

## Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



6267  
No. 3.

STORRS, HARRISON & CO.'S

# CHESTNUT CIRCULAR,

FOR THE FALL OF 1870,

AND

SPRING OF 1871.

—◆◆◆◆◆—  
PAINESVILLE, LAKE CO., OHIO.  
—◆◆◆◆◆—

ROCHESTER, N. Y.:

PRESS OF CURTIS, MOREY & CO., UNION AND ADVERTISER' OFFICE.

1870.







W. HOWLAND, SC.

LEAF AND BLOSSOMS.



## ADVERTISEMENT.

---

In offering this new edition of our Chestnut Circular to the public, it is with a feeling of pleasure and gratitude that we express our thanks for the very generous encouragement bestowed upon our enterprise from nearly every State and Territory in the Union. We have been the recipients of letters from men of standing, highly commending us for the good work that we were performing in raising and introducing to the public so valuable a tree as the American Sweet Chestnut.

Our attention was at first called to the subject several years since by the scarcity of fencing timber prevailing in our immediate vicinity, where the greater proportion of the rails were made out of the straight grained, easily split and long enduring Chestnut. Seeing this state of affairs, we conceived the idea of raising from the seed and offering them to the public so that they might, by planting, compensate in a measure for the destruction caused by the woodman's ax. It was thus that we commenced our experiment, (for we can call it little else,) as nothing had been attempted, to any extent, in this country, and we were told by those who had tried it, in a small way, that it was almost impossible to preserve the seed through the winter in a condition so that it would grow. And by those who had attempted to transplant trees from the forest, that even if they could be raised from the seed it would be useless, as they could not be successfully transplanted.

A few years' experience has taught us the requirements of the seed so that we can preserve it with a considerable degree of certainty. And after repeated trials in transplanting them, we pronounce the notion of their being difficult to transplant all a myth, never having experienced a failure in any of our transplantings, some of which have been performed by quite ordinary hands and in a very careless manner. We this season planted quite late a lot of culls, with mice gnawed and grub eaten roots, and to our surprise the majority of them are living and doing well. It is astonishing how such an erroneous idea should become so wide spread and so generally believed. Still, it has its parallel in the once prevailing idea, that the useful and harmless toad was one of the most poisonous reptiles; and, also, in the belief of the deadly shade of the Upas tree, but which are now proved to be entirely harmless. And again in the prevailing opinion, in this very town, not many years since, respecting the growing of evergreens. Sixteen years ago, Jesse Storrs, Esq., the senior partner of our firm, came to this place from Cortland County, New York, where he



had been engaged in the nursery business, to engage in the same business here. On making inquiries respecting the climate and capabilities of the soil, he was told by our most intelligent amateur horticulturist, that deciduous trees would thrive admirably here, but that evergreens would not live in this soil. Notwithstanding this adverse testimony, Mr. Storrs bought a place here and commenced business. And now what have we to oppose to the settled convictions of our friend, obtained by the attempts that had been repeatedly made by transplanting directly from the forests to the lawn or yard, evergreen trees? It is simply this: we find this an exceedingly fine soil for evergreens. M. B. Bateham, Esq., secretary and treasurer of the State Horticultural Society, who has probably as extensive an acquaintance with nurseries as any man in the State, says that he never saw a soil in which evergreens of all sorts were so universally healthy and thrifty; and we have in our nursery over a million of the different varieties of evergreen trees of various sizes, and all showing the most vigorous, healthy growth, and the public grounds of our town, and its private places, are adorned with evergreen trees and shrubs that are perfect gems of beauty. So this bugbear is laid to rest, and we hope the one respecting the transplanting of the Chestnut may henceforth be consigned to the oblivion it so justly deserves.

To our own testimony we would add that of a few others. R. W. Furness, Honorable President of the State Board of Agriculture, and Secretary of the State Horticultural Society, of Nebraska, writes us, under date of June 27th, 1870, that the three thousand Chestnut trees received of us were doing well so far, full ninety per cent. of them living and growing.

Mr. Thomas Mehan, editor of *The Gardners' Monthly*, Philadelphia, in an article for March, 1870, on the transplanting of large trees which he has seen successfully removed, heads the list with the American Chestnut. These were large trees, twenty-five feet high and two feet in circumference, costing ten dollars each to remove them.

Mr. Wm. L. G. Soule, of Lawrence, Kansas, writes under date of February 18th, 1870: "I sold last spring about six hundred Chestnut trees, from two to six feet high, and warranted them to live, and have not heard of one that failed. I have some three hundred now growing that I got last spring, and have not lost one.

A correspondent writing to the *Prairie Farmer*, from Maryville, Nodway County, Mo., makes the following inquiry: "Is the cultivation of the American Chestnut on high prairie soil practicable? Has it been cultivated to any extent, and is it of rapid growth?" To which inquiry, the editor of the *Prairie Farmer* thus replies: "The American Chestnut does well on all light prairie soils. It is cultivated by several persons in the vicinity of Alton—Dr. B. F. Long having trees which produce burrs holding from four to seven nuts. Would it not be well to bud or graft from such stock? We have seen the trees growing near Jacksonville, twelve years old, to produce one bushel of nuts to a tree."



George T. Anthony, Esq., the editor of the Kansas Farmer, Leavenworth, Kansas, in reply to ours respecting advertisement, July 5th, 1876, writes: "The Chestnut tree has created some excitement already, and one grove planted in this county bore an excellent crop *nine years from seed*. We would feel like giving your advertisement editorial notice, because we should like to encourage their growth."

We have testimony from various parties that the Chestnut transplants safely and thrives finely with them, but must let the foregoing suffice.

We feel justly proud of our success in growing our present magnificent stock of Chestnuts, numbering about one million one year old trees, averaging from four to eighteen inches high; and about one hundred thousand two year old, from two to four feet high. The like may have been equaled, and even excelled in European countries, as there they have learned to appreciate the Chestnut as one of the most profitable of all trees, and plant annually millions of them, but we are the first and only ones on the American continent that can boast over a million Chestnuts grown in one season.

We cordially invite parties wishing to purchase to call and examine our stock for themselves.

If any unacquainted with us and our manner of doing business, wish a reference, we would name First National Bank of this place, with whom we have done business for the last ten years; or M. B. BATEHAM, Esq., Secretary of the Ohio State Horticultural Society, whose address is also at this place.

We are engaged in the general nursery business here—established sixteen years ago; have 300 acres of land devoted to carrying on our business, nearly one-half of which is now planted to Nursery Stock; nine Green and Propagating houses, unequaled for commercial purposes in the State, and a capital assortment of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Roses, &c., &c.

We issue the following Catalogues:

- No. 1. Descriptive Catalogue of Fruits and Hardy Ornamentals. 64 pages.
- No. 2. Descriptive Catalogue of Green-House and Bedding Plants. 58 pages.
- No. 3. Chestnut Circular. 16 pages.

(Any of the above sent on receipt of stamps to prepay postage.)

- No. 4. Trade List for Nurserymen and Dealers only.

## HINTS TO CORRESPONDENTS.



Correspondents will greatly oblige us and serve their own interests by observing the following suggestions :

1st. It is requested that explicit directions for marking packages accompany each order, stating by what mode they are to be shipped. And to name it if any special route is preferred. Whenever the route or manner of conveyance is left to us we will use our best judgment, but in so doing assume no responsibility whatever, but all claims for damages after shipment, (if any are sustained) must be made upon the forwarders.

2d. All orders from unknown correspondents must be accompanied by pay for the amount of bill ordered, or when to be shipped by express one-fourth of the amount may be sent with order and balance collected on delivery of trees.

3d. In remitting at our risk it must be by draft, express, post office money order, or registered letter, otherwise all remittances are at the risk of the sender.

4th. If errors occur in the filling of orders, immediate notice must be given and we will strive to make it satisfactory, as our aim is to do justice to all.

5th. Our shipping season of the Chestnut trees usually commences about the first of November ; we could ship some earlier than this but it is best not to ship too early in the fall, as they continue to grow latish, and the leaves cleave persistently until after quite sharp frosts. We have extensive cellars in which we store quantities of trees to accommodate the Southern trade, so that they can be shipped safely by express almost any time during the entire winter.

6th. Expressing is confidently recommended as being by far the most satisfactory mode of transportation, where the weight exceeds four pounds, (the amount allowed by mail,) and is one hundred pounds and less, as it combines speed, safety and economy, especially if long distances are to be compassed and many changes are to be made, where, as common freight detentions are likely to occur, whereby the safety of the trees may be imperilled. Still, small packages of trees not weighing over four pounds can be sent by mail, at a cost of eight cents per pound, or thirty-two cents for four pounds. By wrapping in oil paper and

---

packing in damp moss, they can be sent long distances with perfect safety. We have mailed hundreds of packages with the best results, many of them going as far as Texas, Utah and California. We only offer the two smallest sizes by mail, for which we make special rates to cover the extra cost of packing and the pre-payment of postage. The price of trees by mail are to be found following general prices.

7th. Early orders are solicited. All orders will be booked and filled in rotation, therefore those sending early will insure the receiving whatever sizes they may desire. Last season some sizes were soon exhausted and many who delayed writing early were disappointed. It is, therefore, to your interest not only to determine to plant largely of the Chestnut, but also to let us know that determination as soon as made, so that you may make sure of securing your trees, as we are the only growers, to any extent, in the United States.



## THE AMERICAN SWEET CHESTNUT.

(CASTANEA AMERICANA.)

As it is found in the native forests, in various parts of our country, is one of our most magnificent and useful trees. The timber is light, strong and durable; for fencing material invaluable; for grain finishing lumber not excelled by any other native; and as a nut-bearing tree it is pre-eminently the best and the most profitable in America.

Under the heading of Agricultural Facts, in the New York semi-weekly *Tribune*, of August 27th, 1869, it is stated, "That on all light soils it is doubtful whether there is a better forest tree than the Chestnut. It yields the most fencing and building timber in a given time."

Fifty years ago, in the eastern and middle States, the question was, how shall we best get rid of our timber and clear our lands? To-day, every intelligent man knows that there is *too much clearing*, and that something must be done to cover a portion of our cultivated fields again with trees, or the next generation will suffer greatly for the lack of fencing and building timber. If tree planting is a matter of necessity in the older settlements, how much more indispensable it becomes in the Prairie States, where the lack of timber prompts the provident farmer at once to plant something for future use.

With commendable zeal, hundreds of thousands of trees are planted every year, and already the beneficial effects are beginning to be felt; and as this planting must go on, it becomes an important matter to decide *what* to plant.

In aiding you to make that decision, we can most sincerely commend the American Chestnut.

FIRSTLY.—Because it is a hardy, native tree, growing over a wide extent of country, embracing several degrees of latitude. Mr. Gray, in his manual of Botany, says it is found growing naturally from Maine to Kentucky.

SECONDLY.—It is a beautiful tree, covered in early summer with long pendant tassel-like blossoms and rich foliage, (see cut on 3d page) and in autumn loaded with the choicest nuts.

THIRDLY.—It is adapted to a variety of soils, thriving equally well on sandy, clayey, loamy, gravelly, rocky, and all intermediate soils that are not too wet.



CUT, REPRESENTING LEAVES AND A DETACHED BURR, WITH NUTS.

FOURTHLY.—When nursery-grown it can be transplanted with safety and success. It grows rapidly, making a large quantity of timber and produces fruit in a few years from planting.

FIFTHLY.—The timber is most valuable and the nuts always command a high price.

SIXTHLY.—It is a tree, when full grown of magnificent dimensions, rivaling the oak in its grandeur and scarcely second to that in its huge proportions, attaining one hundred feet in height, and frequently measuring from fifteen to twenty feet in circumference, three feet from the ground.

SEVENTHLY.—We would name this great advantage in the Chestnut as a timber tree, in which respect it ranks pre-eminently above all other forest trees, and that is the wonderful rapidity with which it will renew its growth after being cut down for timber. Sprouts will emanate from the stump which will make a growth several times more rapid than when first planted. The saplings thus growing much straighter and taller than the original trees.

In England, large quantities are planted in this manner, sometimes as close as five by five feet; this produces long straight poles for hurdles, hop poles, &c.; and in this country, where we require so much fence timber, and stakes and posts for grape growing, what would be more convenient on a farm than a fine large Chestnut grove, where the farmer could at any time resort for timber, with the assurance that from the apparently worthless stumps left in the ground, there would, on the opening of another season, spring up a growth, Phoenix-like, more vigorous and numerous than the trees removed. In this manner they may not only be cut once or twice, but may be cut and renewed every few years for centuries, as the Chestnut groves and forests planted in England fully demonstrate.

Again, to those unacquainted with the habits of the Chestnut, we would say, that it is no locust in its character, cursing the hand that plants it and the soil in which it is planted with its innumerable sprouts from the roots, but only suckers from the stump, which are easily controlled.

### SIZE OF TREES TO BUY.

We would particularly urge upon planters the great advantage to be derived by procuring trees when young and small, for the reason that they can be afforded for a trifle the cost, and transported by Railway or Express Companies at a trifling sum compared with larger trees. If you do not wish to plant them where they are to stand permanently, procure a quantity of yearling trees and plant them in nursery rows in the garden or some other good spot. From thence, when grown to a proper size, you can transplant them with perfect safety, even after they are grown to eight or ten feet in height; by choosing a propitious time, on some damp and cloudy day, with careful handling, not one in a hundred



need fail. By so doing you will get trees in better condition and at much less expense than what you possibly can if you depend upon procuring large trees and paying corresponding freight bills.

By buying yearling trees, any good farmer can grow them as well as the nurseryman, and at less expense.

But we do not wish it understood that we recommend the smallest size of the yearling trees as the best to plant, as it is more profitable to procure a first class article every time. We consider a strong, vigorous start a great desideratum in planting either tree, vine, shrub, or plant. Our eight to twelve inch Chestnut trees are fine, stocky, one year old; and the twelve to eighteen inches are extra selected; all offered above this height are two years old.

It is best to procure trees in the Fall and give them the same care that you would Osage plants through the winter, heeling them in in some dry, protected place, or putting them in the cellar with earth between and over them; no place can be safer than the cellar. Thus cared for and planted in early Spring, as soon as the soil is suitable, there need be no loss.

Then, we say, plant the Chestnut, that you may enjoy its beauty and shade, its fruit and timber; and that you may leave a rich inheritance to your children. Plant it on the broad Prairies of the West; plant it on the thin worn out soils of the East; plant it on the lanes and streets; plant it in orchards and groves; plant it about your buildings; plant it everywhere that you want a useful and valuable tree, and future generations will rise up and call you blessed.

## PRICE OF TREES.

Considering the cost of the seed, and the small number there is to the bushel, compared with most other tree seeds that are planted, such as Pear, Apple, Osage, Maple, &c.; the difficulty there is in keeping the seed in good condition for planting; the frequently utter destruction of the crop, when Mice, Gophers or Ground Squirrels discover it; it must be evident to all that we are offering them at low rates, just a fair compensation for our labor, and we confidently expect to benefit planters and the country generally ten-fold more than ourselves. These prices include packing.

Price of trees, 4 to 8 inches, .....	\$3 00 per 100.	\$20 00 per 1,000
“ “ “ 8 to 12 “ .....	4 00 “ 100.	30 00 “ 1,000
“ “ “ 12 to 18 “ .....	6 00 “ 100.	50 00 “ 1,000
“ “ “ 18 to 24 “ .....	1 25 “ Doz.	9 00 “ 100
“ “ “ 2 to 3 feet, .....	2 00 “ “	15 00 “ 100
“ “ “ 3 to 4 “ .....	3 00 “ “	20 00 “ 100

### SPECIAL RATES OF TREES BY MAIL, POSTAGE PAID BY US.

#### FOUR TO EIGHT INCHES.

Per dozen, .....	\$0 75
Per twenty-five, .....	1 25
Per fifty, .....	2 25
Per hundred, .....	3 75

#### EIGHT TO TWELVE INCHES.

Per dozen, .....	\$1 00
Per twenty-five, .....	1 75
Per <sup>w</sup> y, .....	3 00
Per <sup>d</sup> hundred, .....	5 00

Where parties at a distance only wish a few trees, this mail arrangement will be found much cheaper than paying express charges. Address,

**STORRS, HARRISON & CO.,**

PAINESVILLE, Lake Co., Ohio.

## SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF TREE PLANTING.

---

But the timber, rails, posts, stakes, boards and wood are not the only things to be considered; not the only benefit to be derived from the planting of groves and belts of timber, but the climatic changes to be wrought by putting down a due proportion of the land to forests are incalculable. It is advocated by scientific men, that at least one-fourth of all land should be covered with trees, and that more grain and grass could be produced from the remaining three-fourths than otherwise could be raised from the whole of it. Experience proves that too closely denuding a large section of country of its forests, cause long protracted drouths, sudden changes in the weather and high winds, culminating in the fierce tornado and the no less destructive hail storm.

On the western prairies, in their native state, the tall, dense prairie grass compensated in a measure for the lack of timber, and to a considerable extent performed the same office as the refreshing shade of the forests; that is, keeping the bosom of mother earth cool, by protecting it from the direct rays of the sun. We are told by travelers that the great desert of the western plains is nearly all capable of conversion into arable land, and that already grass and trees are encroaching upon its boundaries or forming inviting oases wherever the hunter or traveler have chanced to scatter a few seeds, and if such results are obtained, almost by chance, without care and culture, what could not man accomplish by combined systematic planting and care. The earth was created for man to subdue and beautify. Where God, in his goodness, has planted all to forests, it is for man to remove the portion necessary for cultivation. And where God, in his wisdom, has spread out the grand prairie and covered it with grass as with a garment, boundless to the eye as the ocean itself, it is that man may rejoice in the privilege of transforming it to an Eden of fruits and flowers, and beautiful groves.

Summons to your aid your imagination and picture to your mind's eye the transformation that may in a few years be wrought in the prairie districts, by the judicious planting of wind breaks, groves and wood lots, and you can but exclaim: What a change—how beautiful! Remember that it only requires energy and a resolve to "push" *this tree planting* to accomplish so desirable a result.





CHESTNUT BURR.