week in May, is of the easiest culture, is hardy, vigorous, productive and reliable. Although ripening so early, it is more delicious, fragrant and refreshing than fruits maturing later in the season, and is more universally esteemed than the peach, pear or grape. Of general distribution in all temperate zones, the strawberry to the fruit-garden is as the rose among the flowers—a perfect idyl of the delights of rural life. The remembrance of a dish of ripe strawberries blushing in cream, and all the other fragrant and delightful associations of this fruit, have been prolific themes to horticultural writers and thinkers on both sides of the great waters.

Strawberry culture has made great strides in the last quarter of a century. Their quality has not been improved, but the period of ripening has been prolonged, the size of the fruit greatly increased, and varieties suited to all soils and localities have been introduced. We know better the causes of success or failure, and with ordinary care may expect a perfect reward with as much certainty as in the planting of any staple crop. There are no secrets about strawberry culture, and so many thousand farmers and land-owners now plant and gather with certainty, that it is

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not as formerly, when the strawberry was the coveted right of the few, rather than the general possession of all. The markets of Central Kentucky are now abundantly supplied with the finest of berries, offered rather as the surplus of private gardens than as the production of commercial growers.

The sale of plants from our nurseries has so largely increased, and so general an interest has sprung up in this fruit, that for several years this small manual has been published to anticipate all enquiries and explain the manner and methods of our own practice.

Our crop of small fruit last year was over one thousand bushels, and as berry growing is a pursuit of profit rather than pleasure, the instructions given are practical—not theoretical. Those of our patrons who have no previous experience may follow implicitly the instructions given. We wish them to succeed, not fail.

THE SOIL

Best adapted to the strawberry is a rich, dry loam that drains rapidly. It should be deep and sufficiently retentive to furnish moisture in time of drought. At the time of ripening abundant humidity is required to insure a fine yield. Soils however that drain slowly and retain water near the surface are not suitable. Sod land is always infested with the white grub and is not desirable. The roots of the plants are devoured and total failure may follow.

THE PREPARATION

Of the ground is of the greatest importance. If not already of the best quality it should be thoroughly fertilized with any well decomposed manure. It should be deeply plowed, as the roots of this plant penetrate to a great depth, and thorough preparation is a comparative safeguard against drought. The harrow and roller are used in pulverizing the surface and making it even, firm and in best condition for planting. The plat selected should be of as great length as convenient that the cultivation of the plants may in the main be done with horse power. Horse hoes or the cultivators used in tilling corn are well adapted to the purpose. Many refrain from planting strawberries because they labor under the erroneous impression that it is a crop to be tilled exclusively by hand. With proper arrangement of the plat, not materially more hand work will be required than for potatoes or drilled corn.

If possible the preparation of the ground may begin the year previous, by thorough manuring if necessary, by deep plowing and by the

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planting of a crop that can be kept entirely free from grass or weeds, as corn, cabbage or sweet potatoes, etc., etc.

THE SELECTION OF VARIETIES

Is next in order The novice with neither experience nor practical knowledge, may find this quite perplexing. With a score of catalogues before him, gorgeous, perhaps, with pictures of new and wonderful varieties, each extolling its own particular bantling, he may not find the multitudinous and varied counsel conducive to a wise selection.

If the object of the planter is to raise fruit rather than to test varieties, the selection had best be confined to kinds of established merit. The standard of excellence in this fruit is so high that not one variety in twenty that is disseminated, proves worthy of preservation. The price of the plants is no criterion of their intrinsic value, a fact that every one that tests new fruit soon learns

In planting for home use, where an abundance of fruit is wanted, with moderate care and attention, the varieties selected must be hardy, vigorous and productive. For market, size, firmness of fruit and bright color are essential. The season of the strawberry lasts ordinarily about a month, and as this fruit has not strongly marked differences of color, flavor or time of ripening, a few of the best kinds, whether planting for market or otherwise, are always found most satisfactory. In this connection it may be remarked that kinds bearing extra large fruit are rarely very productive, and while valuable for commercial planting, may not be the best for family use.

For more than twenty years we have annually tested the more promising new kinds, and not one in fifty has been of greater value than those we had. It is not our policy to promise more than our patrons will realize, and we do not wish to sell them plants except that they be better than those already furnished. Our plant trade has extended to every hamlet in a large portion of the State, and hundreds of letters from our patrons tell the story of success. To beguile these with promises that cannot be realized is little short of fraud; to secure other patrons and set them in the way of success is honest enterprise.

THE PLANTS

Should be from beds set the previous season, an old plant being entirely worthless. It is waste of time, money and effort to use plants that have fruited. They should also be true to name, as it is not pleasant to gather

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early and late berries from the same bed, nor is such fruit desirable for home use or for market. If purchased from a nurseryman or plantsman they will be received nicely straightened out and tied in bales of twenty-five or fifty. If the roots be more than four or five inches long, they should be shortened for convenience in planting. If the bales be now opened and the plants dipped in thin grout and then sprinkled with fine earth, they are in the best possible condition for rapid and successful planting.

In our own practice we, however, never puddle plants, except when received in bad condition, or when they are high in price, as is usual with novelties.

PLANTING

Is next in order. When the plat is prepared as already directed, extend a garden line and trace the rows four feet assunder. Set the plants, 12 to 18 inches apart, with an ordinary garden dibble, proceeding as with cabbage or sweet potatoes. A flat steel dibble, three inches wide and ten inches long, is superior to the round tool in standard use. The earth must be firmly pressed to the plant so that it cannot be drawn out by a new formed leaf stem. This is the great and only secret of success. Let the earth be firmly pressed to the plant, and not one in a hundred will perish even without the use of water. We do not favor planting in a furrough—the crowns are not uniformly level with the surface nor are the rows straight. If the plants are absolutely in line they can be cultivated with horse tools almost exclusively.

THE BEST TIME FOR PLANTING

Is in the spring, from the last of March to the last of April. If well set at this time, hardly one plant in a thousand will fail, and vigorous growth begins at once. If the season is considerably advanced when the plants are set, and it is dry at that time, a field or garden roller may be passed over the plantation with decided advantage, or when but a few plants are set, they may be firmed by pressing them with the foot when wilted. Very early planting may sometimes prove quite satisfactory, but when copious rains are followed by severe frost as in 1875 and 1881 complete loss may result. Our own planting is from the 10th to 20th of April and always with perfect success.

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THE CULTIVATION

Of the plants should be frequent, and the implements best adapted are a cultivator, adjustable to the width of a row and a garden hoe. A light, sharp steel garden hoe is best for keeping the space between the plants free of grass. The runners should be clipped as they appear, and it has been our custom to do this at each successive hoeing, the tool being kept very sharp, that the plant may not be disturbed in the cutting. About mid-July a final and thorough working is given, the runners cut, and then little more will be needed. In ordinary seasons no rank weeds or grass appear after this time, and the plants, grown vigorous and stocky by the continuous cutting of the runners, and the careful cultivation will now, in a very short time, cover the entire surface with young plants, keeping down any small grasses that may appear.

In two months it may be necessary to pass a garden rake between the rows to destroy the plants that are now covering the entire surface. The inexperienced cultivator may be much pleased at this season with his thick matted beds, but from these the most satisfactory yield can not be obtained the next season, especially if it proves dry while the fruit is ripening. An alley should always be kept free of plants between the rows for convenience in gathering, and when the plants are densely set, the width of this alley should be increased.

After the season of growth is over, nothing further will be required except the application of a mulch of straw at the approach of cold weather to shelter the plants and to keep the fruit free of earth and dust. The amount of straw should not be greater than that produced on a similar area of grain or the plants may be smothered. We find hemp shives better than straw as a mulch, and in future shall use only this material on beds designed for fruiting. It is more imperishable than straw, will not cake or pack, and the plants will push without injury from beneath a greater depth of this covering than any we have used.

The above manner of cultivation is known as the matted row system, and is the one most generally adopted. If fruit of extra size is wanted, or if the garden be quite limited, the plants may be set 12 by 18 inches, and all runners kept cut, no other plants being permitted to occupy the ground. When grown in this way, the work must of course all be done by hand. We have little faith in the stool system. It may do where gardening is a pleasure rather than an incumbency, and for the amateur who cares not for cost. To those who plant for an abundance at a minimum cost, matted rows kept clean by horse power, is the correct way.

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OLD BEDS

Are not desirable. It is always best to make a new plantation each year, but as this is frequently neglected, no other alternative remains but to make the best of an old one. In former years we retained beds for fruiting for several years, and attained the best success possible, with the following management: Immediately after fruiting, the alleys between the rows were thoroughly plowed, leaving a six inch width of plants in the original row. These were further thinned by the hand hoe, leaving masses of plants eighteen inches apart. The harrow was used, regardless of the plants left, until the ground was thoroughly pulverized and level. New leaves soon appeared, and in favorable seasons a fine stand of vigorous plants ensued. An old bed rejuvenated may bear a very good crop of fruit—not the largest in point of size, but very brilliant in color and of high flavor.

UNTIMELY PLANTING

Ends in failure or disappointment. This superb fruit is so easily and certainly raised that each year after the berry season is over, those who have enjoyed its luxury through the kindness of neighbors or friends, determine that there shall be no procrastination, and endeavor to plant at once. To do so with commercial plants is time and money wasted, whether the planting be done in July or September. If in July the plants are old ones, spent and valueless, and if in September they will not root sufficiently to resist frost. We have sold plants at both seasons against our wish, and the purchasers have uniformly lost their money and labor. The only way to plant with success at mid-summer is to prepare a bed and move, after a shower, masses of plants with the earth attached. Such plants can of course not be purchased of a nurseryman. The ground should be deeply checked 3x4 feet, and after the rain the masses of plants and earth are placed in the checks, firmly pressed down and the earth drawn around. This plan has been thoroughly tried by many patrons who express themselves well pleased with the result.

BEDS THAT WILL NOT BEAR

Result from the planting of varieties that have imperfect flowers. It is unfortunate that many of the most productive and desirable strawberries

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will not fruit satisfactorily if planted without an additional variety to furnish the pollen for fertilization.

Crescent, Jersey Queen, Haverland, Ohio, Bubach, and many others belong to this class. If every fifth row of such varieties be alternated with May King, Cumberland, Kentucky or Mt. Vernon, a bed in every way satisfactory will result.



TO OUR FRIENDS AND PATRONS.

The summer of 1889 was in every way favorable, and our plants look unusually well. In digging, the entire ground is cleared, and not an old plant shall be found in a thousand. They shall also be true to name and not a single complaint of mixed plants has ever been made to us. We are ever ready to correct promptly and cheerfully all errors, asking only to be advised at once when the goods are received. We have no agents, but sell direct to the planter. When asked to use our own judgment as to the number of plants needed we send 500 to supply a small family and 1000 for a large one. All plants are sent out in bales of 25, nicely straightened and tied. Small plants are rejected or tied in without counting. We make a slight charge for packing—about 25 cents per thousand to cover cost of box, moss, etc., etc. We will begin sending out about April 1st, and digging, counting, packing and forwarding will be done continuously. No plants will be carried over from one day to another, and not a stored plant shall be sent out. Copious rain entirely stops plant digging, and if they are promised or you expect them at such time, please remember that it is a Providential delay, and it is better to wait in patience than to dig or plant when it is too wet.

CAUTION.

When plants are received, unpack at once, opening the marked side of the box. The top brace marks the kind below it, and thus to the bottom. If not ready to plant, spread on cellar floor and cover with wet sacking. Never saturate baled plants except when ready to plant or they will surely mould. If plants and other stock ordered early in the season are received frozen, let them thaw in the cellar before unpacking, and no harm will ensue. As the season advances plants are more perishable, and should be promptly unpacked and planted at once. We acknowledge all orders on day received, and advise on day of shipment. We pack securely and

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thoroughly that plants may reach purchaser in fine growing order. Address all communications to

H. F. HILLENMEYER,
Lexington, Ky.

DESCRIPTION LIST.

The following list is the best for both home use and market that we can suggest. The descriptions are exactly as they have impressed us in field culture. In addition we have more or less stock of many other kinds that we either regard of small value or that are insufficiently tested. Prices on application.

PRICE LIST.

100 Plants	\$ 50
500 "	1 50
1,000 "	3 00
5,000 "	12 50
10,000 "	22 50

Prices for large lots on application.

CRESCENT.—An early and most productive kind, hardy, vigorous and enduring. Neither heat nor cold has ever totally destroyed the crop. When the plants are not crowded, the first berries are large medium, diminishing in size as the season advances. It is good in color, ripening evenly on all sides and will yield as long as the latest kinds. The flowers are defective and every fifth row should be of some perfect variety or the fruit may be very imperfect.

CUMBERLAND.—A midseason berry of fine quality and size; very uniformly even to the end of the season. It is hardy, vigorous and moderately productive. Old beds yield more and better fruit than most kinds. Like Charles Downing, it has begun to rust and we fear its day of usefulness is on the wane.

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HAVERLAND.—This kind has come to stay. In vigor, hardihood, productiveness and good points it equals or excells Crescent. It is nearly or quite as early, larger in size, about equal in quality, more showy in appearance and has yielded as many large berries as Crescent of both large and small. The flower is imperfect, but fertilizes quite readily and in a crop of some fifty bushels not an imperfect berry was observed. We have a good supply of plants, but will receive no order for more than 500 and only in addition with that number of other kinds. Haverland is a trophy both for market and family use and all our patrons shall have a chance without extra cost to obtain a small stock of plants. It is sent out with our unqualified indorsement.

KENTUCKY.—No berry has so long maintained a hold on popular esteem. It is a standard of excellence among late kinds, and except that it is variable in size and the cap withers when the fruit is ripe, it has no fault. It is yet the most popular late kind for market.

MT. VERNON.—As late as the above and more robust, hardy and productive. It is of the finest size and quality. The cap is not retained in gathering, a quality appreciated by the busy housekeeper, but objectionable to the grower for market. This kind has very strong fruit stems, and the berries are borne above the leaves. Great heat, when half grown, is liable to injure, and the soil selected should be rich to insure rapid leaf development.

MAY KING.—Is all that we have claimed for it. It is as early, hardy, vigorous and large as Crescent, but not so productive. It is beautiful in color, firm, and of the finest quality. It is the best variety to plant in connection with those having imperfect flowers, as it blooms abundantly over a long season and yields pollen abundantly.

SHARPLESS.—Is a berry magnificent in size, color, beauty and excellence, and sometimes will yield fine crops and then without apparent cause fail outright. We have received great praise, and then an equal measure of censure for sending our patrons this kind.

OHIO—This seedling of Kentucky is later than its parent, smaller but very uniform in size and of pretty color. The fruit is borne on strong stems and is quickly gathered.

JESSIE.—Is a fine berry in color and quality, and has been magnificently advertised. With us it has not been very productive and shows the peculiarities of Sharpless, to which it seems to be allied.

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GANDY—Is the latest berry we have. Fine in size, with an ivy-green cap, making it very attractive in the basket. It does not seem to be very productive.

BUBACH.—A superb fruit in the way of size, vigor, beauty and productiveness, but alas, in quality it was last year the poorest.

WARFIELD.—A new claimant for the position that Crescent has so long maintained and certainly of merit.

These last five kinds are the most promising among the newer varieties that are being tested here. Another year is required for a final opinion.

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A GENERAL NURSERY CATALOGUE

Of fruit and ornamental trees, grape vines, small fruits, asparagus plants, and stock usually found in such an establishment may be had on application if not sent herewith.

We have nearly or quite half a million trees with other stock in proportion and invite the personal inspection of planters. Especial rates on all orders of fifty dollars and over. We have no Agents Buy from first hands and save extortionate profits. We refer you to hundreds of our patrons in all parts of the State.

The season of 1889 was very favorable and our stock is in full supply and of fine quality.

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TESTIMONIALS.

MESSRS. C. C. & A. R. CURRY.—The trees and plants we ordered of you were duly received and in first-class order. Please accept our most sincere thanks for your promptness and the extras sent. They are the finest trees we ever saw, and we will take great pleasure in recommending you to our neighbors. Your mode of packing is perfect, leaving no chance for injury from transportation.

WALTER SHROPSHIRE.—My order for the strawberry plants has been promptly, neatly and abundantly filled.

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W. B. DAVIS.—I herewith enclose amount of my bill. The plants and trees came in splendid order and are doing nicely. Accept thanks for extra ones sent.

A. M. TAYLOR.—You will please accept my profound thanks for the prompt manner in which you filled my orders and for the satisfactory stock furnished. All was received in good order and is doing well.

MRS. B. L. SHARP.—Please accept thanks for the plants and trees you sent, which arrived in good order. I appreciate the extras you kindly put in.

MRS. GEO. GOODLOE.—The trees and vines came safely and in good order. Accept many thanks for the extras. I herewith enclose another order.

JOHN W. RODMAN.—Find enclosed check to cover bill. The plants arrived all right. Thanks for your kindness and promptness.

JUDGE GEO. B. NELSON.—Plants arrived just at the right time and in perfect condition. They were fine plants, and your usual liberality made them largely in excess of the number billed.

DR. THOS. A. SHROPSHIRE.—The plants came to hand all right. Thanks for the extra number you sent me.

JOHN T. WOODFORD.—The strawberry plants reached us in good order; accept thanks for the extras sent.

E. CUNNINGHAM.—Goods came in splendid order and were of a superior quality. Much obliged for your promptness and kindness in sending gratis stock.

MRS. J. H. GRAHAM.—The trees and vines were duly received. Allow me to thank you for the extra ones sent. I shall always give you my orders for anything in your line.

ROBERT MALORY.—I enclose check for amount of bill. The plants came all right—fresh and nice. Accept thanks for extra ones.

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J. D. SMITH.—The trees came to hand all right; they are nice ones; many thanks for extras.

J. N. OWENS.—I herewith enclose you another order, and wish to say the last trees sent came in good order, and I was well pleased with them.

REED S. NICHOLAS —I enclose check in payment of my account. Accept sincere thanks for the generous way in which you filled my order.

RICHARD COBB —Trees and plants purchased of you arrived in good condition, and I am much pleased with them. Thanks for the many extras.

MRS. R. P. PEPPER —I was delighted with the strawberry plants sent and enclose another order.

GEORGE SMITH.—The parties who ordered with me unite in expressing sincere thanks for quality and the extra number sent. We all were well pleased.

J. S. HUGHES.—Trees came all right and with splendid roots. We are much obliged for your prompt attention.

DR. JOHN D. NEET.—Enclosed please find check to cover bill. Plants arrived in splendid condition. Many thanks for the extras which amounted to nearly half of my order.

H. H. WEITZEL.—Trees arrived all right. My whole orchard, purchased of you, is a recommendation for you nursery, and every one acknowledges it to be the finest young orchard they ever saw. I always recommend you to every one wanting anything in your line.

GEORGE W. REDMON.—I am well pleased with plants and trees purchased of you, and am so much obliged for extras.

MRS. FANNIE SCOTT.—I received the box and trees in good order. Am so much pleased with them that I will complete my order next season with you. Accept thanks for your generosity.

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PRICE LIST

FOR THE SPRING OF 1890.

STANDARD APPLES.		1	10	100	1000
Extra trees, 3 to 4 years, 5 to 7 feet.....	20	\$1 75	\$12 00		
Good trees, 2 to 3 years, 5 to 6 feet.....	15	1 25	6 00	\$50 00	
Light trees, 2 years, 4 to 5 feet—prices per 1000 on application					
PEARS.					
Standard trees, 5 to 6 feet, fine.....	35	3 00	25 00		
Light trees, 4½ to 5 feet	25	2 00	15 00		
Dwarf trees, 2 years, fine	25	2 00	12 00		
PEACHES.					
One year, 5 to 7 feet, very fine.....	20	1 50	10 00		
One year, 4 to 5 feet.....		1 00	5 00		
One year, 3 to 4 feet (in lots of 50)			2 00		
CHERRY.					
Two year trees, extra fine	30	2 50	18 00		
One year, or light two year.....	25	1 75	12 00		
PLUM.					
Trees on plum roots, 4½ to 6 feet, fine.....	30	2 50	20 00		
CURRENTS AND GOOSEBERRIES.					
Two year plants.....		60	5 00		
RASPBERRIES.					
Black caps			1 00	7 50	
Red varieties			75	5 00	
GRAPES—Large Stock.					
Catawba and Cottage, 2 year.....	20	1 50	6 00		
Concord, Ives and Elvira, extra, 2 year.....	15	1 00	4 00	20 00	
“ “ “ good, 2 year.....	10	75	3 00		
Reising, Perkins, Brighton.....	20	1 25	8 00		
Martha, Noah, Pocklington, 2 year.....	20	1 50	10 00		
Norton, Delaware, Worden, 2 year.....	25	2 00			
Herman, Vergennes, Ea Victor.....	40	3 00			
Niagara, Empire State, Wyoming, Woodruff.....	50	3 50			
PERSIMMON.					
One year, seedless.....	35	3 00			
From seed.....	20	1 50			
STRAWBERRIES.					
(Special Catalogue.)					

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	1	10	100	1000
QUINCES.				
Two year.....	30	\$2 50		
ASPARAGUS.				
Colossal, 1 year.....			\$0 50	\$3 00
Colossal, 1 year, fine roots.....			75	5 00
Colossal, 3 year, extra.....			1 00	7 50
RHUBARB.				
Victoria Linnæus, divided crowns, fine roots.....		50	3 00	
SAGE.				
Fine plants.....	5	40	3 00	
ORNAMENTAL TREES.				
Ash, European, 7 to 10 feet, fine.....	25	2 00		
Alder, English, 4 to 5 feet.....	25	2 00		
Birch, European, White, 6 to 8 feet, fine.....	30	2 50		
Catalpa, Speciosa, 9 to 10 feet.....	30	2 50		
Chestnut, 5 to 6 feet.....	30	2 50		
Elms, in variety, 8 to 10 feet, stems 1 to 1¼ in.....	30	2 50		
Horse Chestnut, 4 feet.....	45	2 00		
Laburnum, Liquidamber, 5 feet.....	25	2 00		
Linden, European or American, 7 to 10 feet.....	30	2 50		
Maple, Silver, 1¼ inch stems.....	30	2 50		
Maple, Silver, 1 inch stem.....	25	2 00		
Maple, Silver, smaller size—low in lots of 100 or 1000.....				
Maple, Sugar, 8 to 10 feet, fine.....	30	2 50		
Maple, Norway and Sycamore, 6 to 8 feet.....	30	2 50		
Mulberry, Russian.....	25	2 00		
Oak, English, 5 feet.....	30	2 50		
Poplar, Lombardy and Carolina, 10 to 12 ft.....	30	2 50		
Poplar, Tulip, 6 to 7 feet.....	35	3 00		
Willow, Weeping, 6 to 8 feet.....	25	2 00		
Walnut, English, 3 feet.....	25	2 00		
White Fringe, fine.....	30	2 50		
Hydrangea, Paniculata.....	25	2 00		
SHRUBS—Hardy, Fine Plants in Variety.				
Althea Deutzia, Calycanthus, Dogwood, Red-bud, Syringa, Wigelia, Tamerax, Pyrus Japonica, Spirea, Lilac, Purple Fringe, Honey-suckle, Burning Bush, &c., &c., fine plants.....	20	1 50		
EVERGREENS.				
Arbor Vitæ, American, 28 to 40 inches.....	30	2 50		
Hemlock, 3 to 4 feet, very fine.....	30	2 50	20 00	
Juniper, Irish, 2 to 3 feet.....	35	3 00		
Retinispora, in variety, fine.....	30	2 50		
Norway Spruce, 3 to 4 feet.....	35	3 00		
Norway Spruce, 2 to 3 feet.....	30	2 50		
Silver Fir, 2 to 3 feet.....	35	3 00		
White Pine, 5 feet, fine.....	35	3 00		
White Pine, 3 to 4 feet, fine.....	30	2 50	20 00	
White Pine, 2½ to 3 feet.....			15 00	

