



U. S. Patent Office  
December 17. 1857

Sir

This Office is desirous to obtain the opinion of one or more reliable botanists of the United States on the hybridity of the plants usually known under the names of *Holcus Sorghum*, *Holcus saccharatus*, *Sorghum saccharatum*, *Sorghum bicolor*, *Sorghum vulgare*, *Sorghum rubrus*, *Sorghum halepense*, &c. The question is one of great interest at the present time in this country, as a difference of opinion prevails among cultivators and others whether the above named plants will hybridize or mix when grown in the same field or near each other.

Yours very Respectfully  
J Holt.

[signed]

Prof. Joseph Henry

Commissioner.

Secretary of the

Smithsonian Institution







U. S. Patent Office,  
May 21. 1858



Sir:

Your favor to Mr. Browne of the 17<sup>th</sup> instant, kindly offering to prepare a paper on the indigenous hedge plants especially adapted to the Southern States, for the next Agricultural Report of this Office, was duly received. You can, as you propose, furnish drawings on wood ready for cutting, sufficient to cover four octavo pages to illustrate said paper, for which this Office will pay you eight dollars.

It is desirable that you should forward the paper with the illustrations, if practicable, in ten or twelve days.

Enclosed I forward you the size of the page.

With regard to the catalogue of native grapes which you propose to furnish

we are not prepared to take any action on the  
subject before another appropriation is made  
by Congress for Agricultural purposes.

Yours very respectfully,  
Walt  
Commissioner.

Dr. John Torrey,  
New York.

U. S. Patent Office

May 28, 1858.



Sir:

Your note to Mr. Browne of the 25<sup>th</sup> instant, explaining the object of your proposition in regard to an article on Fledge plants for the Agricultural Report of this Office, has been received.

Your views I perfectly understand, and therefore would state that your article will be accepted on your own terms, while eight dollars will be paid to the artist for each of the illustrations you design to accompany it.

In regard to the engraving, that does not come under the immediate supervision of this Office, but under that of the Superintendent of Public Printing. The expenses for the blocks on which the designs are to be transferred by photography will be paid in addition to the above.

Yours very respectfully  
W. A. R.  
Commissioner.

Dr. John Torrey,  
New York.

