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**REK**  
WHERE  
STARTED  
IN 1884.

21ST YEAR

# RATEKIN'S 1905

GARDEN AND FARM ANNUAL

LARGEST  
SEED HOUSE  
IN THE  
WEST.

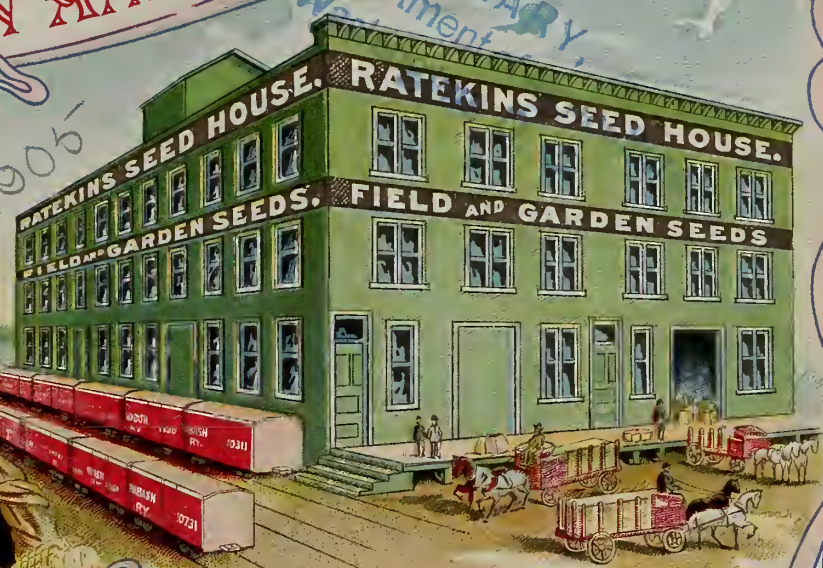
1905



RATEKIN'S  
PRIDE OF NISHNA  
SEE DESCRIPTION

## RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE

SHENANDOAH, IOWA, U.S.A.



OUR NEW BUILDING

# HIGH GRADE SEEDS

# 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, or to Dun's and Bradstreet's.

### WHAT OUR BANKER SAYS OF US:

#### The First National Bank

Capital and Surplus, \$110,000.00

To Whom it May Concern: Ratekins' Seed House has been a valued customer of this bank for a good many years, and has done a large business with us. We consider the house entirely responsible financially, and we are pleased to recommend this establishment to those who buy seeds.

The proprietor, Mr. J. W. Ratekin, is well known to us. He has had long experience in the seed business and his house is well and favorably known over a big territory.

THOS. H. READ, PRES. ELBERT A. READ, CASHIER.  
J. F. LAKE, ASST. CASHIER.

UNITED STATES DEPOSITORY NO. 2363.  
SHENANDOAH, IOWA, Aug. 18, 1904.

Very truly,

ELBERT A. READ, Cashier.

### WHAT OUR POSTMASTER SAYS:

U. S. POSTOFFICE, SHENANDOAH, IOWA, August 4, 1904.

To Whom it May Concern: I take pleasure in stating that I have known Mr. J. W. Ratekin, proprietor and manager of Ratekins' Seed House, of this city, for many years, and have always found him to be straightforward and honorable, both personally and in business affairs. He has been engaged in the seed business here for years, and has built up a large business in that line, which is a credit to him and to the city, and has proven beneficial to the farmers of the entire United States. He has shipped large quantities of seed corn and other seeds to all parts of the country, giving entire satisfaction to his thousands of customers so far as I have been able to learn.

Respectfully,

C. N. MARVIN, Postmaster.

### WHAT SHENANDOAH'S MAYOR SAYS:

OFFICE G. F. COTRILL, MAYOR, SHENANDOAH, IOWA, Dec. 1, 1904.

To the Public: It affords me great pleasure in stating that I am well acquainted with the seed firm of Ratekins' Seed House of this city, as well as its manager, Mr. J. W. Ratekin, and cheerfully recommend them to the public as being reliable, trustworthy and straightforward in all their dealings. They are one of Shenandoah's big concerns, and their business is of great magnitude.

Respectfully,

GEO. F. COTRILL, Mayor.

# 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 PAGE 72

Always address **RATEKINS' SEED HOUSE**  
SHENANDOAH, IOWA

# TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL CATALOG OF RELIABLE SEEDS

Shenandoah, Iowa, Jan'y 1, 1905

**GREETING.** SEASON OF 1905. To Our Many Friends and Patrons: At the very beginning we desire to heartily thank the many thousands who have given us their continued and able support. We take pleasure in presenting you with this copy of our Seed Annual for 1905. We have not aimed to make up a large, brilliant, sensational book such as are quite common among the seedsmen of today, but we have endeavored to publish a simple, modest, truthful statement of our business—of what we have to offer to the public.

WE KNOW THAT WE ARE DOING BUSINESS WITH A KEEN, LIVE, WIDE-AWAKE PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES, of good, sound business judgment, who are able to detect at once mere "brag" and "blow," and to place all such questionable catalog descriptions where they belong. We believe that the people want, not colored plates, not too highly colored descriptions, but the PLAIN TRUTH. This, we repeat, is our aim, to give you a "plain truth," easy to understand. We believe this "plain truth policy" back of our catalog and business is the correct one, for it is being more generously rewarded every year, as is clearly shown in our constantly increasing business.

We strive to improve constantly, and are sure RATEKIN'S SEEDS FOR 1905 are better than ever offered before; as heretofore we do not attempt to compete MERELY IN PRICE. Our aim is to EXCEL IN QUALITY, and the fact in spite of fierce competition we still maintain the largest mail order seed trade in the west is indisputable evidence that RATEKIN'S SEEDS ARE RELIABLE. Twenty-one years' honest, earnest work, combined with unequalled facilities, enables us to maintain the truth of this well known motto. Our business last season was the largest we have ever handled up to that time. This season we are prepared for a still greater demand.

Our hearty thanks are due to thousands of customers for their recommendations to friends and neighbors; such kind words have made possible the extension of this business to its present proportions.

It is our earnest endeavor to give better service this season, and we are sure that the preparations we have made for 1905 will avoid any delay as occasioned by an extraordinary influx of orders during the mild weather last March.

But if you can do so conveniently, PLEASE ORDER EARLY before the great rush of the spring months, when night work is necessary to maintain our reputation for promptness.

With hearty good wishes for the New Year, we remain,

Very truly yours,

RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE.

By J. W. RATEKIN.

## BUY YOUR SEEDS BY MAIL

You will be sure then of getting THE BEST SEEDS THAT GROW at lowest prices possible. All you have to do is to make out a list of the seeds wanted (writing each variety on a separate line), figure up the total at printed prices (if your order is for one dollar or more), by packet or ounce; select seeds to the amount of \$1.25, and so on for each additional dollar's worth of seed by packet or ounce, select seeds to the amount of twenty-five cents, enclose the net sum, either by P. O. or express money order, draft or check in an ordinary letter, cash or stamps in registered letter, and your order will have our most prompt attention.

Always address RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE, Shenandoah, Iowa, and not individual members of the firm; this will avoid delays.

# Suggestions to Customers

**Order Early** The best time to order is just as soon as you receive this catalog, as we can always give your orders more of our personal attention if they come in before the rush of the spring trade. Please use the order sheet, as it makes it more convenient for us in filing orders. Terms are invariably cash with order as we keep no book accounts in our mail order department and the expense of sending C. O. D. is quite large. Postage stamps received as cash.

**Shipping Facilities** We are located on the C., B. & Q. Ry., the Omaha & St. Louis line of the Wabash Railway, and the Keokuk & Western Railroad, Shenandoah being the terminus of the latter. We also have the Adams Express Co. and Pacific Express Co., so that quick shipments can be made to any town in the United States. It is well to remember that express charges are very much higher on heavy goods, and you should order them sent by fast freight.

**Charges Prepaid** All vegetable and flower seeds, bulbs and plants, except those noted, are sent prepaid by mail or express by the quickest and most direct routes unless ordered otherwise, and we guarantee their safe arrival. Seeds sold by the peck or bushel, field seeds, potatoes, implements and other heavy goods are sent by freight or express, purchaser paying charges.

**Our Prices** Our constant aim is to make the highest quality the first consideration, and next to put our prices as low as good reliable seeds can be sold.

**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 catalog 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.

**We Guarantee** that all money sent us for seeds shall reach us, if sent by P. O. or express money order, bank draft or registered letter, that your order will be filled promptly and well, that goods ordered will reach you safely. Always keep a copy of your order.

## Special Prepaid Rates to Our Customers

(Read Carefully.)

We have a special prepaid express rate with ALL express companies, whereby IF express packages of Seeds, Bulbs, Fruit Trees and Shrubs are PREPAID here BY US, they will go at the rate of 2 ounces per 1 cent; no package, however, for less than 15 cents. Thus 1½ pounds will go for 15 cents, 2 pounds for

16 cents, 2 pounds and 2 ounces for 17 cents, 2 pounds and 4 ounces for 18 cents, 2 pounds and 6 ounces for 19 cents, etc., etc.; 4½ pounds for 35 cents.

In addition to this ounce-rate we also have a special pound-rate whereby 5 to 15 pounds can be sent to any Adams, Southern or Pacific Express office in the United States for about 85 cents, which is the lowest minimum charge on small shipment where PREPAID in advance. This same rate will hold good where there are TWO OR MORE express offices of any other company located at your place. Other and larger packages or shipments will be charged the regular seed or nursery rate, which is 20 PER CENT less than on regular merchandise, and same charges only will be collected at end of route as if prepaid here. But on all small packages or shipments, on which purchaser is required to pay transportation charges, we would ADVISE THAT YOU ALWAYS SEND MONEY ENOUGH TO PREPAY EXPRESS CHARGES.

## 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 payment 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.

## ABOUT WARRANTING.

We thoroughly test all our seeds, and nothing is sent out which we do not believe to be good in every respect. When it is considered how many are the contingencies on which the success of any crop depends, such as sowing too deep or too shallow, too wet or dry soil, unfavorable weather, insects, etc., our customers will readily see that it would be sheer folly for anyone to warrant them to produce a perfect crop, and we want it plainly understood that while we exercise great care to have all seeds pure and reliable, and also true to name, we do not give any warranty, express or implied. If the purchaser does not accept the seeds on these terms and conditions, they are to be returned at once, and the money that has been paid for same will be refunded. No agent or employee of our firm is authorized to make any warranty whatsoever. However, we have so much confidence in our seeds that we hereby agree to refill any retail order for vegetable or flower seeds free of charge should they prove otherwise than as we represent them. We know of no responsible seed firm in the world which guarantees seeds any further than this.

**Prepaid Railroad Stations** Many of our farmer customers live at prepaid railroad stations where there are no agents; in such cases we ship the goods to the nearest station to the prepaid station, as we never pay freight charges on heavy seeds unless charges are advanced.

**Market Gardeners** or anyone interested in growing vegetables in large quantities, will find Ratekin's Reliable Seeds just what they want. Should you want seeds to the amount of \$5.00 or more, they are requested to send for our market gardeners' price list. All club orders are entitled to these prices.

## SUBSTITUTING.

Our stock of all we list in this catalog manual is large, but with a mammoth demand and in view of the fact that it is impossible to foretell what will be made a run on, it would be impossible not to run short of some items before the season is over. From past experience we find that it is very unsatisfactory to substitute, so in case we are out of any kind of seed, we will RETURN YOUR MONEY for that part of your order, unless you give us full permission to use our judgment and send you some-

thing that will give you as good or better satisfaction than what you order. Quite often our friends give us permission to send what we think will be best adapted to their locality, soil and wants. We would suggest, also, that you name your SECOND CHOICE, especially in garden seeds, where the difference between varieties are very slight. Of course we are not liable to run out, unless at the end of the season, as we have liberally provided for everything, and our stock is large and of superior quality.

## Our Business Policy.

Every great and successful business, if it is to grow and live, must, after all, be built up upon good old Bible virtues. This is true of individuals and nations, and there is but one secret of building up a business that is to progress and expand, and that secret is HONESTY; and in writing our catalog we have made an effort to give our customers honest, plain truth, statements and descriptions. We know our Cabbage Seed, Onion Seed, etc., will not produce vegetables two or three times as large as seed from other seed houses, nor do we claim our Seed Corn, Oats, Potatoes, etc., will produce 500 to 1,000 bushels to the acre. Those things do not exist, and no man will believe those statements, no matter who may make them.

We have conducted our business on honest principles since its very beginning, and each season our business has steadily grown, and now our customers number over 65,000. Honest business principles have done it, as shown by our customers who send to us each year for their supply of seeds. We are also careful and ambitious to so conduct our business that people may always feel safe in ordering Ratekin's Seeds. We also want our customers to know and feel that their orders will receive our most careful attention, and seed sent you of which there is none better. We do not say that our seeds are better than all others; you would not believe us if we did; but WE DO CLAIM that we are extremely careful in the selection of varieties, and the growing and testing of all the seeds we send out, and we believe no seedsmen in America are trying harder to give their customers seeds of high quality and germination than are RATEKIN'S.

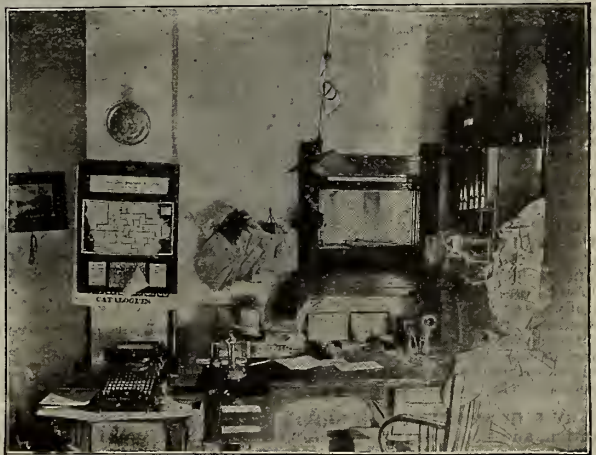


VIEW OF GENERAL OFFICE.

**Our Experience** Often do we hear it said that "experience" is the greatest of all teachers. So important a matter is the buying of seed that you cannot afford to place your order in any but the most experienced hands. 21 YEARS' EXPERIENCE stands back of RATEKIN'S, telling them how to fill your orders in a manner pleasing to you.

**Our Facilities.** Doubtless most of our customers know just what our place of business looks like, as we have published many illustrations of our buildings, and this season we show you several illustrations of different corners in our house. We will continue to do this, as we believe it interesting to our customers, and we want them to know and see where their seeds come from, and the manner of preparation, etc., such as our Seed Corn—we want them to know that every ear which they receive is as carefully selected as should they select it themselves; and such as Oats, Wheat, Barley, Speltz and Grass Seeds—we want them to know how they are cleaned, that everything is taken out of the seed before shipment; and the Garden Seed—to know whether they will grow or not. All these things we want our customers to be thoroughly familiar with, as we are interested in them as much after they buy their seeds from us as before; we want them to grow bountiful crops and reap rich harvests.

**Promptness** We feel that a word of explanation is in order here, as you will at once understand that the seed business is a business which is difficult to handle unless you have had experience in that line and have a thorough system, for the reason that it nearly all comes at once. We are so arranged that we can execute all orders promptly, and ship them the same day as order is received, although many times we are compelled to work until the late hours at night, but we will not break the good record which has taken years to make



ANOTHER SNAPSHOT OF OUR OFFICE ROOMS.

There are two other office rooms in addition to these, not illustrated.

—that is, promptness. We wish, if convenient, that our customers would always order as early as possible, but if they are unable to do so, their orders will have our prompt attention just the same.

**Free Seeds** Anyone sending us twenty-five names of their friends and neighbors who send away for new fresh seeds each year, we will mail FREE five packets of any vegetable seeds you may select from our seed book, provided the names are accompanied by an order for 50 cents worth, or more, of our seeds.

**Our Packet Seeds** are full sized and contain the best and freshest seeds, and are not to be compared with the half-size or poorly-filled packets which are so largely offered through the country and by cheap advertisements. If you want quality and quantity, and splendid vegetables, always order Ratekin's Reliable Seeds. Remember we pay the postage on all seeds at packet, ounce and quarter-pound rates.

**To Our Customers** No doubt many fakirs, novices and amateurs without practical knowledge, experience or capability will copy after our "Seed Annual." In fact we have personal knowledge of those now waiting to obtain a copy as soon as out of print to go by, and thus palm off as their own productions. Kind friends and readers, when you see one of them, you may draw your own conclusions. As to patronizing a seed house which has experience, reputation and integrity behind it, it's an easy matter to decide where you will receive the best and most honorable treatment and new, reliable seeds.

We are endeavoring to build up a critical seed trade: we are guarding the growth by testing and sale of our seeds as but few seedsmen in America are doing. We believe a trial order for Ratekin's RELIABLE SEEDS will convince you of the true merit of them.



ANOTHER SECTIONAL VIEW OF OUR OFFICE ROOMS,

Showing cases where over sixty-five thousand of orders from our customers are filed by the most modern card system.

## A Word About Our Prices.

We have aimed to fix our prices as low as possible for strictly "High Quality" seeds. By comparing the prices in this catalog with prices of other seedsmen, you will find our prices neither the lowest nor the highest. We believe our customers want seeds of the highest quality, at reasonable prices, and this has been our constant aim, to supply them with them, as no seedsmen can sell you first-class seeds, sure to grow, for less than prices listed in this catalog.

**LARGE SIZED PACKETS.** Customers frequently write us that our packets contain twice as much seed as those obtained from other seed houses; yet, notwithstanding our **VERY LIBERAL PREMIUMS** on seeds in packets and ounces, as announced before and later on also, we shall continue to put up the same **LIBERAL SIZED PACKETS.**

**OUR LIBERAL PREMIUMS.** 25 CENTS WORTH OF SEEDS EXTRA is allowed on each one dollar sent us for seeds in packets and ounces. We advise the formation of large club orders and the above discounts will certainly pay anyone for some trouble in that direction. Should you desire vegetable seeds by the pound quantities, write for our wholesale price list, if you do not receive it.

**WE GUARANTEE OUR SEEDS** to be of strong vitality, and that every order we receive shall reach its destination in good condition, and that everything shall be received exactly as ordered and true to name.

**Free Delivery by Mail.** We deliver free to any postoffice in the United States all vegetable and flower seeds offered in this catalog by packet, ounce, quarter-pound and pound, except where noted in our catalog. Purchaser pays freight and express charges also on pecks, bushels, crates and barrels, and on all farm seeds. **REDUCED EXPRESS RATES—** See on second page of this catalog.

## Complete Office System.

We have enlarged our office facilities, and now have one of the most complete office systems possible. When your order is received it is opened and carefully examined; it is then numbered, your name is entered in our record book, showing when we received your order and the amount and number of it. It then goes to our packing rooms, is filed and carefully packed. On the order sheet the clerks check off all articles sent you. The clerks sign their name, also the date the order is filled and forwarded; then the order is addressed. The order sheet is then returned to our office rooms and there filed according to number; so if you write us concerning your order, it takes but a moment to find it in our files.

**A Cordial Invitation.** Farmers, Planters, Market Gardeners and all who use seeds are invited to make our seed house a visit when in Shenandoah. We shall be pleased to show you through our establishment, and explain the workings of the various departments. We have nothing to conceal, and our best customers are those who know us best.



CORNER IN OUR STORAGE ROOM,  
Where surplus vegetable stock is stored.



A SECTION IN OUR GARDEN SEED DEPARTMENT,  
Where over twenty-five people are employed during our busy season.

## Some of Our Customers.

Arbor Lodge, Nebraska City, Neb., March 15th, 1904.  
Ratekin's Seed House—Dear Sirs: Enclosed please find order for farm and garden seeds. I do not enclose cash with order, not knowing amount of this size order. Kindly send invoice to me made out to Joy Morton, Chicago, Ill., and you will receive your money from that office.  
Yours truly,  
C. E. DWYER, Manager.

Mr. Dwyer is manager of the Morton estate, in which Joy Morton, also Mr. Paul Morton, our Secretary of Navy, are interested.

Alliance, Neb., March 26th, 1904.  
Dear Sirs: Please ship me by Adams Express the following: \* \* \* \* \* Please mail me invoice, also statement for former shipment. Very truly,  
J. R. PHELAN,

Supt. Burlington & Missouri River R. R. in Nebraska.

Telegram—Kansas City, Mo., March 18th, 1904.  
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.





SECTIONAL VIEW OF ONE OF OUR LARGE STORAGE WAREROOMS.

## Some of Our Customers.

(Continued)

Washington, Iowa, Sept. 3d, 1904.

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.

Nemaha County, Kan., Nov. 3d, 1904.

Ratekin's Seed House—Gentlemen: I write you to say three years ago I purchased some of your Pride of Nishna Seed Corn, and paid you \$1.50 per bushel for it. The first year I planted it very late, and the water overflowed several times, and it made the best corn. The second year I planted it and dry weather struck it, but it was my best just the same. This year my corn land was principally bottom land and overflowed five or six times, but I have the name of having the finest corn in this country without exception.

Yours truly, J. BURTON WOOD.

Catt County, N. Y., May 16, 1904.

Ratekin's Seed House—

Dear Sirs: We received the Timothy Seed and we are well pleased with same.

Very truly, WILLIAM HAWKINS.

McLean County, Ky., Sept. 19, 1903.

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.

WE WANT every one of our farmer friends who receives our seed annual or who does not to be free to write us at any time for any information he may desire regarding the sowing or planting of different seeds or grains, and we will always be pleased to give him the benefit of our long experience, and the best methods which our experience has taught us. Be free to write us. We are interested in every farmer improving his crops and increasing their yield.

You Cannot Afford to pay out money for anything but reliable seeds. Too much depends upon the purity and germinating qualities of the seed you purchase to run any risk. The success of the season's gardening will depend very largely upon the quality of seeds you plant. Ratekin's Reliable Seeds are thoroughly tested.

Afton, Iowa.

Ratekin's Seed House: The Queen of Nishna Seed Corn I received from you is fine.

C. B. CRUMPACKER.

Isanti County, Minn., Oct. 4, 1904.

Dear Sirs: The New Sensation Oats I bought from you made about 40 bushels to the acre; this year was a very unfavorable season, too. Please send me your catalog as soon as out of print.

Yours truly, I. MARTIN.

Noxubee County, Miss., Aug. 11.

Ratekin's Seed House: I will say the German Millet bought of you last spring is all you claim for it. Am well pleased.

Very truly, DR. JOS. J. WHITTLE.

Stephens County, Texas.

Gentlemen: I am well pleased with the seeds I purchased from you last spring. Send me your catalog for 1905.

Very truly, I. H. JONES.

Clay County, Mo., Aug. 6, 1904.

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.

Webster County, Mo., Sept. 17th.

Gentlemen: The seeds purchased from you last spring were good and have given perfect satisfaction.

Very truly, E. A. MINGUS.

It Will Pay You well to Take Orders for "Ratekin's Reliable Seeds." Ask your neighbors to send with you.

If you are going to buy a large order of garden seeds in pounds, and do not receive our wholesale price list, WRITE FOR IT.

WE HAVE ALWAYS CLAIMED that a satisfied customer is the best advertisement, and during our TWENTY-ONE YEARS IN THE SEED BUSINESS we will venture to say that we do not believe we have a single dissatisfied one. We have endeavored to make every customer pleased by sending them Reliable Seeds, that grow, and by always giving full, large-sized packets, more than you receive from other seed houses.

# 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 Fremont 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. & Q., 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** 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 1830, 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.



## NISHNABOTNA CORN IS THE MOST PROLIFIC

**Farmers Raise One Hundred Bushels to the Acre in a Small Section of Iowa.**

In 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 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 10 miles south to 40 north of the state line and there is not another such productive spot in the world.

While there has been no regular agreement or organization among the corn growers in that section, yet there has been an understanding that has amounted to an agreement and which has resulted during the last 20 years in the production of a recognized type of corn that is almost perfection. It is the best and most distinct type of yellow corn in existence and is the great main crop for the corn belt. It may properly be called the "Pride of Nishna" Corn. This type of corn possesses a marked degree of superiority over the corn grown anywhere else.

There are localities in Texas and the Dakotas and other distant states where an excellent quality of corn is raised from Iowa seed; but it soon deteriorates and a new supply of better seed from the Nishnabotna valley must be obtained.

For 20 years such pioneers in the seed corn business as Ratekin's and others in this section have talked "the breeding up of corn." They have been laughed at for their pains but their advice 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 careful selection of the seed and by a mixture of brains with its cultivation.

Year after year these men urged the careful selection of the seed corn, advised the knocking off of the butts and tips, advised the sorting of the grains, 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 corn 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 raising districts by experiments made in this section. Year after year it has experimented with the seed corn obtained from southwestern Iowa, and year after year the best results have been obtained from the 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 honors at the Ames Agricultural College and that man attributed his prize to the fact that he has secured the best seed obtainable.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch, May 8th, 1904.



A SECTIONAL VIEW OF DRIVEWAY through our seed house; also showing outlet of our large storage bins.

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 Post-Dispatch, May 8th, 1904.

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.



# SEED COLLECTIONS

Delivered Free by mail to any place in the United States or Canada.

LARGE, FULL-SIZED PACKETS OF RATEKIN'S RELIABLE SEEDS.

The following collections have been prepared with a view to placing in our customers' hands seeds of finest quality at very reasonable prices. While these collections are cheap, quality has in no case been sacrificed; all are made up from the same high grade stocks we furnish to our market gardener trade; we carry no other stock, and the seeds are, of course, put up in our regular size packets. We are not only looking for your trade this year, but it is our purpose to retain it; therefore we make these surprisingly low offers as a special inducement to try our seeds. The trial we feel sure will secure you as a permanent customer.

It is hardly necessary for us to warn you not to buy commission box seeds of doubtful age and quality, when you can obtain from us First-Class Seeds delivered at your door by mail, at such remarkably low prices.

VEGETABLE SEED COLLECTION NO. 1

25c

- Beet—Early Blood Turnip
- Cucumber—Chicago Pickle
- Carrot—Half Long Red
- Lettuce—Black Seed Simpson
- Onion—Yellow Globe Danvers
- Radish—Early Scarlet Turnip
- Tomato—Stone

Regular Catalog Price, 35c.

VEGETABLE SEED COLLECTION NO. 2

50c

- Bean—Golden Wax
- Beet—Early Blood Turnip
- Cabbage—Early York
- Carrot—Half Long Red
- Celery—White Plume
- Corn—Early Cory
- Cucumber—Improved Long Green
- Musk Melon—Rocky Ford
- Water Melon—Cole's Early
- Onion—Yellow Globe Danvers
- Parsnip—Hollow Crown
- Pepper—Large Bell
- Peas—American Wonder
- Radishes—Extra Early Scarlet Top
- Rutabaga—Purple Top
- Tomato—Stone
- Pumpkin—Sweet or Sugar
- Squash—Hubbard

Regular Catalog Price, 90c.

Great Vegetable Seed Collection No. 3

35 Packets for

\$1.00

Regular Catalog Price, \$1.75

1. Asparagus—Conover
2. Beets—Eclipse
3. Beans—Golden Wax
4. Beans—Lazy Wife
5. Corn—Early Cory
6. Cabbage—Early York
7. Cabbage—Early Jersey Wakefield
8. Carrots—Ox Heart
9. Cauliflower
10. Celery—White Plume
11. Celery—Giant Pasco
12. Cucumber—Chicago Pickle
13. Cucumber—Improved Long Green
14. Kohl Rabi
15. Lettuce—Improved Hansen
16. Lettuce—Early Prize Head
17. Leek—Broad Flag
18. Melon—Cole's Early
19. Melon—Kolb's Gem
20. Musk Melon—Rocky Ford
21. Musk Melon—Extra Early Hackensack
22. Onion—Large Red Weatherfield
23. Parsnip—Hollow Crown
24. Pepper—Ruby King
25. Peas—American Wonder
26. Parsley—Moss Curled
27. Radish—Early Scarlet Turnip
28. Radish—Early Long Scarlet Short Top
29. Pumpkin—Sweet or Sugar
30. Rutabaga—Purple Top
31. Salsify—M. S. I.
32. Squash—Hubbard
33. Turnip—Purple Top Flat
34. Tomato—Acme Early
35. Tomato—Stone

This Collection cannot be broken.

Don't think for a minute that because we are making you such liberal seed collections that they are inferior seeds. There is none better offered by any seed house in America. Our prices are not the lowest nor the highest, but are as low as seeds of equal quality can be sold for. We are after 25,000 new customers this year, and we make this liberal offer to have you try our seeds, for once a customer, you will always try Ratekin's Reliable Seeds.



We are pleased to say again to our many customers and numerous friends that our stock of garden and field seeds which we offer them this season is strictly first-class and the quality is as good as to be found in the United States.

Although some of our crops are short and prices on some seeds are higher, as well as when we have had good crops, our prices are as low as seeds of equal quality can be sold for. We have spared no time, trouble or money to produce the best seeds, as we believe nothing too good for our customers. The cleaner, better and more pure we can make our seed stocks the better pleased we are. We know our customers will appreciate all this and our seeds will please them. Seed buying comes but once a year for most homes and gardens, and should not be decided on the claim of cheapness. The question should be where to get the best and not where are the cheapest. The matter of saving a few cents in seeds is but a trifle compared with the loss of labor, ground, and perhaps the entire crop, with much disappointment added.

All the seeds in our house are thoroughly tested as to germination when we receive them from our growers, as well as before we send them out. Therefore we are at all times interested that our customers shall receive the best seeds, and reap profitable results as well. Should any of our customers receive any vegetable seeds from us of weak germination we will thank them to write us, and these seeds will be replaced should it be the fault of the seeds. This is what few seedsmen in America do.

We hope all who receive this seed annual will favor us with their orders, whether they be large or small. We assure you that you will be numbered among our pleased customers. We want 25,000 new customers this season and will strive to get them by having every one pleased. There are none better than Ratekin's Reliable Seeds and none cheaper of equal quality. Remember our liberal commissions on vegetable seeds, and be sure to select 25 cents extra for every dollar sent us for seeds by packet or ounce, as fully explained on page two. Order early if convenient.

**21 Years' Experience** as seed specialists goes into every packet and package of seeds sent out from this house, and you surely stand in your own light if you do not profit by your opportunity to take advantage of this experience in helping you grow big and satisfactory crops.

**No Market Gardener** in the United States whose annual order exceeds \$5.00 should fail to have our wholesale price list, which will be mailed free to all who apply for it. It will prove a money saver. Prices are right and seeds are reliable, and, as hundreds of our customers have remarked, "Once a customer for Ratekin's seeds, always a customer." We assure you you will say the same. Write for it to-day, if you did not receive it. A postal card will bring it.

**Don't** be afraid to send us orders for 25 or 50 cents. They are just what we want, for next year you will order \$2.00 or \$3.00 worth. We want your trade, and we will strive to please you when you favor us with it.

Good crops can be grown only from good seed.

See descriptions of our Seed Corn, guaranteed to please you.

**We Make Quality** a first consideration; no effort is spared to make all our seeds the purest and most reliable.

Even if you live a thousand miles away, your seed buying will be made more easy and quite as satisfactory as if you lived in reach of our seed house. This is because we give PERSONAL AND CAREFUL attention to filling each order as if the customer were a personal friend. If you are doubtful as to the merits of a vegetable you can leave it to our judgment and we will send you a variety we know will give satisfaction.

**Tested Seeds** No seeds leave our seed house before being thoroughly tested as to life and vitality. When we send any seeds out we are absolutely sure they will grow, unless climatic conditions interfere. When you sow you want to reap; that's eternally right, and that's what you can always depend upon doing when you sow or plant RATEKIN'S RELIABLE SEEDS. They have an established record wherever tried, as RATEKIN'S SEEDS ARE RELIABLE.

**25c Worth of Seed Extra** will be allowed on each ONE DOLLAR sent for seeds in PACKETS and OUNCES. See particulars of this discount on front inside cover page.

**Caution** Beware of cheap seed. This caution is necessary every year because there is always some "old seed" or carelessly grown stock. Fresh, new seeds, such as we sell, are not high at any price. We have fixed our prices as low as possible for now, fresh stock.

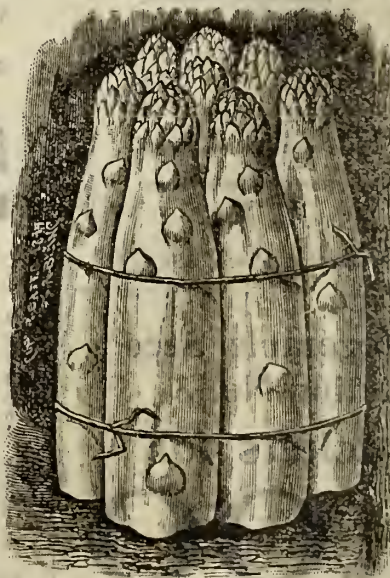
## SEEDS BY MAIL

We prepay postage on all vegetable and flower seeds purchased from this catalog in packets, ounces, quarter pounds and pounds, and on peas, beans and corn in pints and quarts.

If purchasers desire to pay their own charges they may deduct 8 cents per pound on bulk seeds, and 10 cents per pint and 15 cents per quart on peas, beans, and corn from prices quoted.

## ASPARAGUS

Each packet of Asparagus Seed will contain 1-2 of an ounce.



Sow these 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; 1/4 lb., 15c; pound, 40c.

**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; 1/4 lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

# BUSH OR SNAP BEANS

Each packet of Beans will contain two ounces, sufficient to plant about 20 hills. All Beans priced by the packet, 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.

## Green Pod Varieties



STRINGLESS GREEN POD.

**Burpee's Stringless Green Pod Bush** It is the earliest green podded Bean. It has absolutely stringless pods. It is of the most superior quality, 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: Packet 5c; 1-2 pint, 15c; quart, 50c; by express, 1-2 peck, \$1.00; peck \$1.75.

**Long Yellow Six Weeks** Very early and prolific; long green, tender, flat pods; matures quickly. Price: Pkt. 5c; 1-2 pint, 15c; quart, 40c; by express, 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; 1-2 pt., 12c; qt., 35c; by express, 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.

**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.

## Wax Podded Varieties.



WARDWELL'S EARLY KIDNEY WAX.

**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 invariably 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; pint, 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.

IMPROVED EARLIEST VALENTINE.

**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; 1-2 pt. 15c; qt. 45c; by express or freight, 1-2 peck, 75c; peck, \$1.36.



# BEANS—Wax Podded Varieties—Continued.

**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, ½ 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; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 50c; by express, ½ 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.



BURPEE'S BUSH LIMA.

## 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 Inscious 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; ½ 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; ½ 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: Pt., 25c; qt., 40c; by express, peck, \$1.90.

## "Do You Grow All Your Seeds?"

Thousands of times this question is asked us, direct in our correspondence and through our traveling representatives, so that we think it wise to explain this matter fully and frankly in this catalog. No seedsman on earth, who has the best interests of his customers at heart, would attempt to grow all of his own seeds, because natural conditions are so arranged that the best seeds of the different varieties are grown in the four corners of the earth. To illustrate: Here in the famous Nishna Valley is the natural home of the best corn, because the soil is of the peculiar richness and so chemically made up that we get the highest type, both as regards size and quality. We are just far enough north to get the most vigorous and hearty vitality, and yet within a radius of 50 miles of this center the climate is just right to thoroughly mature and germinate the seed. Nature seems to have selected just this spot to bring out her best efforts in this cereal. While this is true as regards corn and some of the other farm seeds, the same conditions prevail in Long Island for cabbage seed; in northern New York and parts of Michigan for peas and beans; in one place in Nebraska for the best cucumber, water melon and other vine seeds; in California for some of the flower seeds and the onions; in France for the beets, and so on down the line of seeds; so that the seedsman who sells you all of these seeds from his own growing is doing you an injustice. In the selection of your various seeds you need the help of an expert seedsman who makes all of these things a special study and buys the various varieties where they will bring you the best results. We offer you all of our twenty-one years' experience and help absolutely free, and when you buy our seeds you are getting the very best the world produces, grown in the centers where all the conditions tend to bring out the highest types. However, we grow all of our own corn, wheat, barley, oats, rye, speltz and some other small grains, from the purest stock we can secure, all grown under our own supervision and under the most scientific conditions known for growing and improving pure seeds. For instance, we have for this year more than six thousand acres of corn alone, which we have grown for seed purposes exclusively, and we can say, without a shadow of fear of successful contradiction, that for the season of 1905 we have the BEST SUPPLY OF SEED CORN ever before offered by any grower, seedsman or seed house in the world. It always pays to plant the best, and you always know that you are getting only the best when you order Ratekin's Reliable Seeds.

# 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; ½ 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; ½ 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; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 35c. By express, ½ 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. It is entirely

**Horticultural Pole Bean** pods are beautifully striped and splashed with brilliant carmine; very showy and attractive, and the immense beans are of the best quality. Pkt., 5c; ½ 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; ¼ 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



Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; 2 oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.



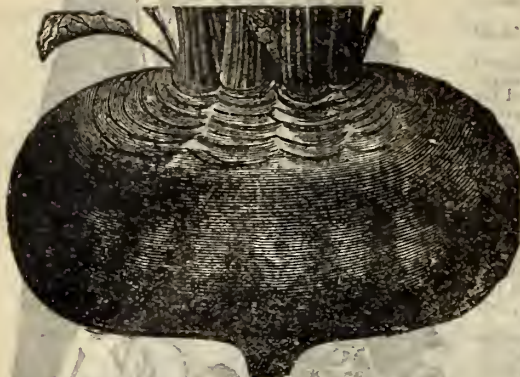
a small neat bronze-red top, hence can be planted closely together. Skin and flesh dark blood red, very tender and sweet. Market gardeners who grow Beets for bunching will be pleased with this variety. Price: Pkt., 5c; 1-4 lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

**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; 1-4 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; 1-4 lb., 18c; 1-2 lb., 30c; lb., 50c.

BEETS—Continued

Crosby's Egyptian



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; oz., 10c; 2 oz., 15c.; 1-4 lb., 20c; 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; oz., 10c; 1-4 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; oz., 10c; 1-4 lb., 20c; lb., 65c.

Mangel Wurzels and Sugar Beets

For Feeding Stock



Mammoth Long Red Mangel

An enormous yielder, 1200 to 1500 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.

Price of Mangel Wurzels and Sugar Beets

By Mail, postpaid, pkt., 5c; 1/4 lb., 10c; lb., 35c.

By express, not prepaid: Lb., 25c; 2 lbs., 45c; 5 lbs., \$1.

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 hardest and earliest grown. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; 1/4 lb., 15c; lb., 35c.

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 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; oz., 10c; 1/4 lb., 15c; lb., 35c.

Klein Wanzeben

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; oz., 10c; 1/4 lb., 15c; lb., 35c.

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

Some of Our Customers

Orchardfarm, Missouri, Nov. 9, 1904.  
Dear Sirs:—I planted some of your Iowa Silver Mine Corn this year the 15th of July on a piece of land the high water had been over and it made fine corn; it will make from 80 to 90 bushels per acre. I think its the best corn that grows.

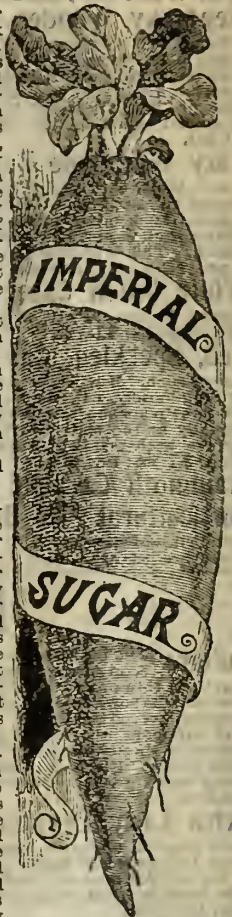
Yours truly,

ALFRED B. PEYTON.

Parnell, Missouri, March 20, 1904.  
Dear Sirs: The seed corn I purchased from you arrived O. K.; thanks for your promptness.

Very truly,

C. F. SISSON.





American Grown **Cabbage** 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.



RATEKINS' 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, unequalled 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; 1-4 lb., 90c; 1-2 lb., \$1.75; lb., \$3.00, postpaid.

Does not burst easily. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; 1-4 lb., 40c; lb., \$1.50.

**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; 1-4 lb., 60c; lb., \$2.00.

**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; 2 oz., 35c; 1-4 lb., 60c; 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.

**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; 1-4 lb., 75c; 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 make it the best for wintering over and very early setting. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c;  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb., 60c; 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;  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz., 35c;  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb., 60c; 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; lb. \$2.25.

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



**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 today. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c;  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb., 70c; lb., \$2.25.



**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; 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; lb., \$2.00.

## RED CABBAGE

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

Gentlemen: Will say in regard to the seed corn I purchased from you last season that it will make about 65 bushels to the acre, and this has been a very poor season. I will say that the vitality of your seeds is very superior, having good stand and strong growth. Also the seed wheat purchased from you is good, is up now and looks fine. Please send me your catalog of grass seeds; I want to sow some more permanent pasture.

Very truly,

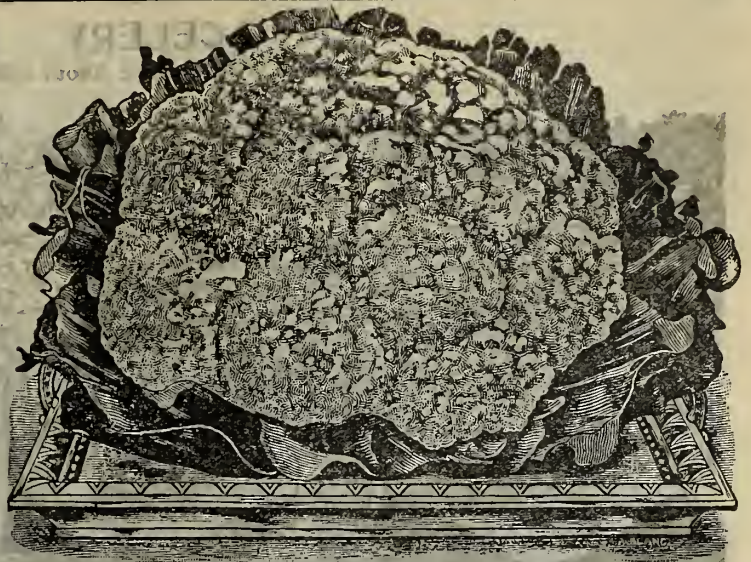
T. J. JOHN.

Wabash County, Ind.

# 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; ¼ 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 8 to 6 inches apart in the row. For winter use gather and store like beets or turnips.

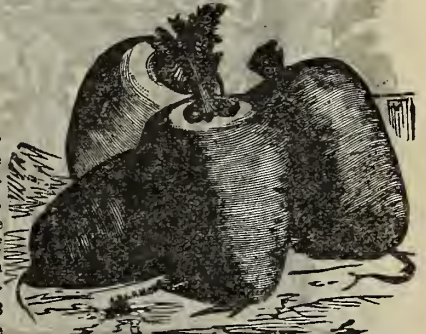
**Early Scarlet Horn** The favorite extra early variety. Very early; color orange-scarlet; fine grained and agreeable flavor. Tops small; has a short, stump-shaped root; grows well in shallow soil. The best early variety for table use. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

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; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 15c; 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; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

## 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; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 70c.



THE OXHEART.

**Early Market** Stump rooted grows about the size of our Cincinnati Market Radish, excellent forcer; fine flavor; flesh a deep orange, fine grained. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; pound, 85c.



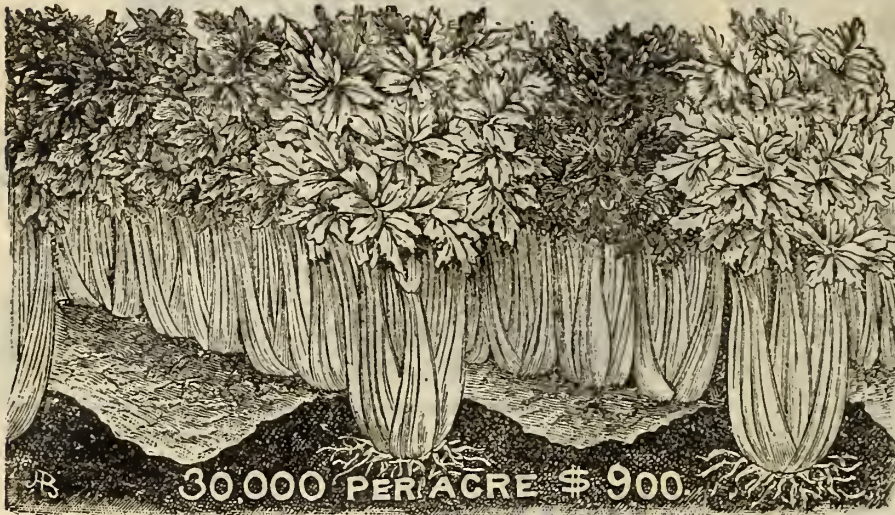
## Danvers' Half Long

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. Underspecial cultivation it has yielded from twenty to twenty-five tons per acre. One of the finest varieties in cultivation. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

**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

## CELERY

One Ounce Will Produce About 6,000 Plants.



30,000 PER ACRE \$ 900

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 seed 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 dry 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 bleaching 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-bleaching 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-bleaching, clear white. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c;  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. 60c; lb., \$1.75.



## Honest Descriptions

We have made it a point to give honest and true descriptions of our seeds and to so describe and explain them that there will not be any misunderstanding and disappointments whatever, and when the seeds you order arrive they will surprise you by being better than you expected—as a great many told us last season in their kind letters to us—you will thank us for our true descriptions. We believe that there are too many fancy pen pictures and exaggerations in the descriptions and showing up the quality of the seed in many seed catalogues. These exaggerations have destroyed the confidence of the public to a great degree, many vowing that seed men were all liars and they would not patronize them again. We believe that honest descriptions and true statements that can be backed up every time will win out in the end.

# 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 70 hills. Two pounds will plant an acre.

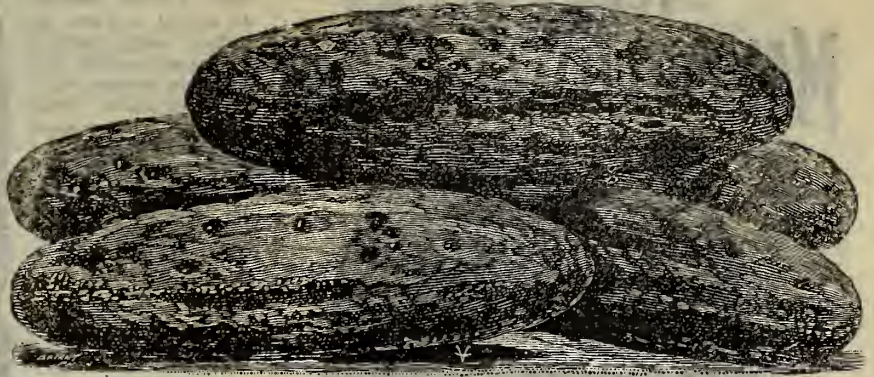
## Improved White Spine

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., \$2.00.



IMPROVED WHITE SPINE.

## 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 CHICAGO PICKLE.

## 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., 6c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., \$1.90.

## 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

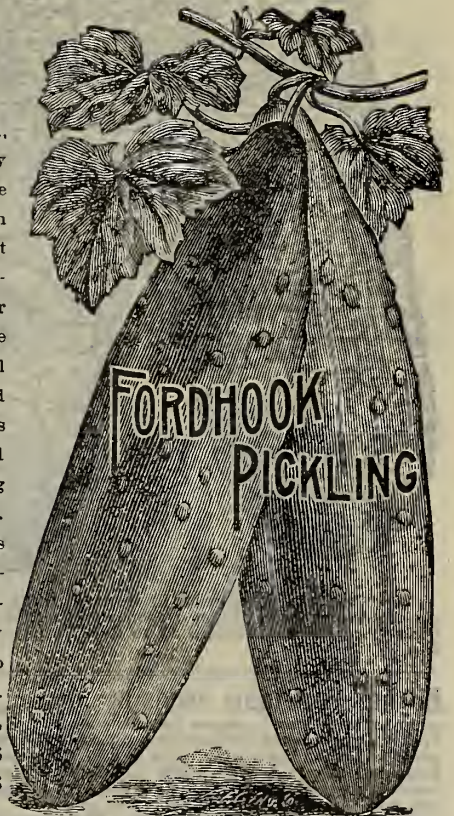
Is used almost exclusively by the market gardeners near Boston for pickling. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., \$1.60.

## 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.



## Why Not Ask Your Friends

To join with you in ordering seed, and 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.

# SWEET CORN

SWEET OR SUGAR CORN



A lifetime of experience in Corn growing enables us to guarantee our Seed. If you are a market gardener, or if you just want Corn for family use, send to us. We have as good as the best.

**Buying Vegetable Seeds by Mail** It is the easiest, and most 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 a 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.

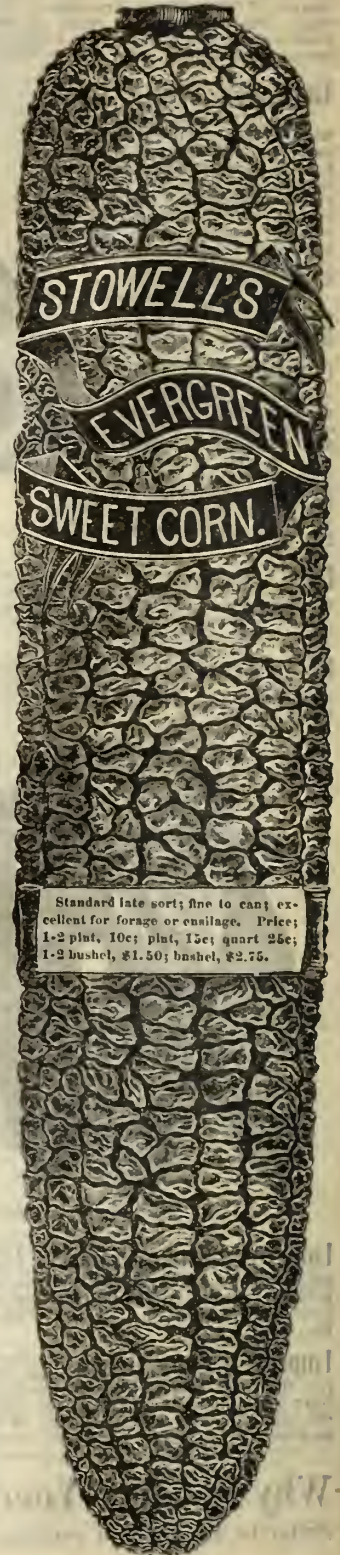
## Chufas, or Earth Almond.

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 underground, 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;  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb., 20c; lb., 50c.

## 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.

The Shenandoah Incubator is one of the most perfect machines on the market; its perfectness lies largely in its simplicity—it is so easy to manage and produces perfect results. Poor machines cause worry and loss of time, patience, chickens and money; the Shenandoah fills your pockets with dollars, your coops with chicks, and your heart with happiness. Read more about it in the last pages of this catalogue, and write today for prices and descriptions. It's built right—therefore no trouble with it.



Standard late sort; fine to eat; excellent for storage or ensilage. Price: 1-2 pint, 10c; pint, 15c; quart 25c; 1-2 bushel, \$1.50; bushel, \$2.75.

**SWEET OR SUGAR CORN—Continued.**

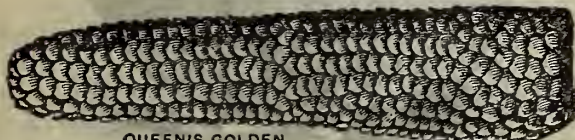
**Early White Cory** The plants are usually about four feet high and bear two or even three ears which are eight-rowed, with large, somewhat coarse but very sweet and tender grain. Price: Pkt., 10c; pint, 15c; quart, 30c; 4 quarts, \$1.00.

**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; quart, 35c; by express, ½ pk., 60c; peck, \$1.00.

**Country 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.

**POP CORN**



QUEEN'S GOLDEN.



MONARCH WHITE RICE.

**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.

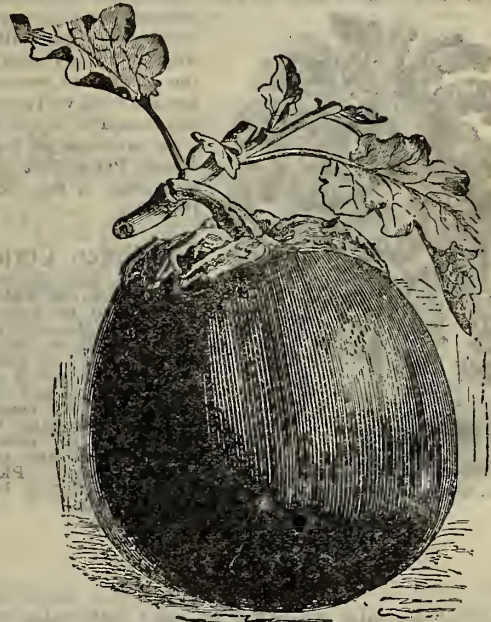
**New Red Beauty** A valuable new rice pop corn, introduced by an extensive pop corn grower in Illinois. Ears medium to large; color bright red; deep grains and small cob; extremely early and productive. Highly recommended. Price: Pkt., 5c; ½ pint, 15c; pint, 25c; qt., 40c.

**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.

**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

**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

**DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE A FEW POUNDS OF OUR POP CORN IN YOUR ORDER**

**Good Seed Pays**

The progressive farmer, the farmer who makes money, will no more plant "run out" Seed Corn than he would think of raising scrub stock. He may have good corn, but it is mixed or has lost its former vigor, so he takes no chances, but orders his Seed Corn from some good, reliable grower and receives a reward for his good judgment—a yield of corn from 10 to 15 bushels more per acre than his less wise neighbor. Change your Seed Corn this season and you will find it a profitable investment.

## 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; lb., 70c.



TALL GREEN CURLED SCOTCH KALE.

**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; lb., 70c.

## 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 LEEK.

**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; lb., \$1.00.

## 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.

**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; lb., \$2.75.

## 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 hotbed in March and in open ground as early as it can be worked, thinly 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; 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; lb., 75c.

**Seselia**

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; lb., 75c.

Just as well make four times as much money with less work out of your chickens: get a Shenandoah Incubator and do the work right; many fold more chickens and less worry. Might as well try to cut a sixty acre field of oats with a scythe as to raise chickens in the old-fashioned hen way, when you can get a Shenandoah Incubator. Write to us and let us tell you about this machine; others sing its praises—you will, too, if you use it.

## BIG PREMIUMS.

We have found our "pleased customers" to be our very best advertising medium. For every dollar sent us for seeds in packets and ounces at regular catalog price you may select seeds extra in packets to value of 25 cents; get your friends and neighbors to give you their orders for Ratekin's Reliable Seeds; it will pay you well.



# LETTUCE—Continued

**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; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.



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; ¼ 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; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 80c.



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; ¼ lb., 40c; lb., \$1.20.

**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; ¼ lb., 25c.



**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; oz., 10c; ¼ 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 catalog. 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.

## SPECIAL OFFER

One packet each of any of our four popular varieties of lettuce for only 15 cents.

For prices on seeds in quantity see our wholesale price list.

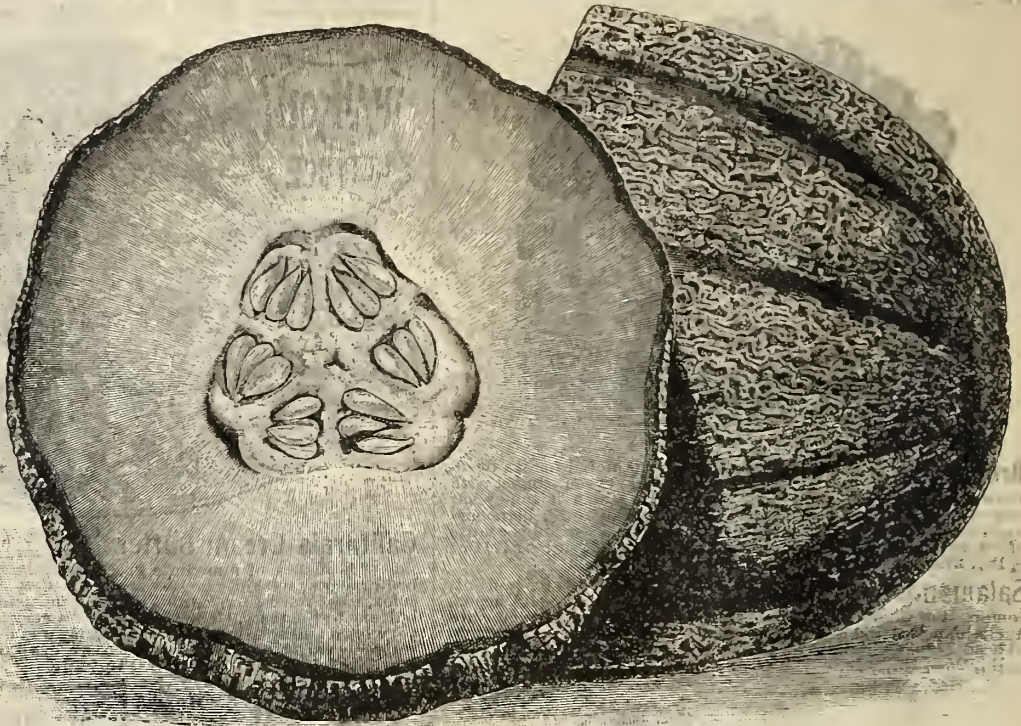
# MUSK MELONS

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.

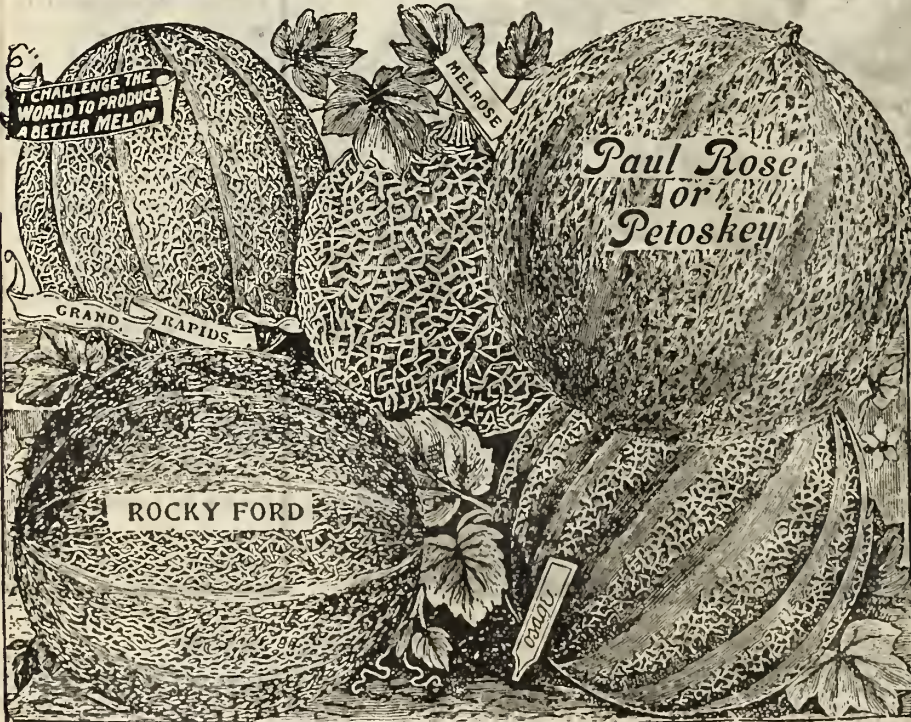
## The Rocky Ford Musk Melon

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 famous for its melons as is 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 twofold. First, its superb table qualities, being firm, sweet, and remarkably solid. Second,

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.



THE ROCKY FORD MUSK MELON



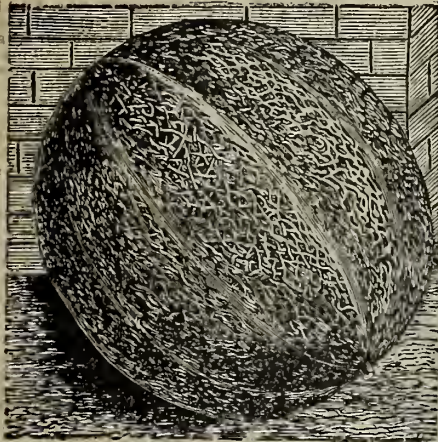
## Osage Melon, or Miller's Cream

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 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.

## Liberal Inducement

We desire to have all our customers try a few packets of our superior musk melon seed. We will allow them to select four of any variety for 15c, Ratekin's Early Market not included.

# MUSK MELONS—Continued



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 hardness 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 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.

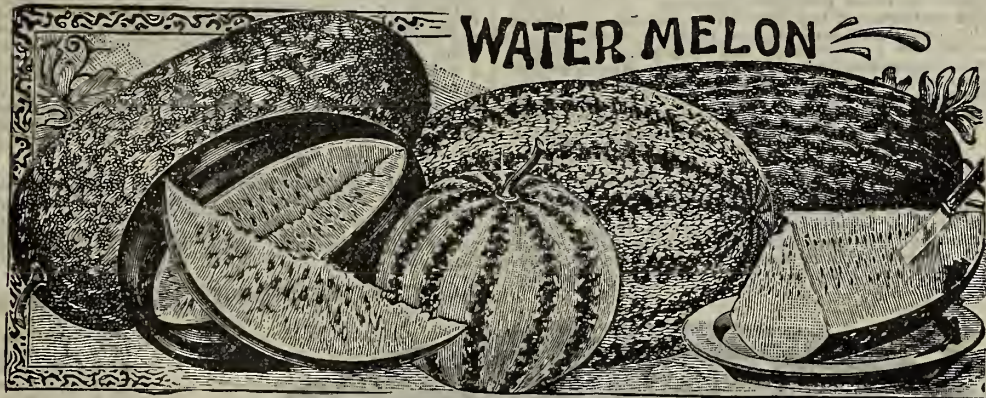
**Paul Rose** We have been greatly pleased with this new variety, and we consider it one of the finest sorts. It is a result of a cross of the Osage and Netted Gem, and it combines the sweetness and high flavor of the former, with the fine netting and superior shipping qualities of the Netted Gem. It 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; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., 90c.



# 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; pound, 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:

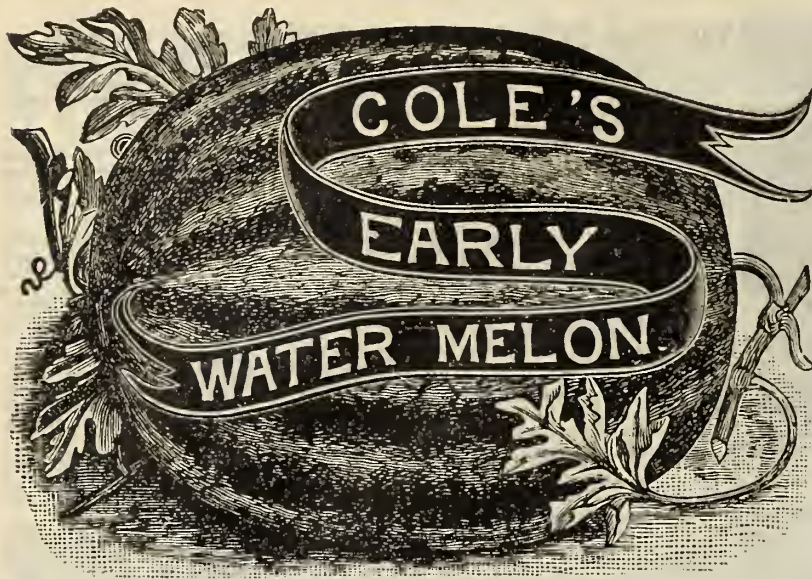


KOLB'S GEM

Packet, 5c; ounce, 10c; ¼, pound, 20c; pound, 65c.

RATEKIN'S RELIABLE MELON SEEDS PLEASE EVERY-BODY. 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; ¼ 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; ¼ 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; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

**Black Diamond** One of the largest and best shippers 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; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

**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; ¼ lb., 35c; lb., \$1.10.

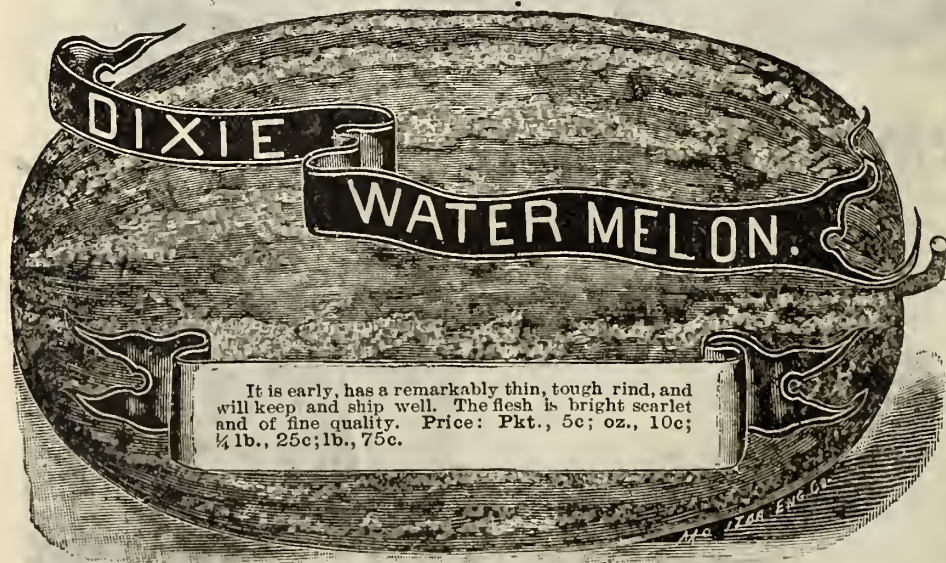
**Kleckley's Sweet** Large oblong melon. The skin is dark green, flesh bright scarlet, the rind only about one-half inch in thickness. The scarlet flesh is sweet and sugary and is of such texture that it leaves no strings of pulp whatever in eating. The melon is better for home use than for shipping, and we believe it is the Best Table Melon To-Day. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c; 5 lbs., by express, \$2.50.

**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 the 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, surpasses 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; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c; 3 lbs., \$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; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

**Mclver 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; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

**Citron** For preserving; grows uniformly round and smooth; striped and marbled with light green; flesh white and solid. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 35c; lb., 90c.



It is early, has a remarkably 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.

Try growing Watermelons this year; there is money in it, and you cannot fail if you buy the seed from us.

## 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 catalog excepting Ratekin's Champion, for 15 cents.

# WATERMELONS—Continued



**Seminole Watermelon** 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 Sweets," and is certainly a very sweet and delicious melon. It is a 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 Watermelons** Twelve varieties of the finest watermelons, the largest, 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 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.

**Gypsy 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.

**Seed Corn** We have made the study of Corn our specialty for the past twenty-one years, and during that time we have encouraged the farmers and corn growers to greater efforts in the production of corn, showing them that with good seed and better cultivation the yield could be easily increased from 40 and 50 bushels per acre to 75 and 100 bushels per acre, as has already been demonstrated on our seed farms. Thus the corn-growing has been vastly stimulated and the yields greatly increased. And it is with no little satisfaction and pride that we now look back and note that our labor was not in vain—that it was not wholly selfishness on our part—that in addition to stimulating the production of corn, thousands of farmers throughout the United States, after reading our talks about corn, have sent us their order for Seed Corn, planted it, reaped good profits on their investment, and started on the road to prosperity. Read what we have to say about Seed Corn further along in this seed book, and always be free to write us when we can serve you.

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.

Everton Co., Mo.  
 Ratekin's Seed House—Gentlemen: The Seeds I purchased from you last spring are of excellent quality and vitality, I am highly pleased with them.  
 Very truly,  
 J. M. Jones.

Douglas County, Ill., Aug. 29, '04.  
 Dear Sirs: The Seed Corn I purchased from you last spring has proved O. K. I am fully convinced that it will pay every farmer to plant your improved Seeds.  
 Very truly,  
 T. W. Bryan.



# CHOICE ONION SEED

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 onionseed 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 croponion 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 1000 seeds.

## CULTURE

One ounce will sow about 1000 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; ¼ 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 300 bushels per acre for nine years. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ 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; ¼ 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; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., \$1.75; 4 lbs., not prepaid, \$6.00.

**Mammoth Silverskin** 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; ¼ lb., 65c; lb., \$2.00.



**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 hardy 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; ¼ lb., 45c; lb., \$1.60.

**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; ¼ lb., 35c; lb., \$1.00; 5 lbs., \$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 1904 cannot be purchased at lower prices than those quoted in this catalog, 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. Each packet of onion seed will contain about ¼ ounce. Include this collection in your order—you will not regret it.

USE OUR EVERGREEN MIXED LAWN GRASS SEED

## ONION SEED—Continued.

### White New

**Queen** Small; noted for extreme earliness and mildness of flavor; much used for pickling. Price: Large pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; 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; 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.

### 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 1904, 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.



## 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.

**Moss Curled** A very select stock, most beautifully crimped and curled. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; 1/4 lb., 25c; lb., 80c.

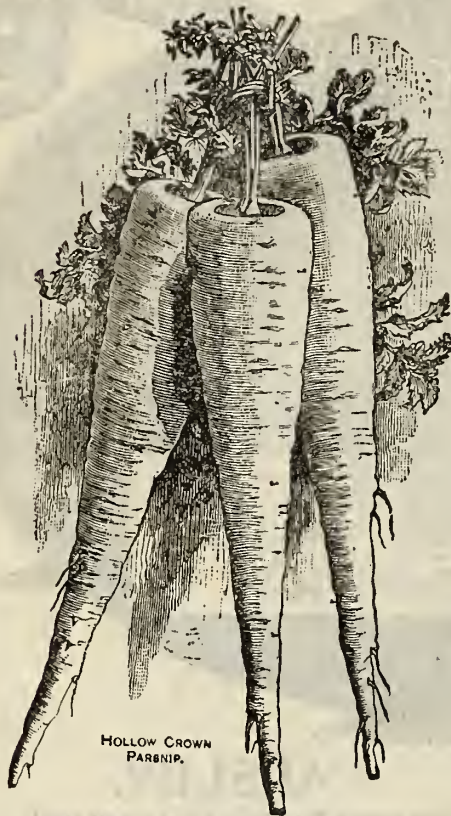
**Hamburg** A turnip-rooted variety, used for flavoring soups, etc. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; 1/4 lb., 20c; lb., 65c.

Harrison County, Iowa, Sept. 12, 1904.  
 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 28d; 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.

## 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.



HOLLOW CROWN  
PARSNIP.

**Long Sugar or Hollow Crown** The old standard. Price: Pkt. 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ 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; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 65c.

## 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; ¼ lb., 60c.



LARGE BELL OR BULL NOSE PEPPER

**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; ¼ 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., 20c; 1-4 lb., 60c.

Read what we have to say about Seed Corn further on.



# 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.

**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; ½ pt., 20c; qt., 50c; by express, ½ 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; ½ pt., 20c; qt., 50c; by express, ½ pk., \$1.25; pk., \$2.25.

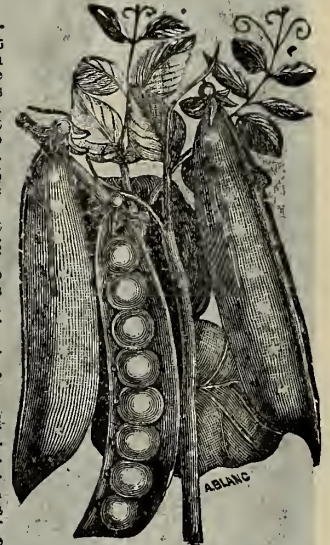
Crop of seed peas was very short the past season, as was the previous year, so none were held over, and prices are somewhat higher than they have been for several seasons. Our crop was fair and we have a liberal supply, so are able to offer them down low and of the best quality. All peas are put up in large two-ounce packets, sufficient for twelve to fifteen feet of drill. 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.

**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; ½ pt., 12c; qt., 40c; by express, ½ pk., 90c; pk., \$1.65.

**\*Premium Gem** Height one 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; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 45c; by express, ½ 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; ½ pt., 12c; qt., 40c; by express, ½ pk., 90c; pk., \$1.50.



IOWA CHALLENGE PEAS

**McLean's Little Gem** An early dwarf, wrinkled variety, growing about fifteen inches high. When green it is very large, sweet and of delicious flavor. Price: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 30c; qt., 50c.

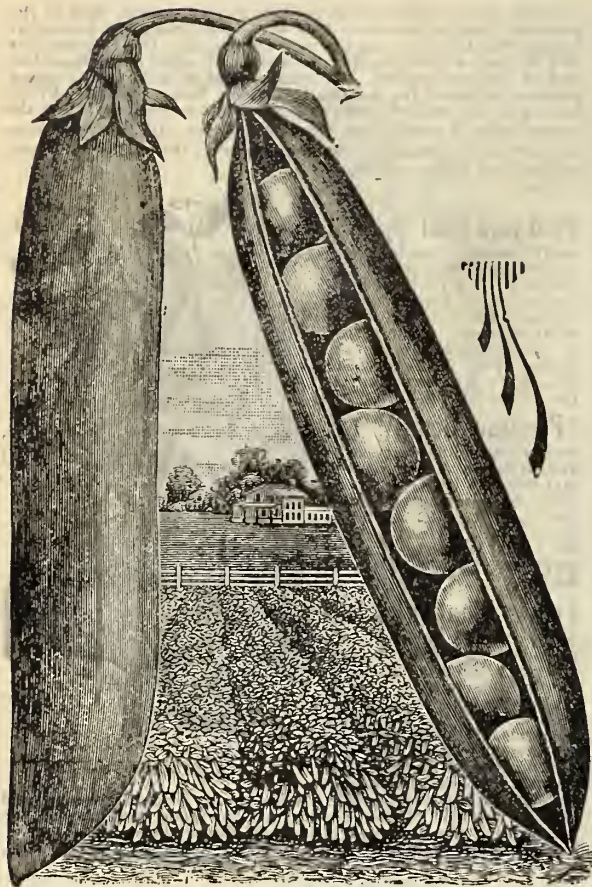
**\*Nott's Excelsior** A superb new variety, and we are sure our customers will welcome it as an ideal family and market pea. It is fully as sweet and delicious as the American Wonder, and grows one-half taller. Pods are larger and it is far more productive than the Premium Gem, and it is within a day or two as early as the first early smooth pea. The peas were ready for table use within forty-three days from planting. Quality very superior. Price: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 55c; by express, ½ 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; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 45c; by express, ½ pk., 75c; pk., \$1.25.



NOTT'S EXCELSIOR

## PEAS—Continued.



IMPROVED STRATAGEM.

**Improved Stratagem** 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 peck, 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; qt., 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 everyone 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, 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.

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.

## 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; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c.

**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; ¼ lb., 10c; lb., by mail, 35c. By express or freight, 10 lbs., \$1.75; bu. of 25 lbs., \$3.00.

**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; ¼ 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; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.



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 planting outdoors. It is but little later than the "White Tipped, Forcing" and will give entire 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; ¼ 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; ¼ 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; ¼ 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; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

# RADISHES—Continued

**Early Frame** Smaller and about ten days earlier than "Long Scarlet," which it very much resembles. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c.

De Kalb Co.,  
Indiana.  
Dear Sirs: The garden seeds I purchased from you last season were fine. I will plant no other when I can get yours.  
Very truly,  
ROY H. JOHNSON.



FRENCH BREAKFAST RADISH.

**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; ¼ 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; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.



Scarlet Turnip White Tipped

**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; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

**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; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

Rush County,  
Missouri,  
Sept. 15, 1904.  
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.

## 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, ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.



IMPROVED CHARTIER

## Fine Radishes

I like your Icicle Radishes very much. Enclosed please find order for more of this kind of seed.—MRS. R. N. WARDEN, Vanclève, Iowa.

**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; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 85c.

## 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; ¼ 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; ¼ 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 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; ¼ 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; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 70c.

## New Ideal Mammoth Rhubarb

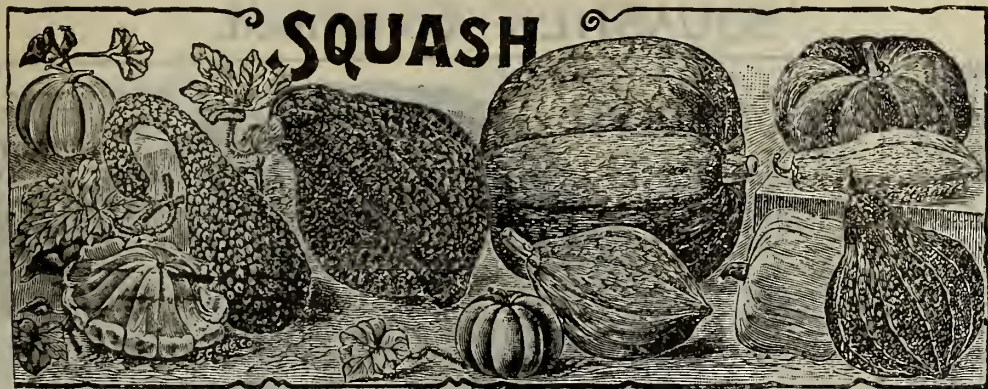


RHUBARB.

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.

## 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.



## 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 vegetables is so limited. The soup and salad made therefrom have a delicious oyster flavor. Treat as carrots, grow rapidly. No vegetable 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

Averages fully double the size of the "Long White." The roots, notwithstanding their enormous size, are of superior quality. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; ½ lb., 90c.

## 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. contain about 800 seeds, 5c; oz., 10c.



LONG STANDING

**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; ¼ lb., 15c; ½ lb., 25c; lb., 40c.

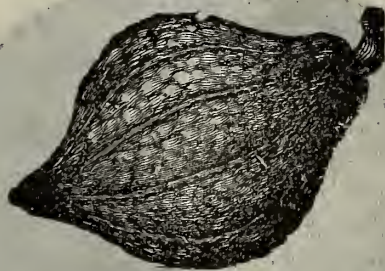
## SQUASHES

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; ¼ lb., 20c; 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; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

**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; ¼ lb., 35c; lb., \$1.25.



WARTY HUBBARD

**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; ¼ 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; ¼ lb., 35c; lb., \$1.00.

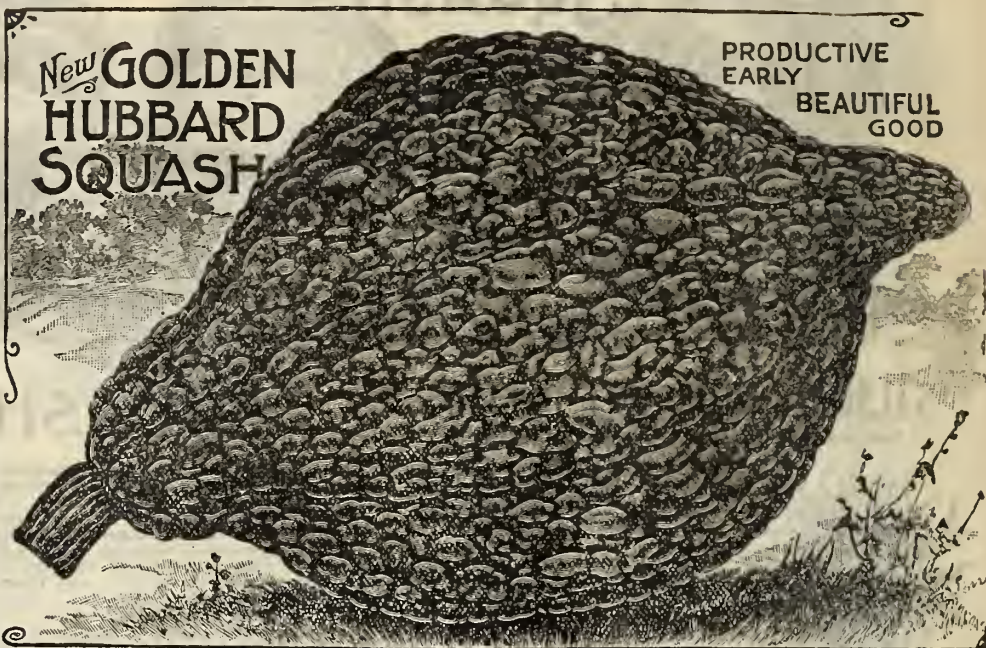
**Please Remember** We grow all the Seed Corn, Wheat, Oats, Barley, Rye, Speltz and many other farm grains for seed purposes; we know the varieties are pure and we want you to feel assured when you send us your order for any of these seeds that you will receive the variety which you order. We do not substitute in any manner in our house, and we want every customer who favors us with his order to be more than well pleased when he receives his seed from us.

# SQUASHES—Continued.

**New Golden Hubbard Squash**  
Productive, Early,  
Beautiful, Good

**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; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

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

# 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; ¼ lb., 75c; lb., \$2.50.

**Favorite** Medium-size fruit of rich, dark red color. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ 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; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., \$1.75.

**Our Tomato Customers** Will please bear in mind that all our tomatoes are grown for seed only, and used for no other purpose. The seed we offer has all been obtained from the best specimens, selected with great care, and is superior to much offered at low prices that has been secured at canneries, etc.



**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 size, 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; ¼ oz., 30c; oz., 50c.

**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; ¼ lb., 65c; lb., \$2.00.

**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; ¼ 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; ¼ 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.

**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

**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.

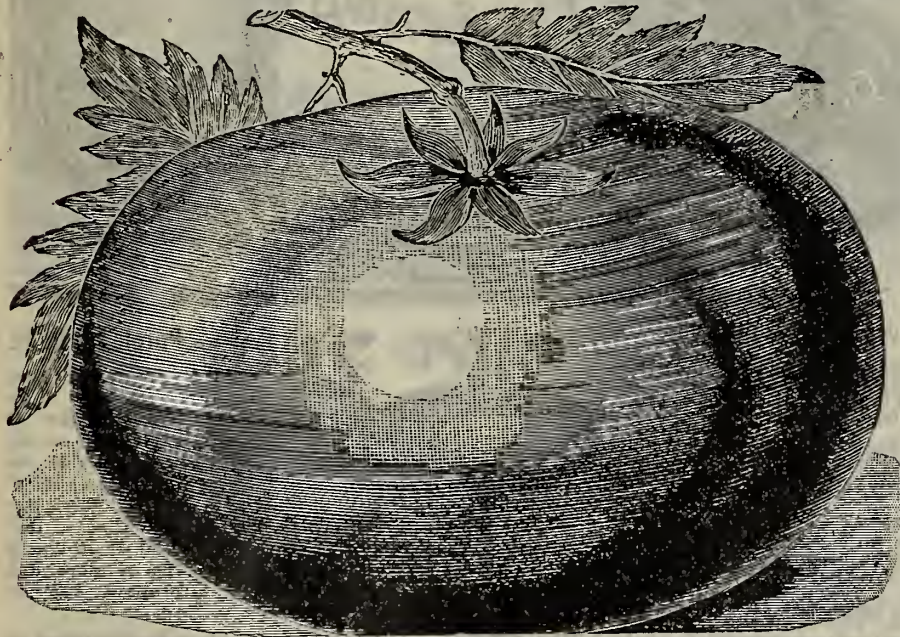
**Mixed Tomatoes** For the advantage of some of our customers who would like to try all kinds, we have prepared this mixture of the varieties named and several others which we think will please all. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 30c; ¼ lb., 85c.

**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.

**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.



RATEKIN'S BEAUTY TOMATO

## 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 first 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 have to say about corn further on.

# 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.

Green County, Tenn.

Ratekin's Seed House:

The Rape, Speltz and Bromis Inermis I purchased from you last spring did fine, and am well pleased. I think the Bromis Inermis is the thing for this country.

Very truly,  
V. ASHBURN.

PLEASE YOUR WIFE BY ORDERING SOME FLOWER SEEDS OR PLANTS FOR HER.

## 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.

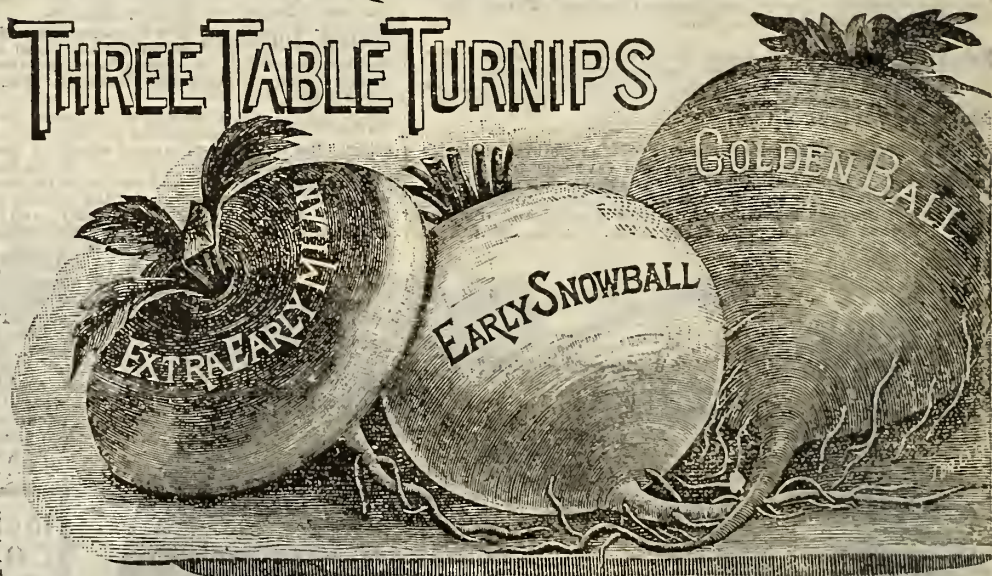
**Early Snowball** A globe-shaped, white-skinned turnip, which is exceedingly productive, very early and particularly adapted for family or market use. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

**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.

# THREE TABLE TURNIPS



### Purple Top Globe

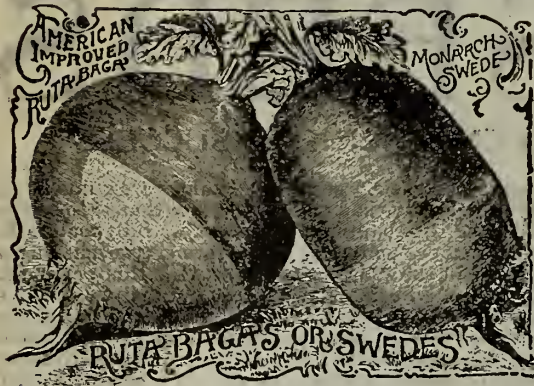
Similar to above, except shape. The largest yielder of any turnip on the list; desirable for table use or stock. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c; 5 lbs. or more, not prepaid, 35c per lb.

PURPLE TOP GLOBE.

**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.



# 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; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c.

# TOBACCO

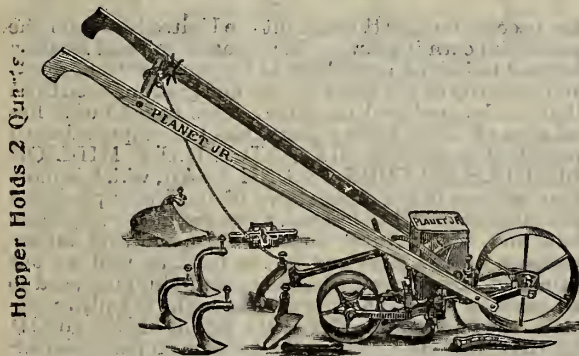
It is not generally known that Tobacco can be successfully grown in the West. A year's supply of good smoking Tobacco can be easily produced on a small plot of ground. The seed should be sown on a finely prepared seed bed early in the spring, and when about six inches high the young plants set out two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

**Connecticut Seed 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**

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



# 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 "wineplant" and is very much superior to the common kinds of pieplant. Price: Pkt., 10c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 75c.

# HERBS

**Anise** Used for garnishing and flavoring; the seeds have an agreeable aromatic taste. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c.

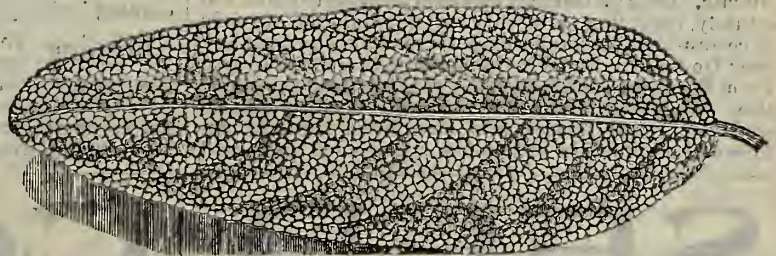
**Dill** Stems and seeds are used for flavoring and pickling with cucumbers. Price: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c.

**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.

You'll realize at a glance, if you just happen to think about it, that while you are ordering your seeds from us it will pay to include an order for what you will want in the way of grapes, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, currants, gooseberries and such other plants and bulbs as you will need, thus saving freight on them by having them all come together, besides getting a higher quality of goods than you will be likely to get from an irresponsible agent, and getting them cheaper, because we save you the agent's commission. Read about our stock of small fruits further on in this catalogue.



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

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 row, 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.

RHUBARB, HORSE RADISH, ASPARAGUS, HERBS, ETC., SHOULD BE IN EVERY GARDEN.

SELECTED

# FARM SEEDS

## A FARMER'S DELIGHT AND DEPENDENCE FOR SUCCESS

We place Farm Seeds first, because in good and reliable seeds lie the whole foundation of the crop, as well as the success and welfare of the farmer; the largest and most important interests of an agricultural country; for on the seeds you plant depend the results and prosperity of the farmer who plants them, especially when intelligent thought and experience are combined and well directed. We come to the subject first for the further reason that we are especially strong in this line of seeds. We have had many years—almost a lifetime—of actual, **NOT THEORETICAL**, experience on the farm, but never an hour of observation from some comfortably arranged office, suitably furnished with cushioned chairs and other corresponding furniture, obviously to dispense information that we did not possess to the practical farmer who does the plowing and planting. Yes, we have been up against "the real thing itself" almost fifty years of our best lifetime—meanwhile with 21 years' experience in the seed trade—and we have always felt that the nearer we could keep to the practical, intelligent and experienced farmer the more valuable information we could gain; therefore we have always exercised every conceivable effort to keep in close touch with that class of farmers, and we venture the belief that we have gained more practical information through this method, and by a large correspondence with our customers than we could possibly have gained by a thorough course in some agricultural college, for we have had thousands of letters and suggestions from our customers each and every year, of practical value where properly applied, with reference to all kinds of seeds and their adaptability in all parts of the country and under different conditions, including soil and climate. Thus we feel that we are in position to know, absolutely, regarding suitability and adaptability of seeds to certain localities, and we can serve you better than any Seed House to be found in the country; therefore, we give Farm Seeds a pre-eminence in our Seed Catalog over all else. We regret to say that there are many ("would-be seedsmen") seed houses who have but a vague knowledge and no practical experience in seeds and crops, and

in making up their descriptive catalogs are guided only by those who have had more experience than themselves. But feeling thus equipped as we are, we fully realize the vast importance and value to the farmer (the man on the other side of the fence), connected with this particular branch of our business; we beg to say that we devote a large share of our personal and careful attention to the selection of the very best varieties and the very best seeds that grow, as well as to the planting, growth, cultivation, harvesting and handling all the way through until sacked or packed for sending out. By reason of the satisfactory results obtained, and pleasant intercourse with our patrons and customers, we feel proud to have the honor to say that we have hundreds of customers' names on our order books who have been sending to us from ten to twenty years, each year, for their farm seeds; to say the least, we are pleased to know that people generally, as a rule, are not indifferent to kind, honorable and fair treatment, and we always take pleasure and pains to see to it that no customer leaves us dissatisfied. We believe it pays from a business standpoint, for on this basis we feel justified in claiming that we have built up a trade during the last twenty-one years second to no other seed house the State of Iowa or in the West.

**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 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. 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 the expense of the purchaser. Prices named include bags, except on clover and grass seeds, and delivering to depot here.

# SEED CORN

Seed Corn is our specialty, and twenty-one years as breeders, growers and sellers of Seed Corn places us in a position to be of value to every farmer and planter who grows Corn at all. During this time we have doubtless grown, sold and shipped out more Seed Corn than any other grower, seed house or seed firm in the world, and that means more than all the catalog garden seed houses combined. This means Ratekin's Seed House may well be considered the GREAT SUPPLY HOUSE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR CHOICE THOROUGH-BRED SEED CORN. In fact, we ship Seed Corn each year to every state and territory in the Union, besides to every county in the leading agricultural states in the Union, and we wish to say right here that our Seed Corn has given universal satisfaction wherever tried or tested and grown.

All our Seed Corn is grown in this "great" Nishnabotna Valley of Southwestern Iowa, which is the center of the best corn growing district in the world, and which

has become famous throughout the United States for the wonderful corn it grows. The climate, soil and location here all unite and contribute to the most perfect growth and maturity of the finest quality and grade of Seed Corn that can be produced on earth. This Page County has an area of 22x24 miles square, has the unprecedented record of producing SIX AND A HALF MILLION BUSHELS OF CORN IN ONE YEAR, which is more than any one of ten other states of the Union produced the same year. Thus located, as we are, at the very fountain and best natural home of Corn, and with our experience on the farm and in the field, as well as our extended experience in handling and shipping seed to all parts of the country, we are brought to fully appreciate the importance of GOOD SEED AND GOOD VARIETIES OF CORN. We have given particular attention and our best thought to this department of our business, and have made the selection and improvement of Seed Corn a Specialty, always exercising great care

to select the best varieties that have proven the most suitably adapted to a wide range of conditions and special localities for which we recommend them. Our recommendations are not alone based on our long experience, but on the experience of thousands of our customers, made up of the most practical, progressive, and best farmers who have repeatedly tried and tested our Seed Corn all over the country, from Minnesota and North Dakota to the Gulf and from Maine to California; and when farmers plant our Seed Corn they may feel sure they are making a profitable investment, as well as getting our years of experience in study and experiment to bring these methods of better seed up to their present standard.

### Improve Your Corn Crop

Every farmer would like to have a good stand of corn. What is a good stand of corn? Most men would say that an average of three stalks to the hill is a good stand. This may or may not be true. A good stand of corn consists of an even distribution of the stalks over an acre of ground, and not an average of so many stalks to the hill. Six stalks in one hill and nothing in the next will make an average of three, and yet the results would be very unsatisfactory. I would rather have two vigorous stalks in every hill than to have an average of three all over the field with skips, making them from nothing to five. Many mistakes are made by having too thick a stand. Too many farmers believe in "getting a plenty while they are getting," and for that very reason they plant thick and forget or neglect to thin out.

### Good Seed

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

The variety should be grown that matures readily in an ordinary season in your latitude. Remember, a small ripe ear of corn is better than a large green one, and with proper management more bushels of small or medium corn can be grown on an acre than of a large variety. Most of the large yields have been made with medium varieties.

Every corn grower should have access to three sizes of corn—large, medium and small. If the weather conditions are favorable early, plant the largest variety that will mature in your locality. If for any reason you are delayed ten days or two weeks, as is sometimes the case, plant the early or medium variety. Or sometimes it is desirable to have real early feed; in this case plant the early first. Plant some improved sort. If you do not



CORN FOR SEED PURPOSES MUST BE PROPERLY PREPARED AND HANDLED.

have the pure seed, procure it of some reliable seed corn grower. On the subject of good seed the writer once heard the best corn grower in central Iowa remark: "As a bushel will plant eight acres, I would rather pay eight dollars a bushel for good seed than plant the common seed as a gift." Remember that the mere fact that corn will germinate is not sufficient. A stunted stalk of corn is like a stunted calf. It takes all summer to get to growing. There is also a difference in the constitutional vigor of different varieties of corn. Hence you will do much better to get your seed corn from some reliable seed corn grower. Good seed is as important as good culture.

### Principles of Corn Culture

Select good seed; replanting seldom pays. Plant when the oak buds begin to leaf out. White varieties are best for domestic use. The yellow sorts as a rule are richer and contain most nutriment for stock, and adapt more readily to the soil. Large-growing varieties as a rule are late to mature and should be planted on the richest and most moist ground on the farm. Early maturing varieties should be planted on the poorest, driest, most sandy soil on the farm, as such land is most sensitive to drouth.

Plow sandy soil in the fall, harrow and thoroughly pulverize before planting. Clay soil as a rule is best plowed in the spring. Fall-plowed ground, if run together by rains during the winter and early spring, should be replowed or soil loosened with a two-horse cultivator. Most ground will produce best if plowed deep with a little sub-soiler under the plow, or followed by sub-soil plow breaking up the bottom of the furrow. If the ground is too cloddy to pulverize with a harrow, use a clod crusher, which is a wooden implement made of three 2x12-inch planks, edges lapped and spiked together, eight feet long. Plant with two-horse planter, three grains in a hill, one and one-half to two inches deep.

Early cultivation subdues weeds and keeps ground mellow. Plowing and cultivating wet ground, as a rule, will injure the soil, but the farmer who has much to plant and cultivate often cannot wait until all gets in right condition, but he can plow his driest land first. Such elements as unfavorable weather we cannot control. A great mistake is that some farmers make no allowance for unfavorable weather, and farm too much land. All will admit that two acres well treated will yield more than three half treated or neglected. Weeds

have to be subdued to keep them from robbing the corn of moisture. A proper regard paid to the destruction of weeds and thorough cultivation will also increase the fertility of the soil by exposing the surface of the soil to the action of the elements, to be made productive thereby. Frequent cultivation will preserve a mellow condition of the surface, so that the moisture rising from below may be held until it can be appropriated by the roots of the plant.

To do good work in corn raising there are other requisites besides "knowing how." The most experienced farmer would make a failure of corn growing without the assistance of the seedsman to furnish good seed; and although most farmers save their corn seed from year to year, this, in many cases, is carried to excess, and frequent planting of the same seed on the same ground will account for many failures to secure heavy crops. But to the seedsman, after all, is due the improvement of corn varieties; and the experimentation necessary to the development of new and better sorts is due entirely to the labors of the seedsmen, who are ever on the alert to produce or introduce what they believe to be improvements upon older varieties. Then comes an equally important factor in the production of a profitable corn crop, viz.: the makers of the various improved implements which play so important a part in the tillage, cultivation and final stages of the growth and the harvesting of the produce. With the latest improvements in plows, seeders, weeders, listers, etc., in corn growing—for this great boon we are indebted to the progressive implement makers. Many of their productions should be carefully studied by every farmer.

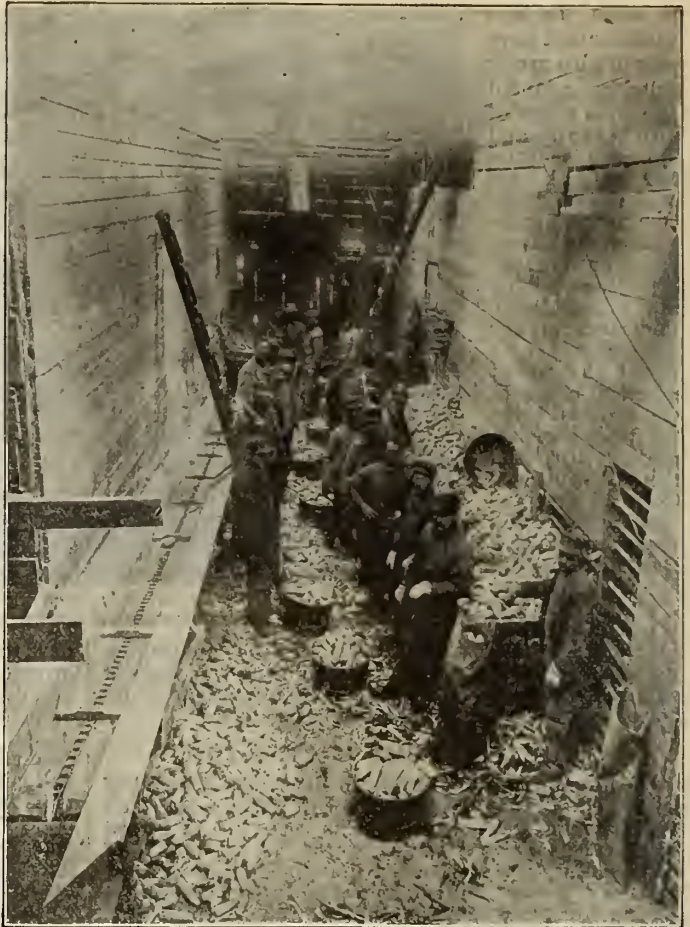
### Our Reputation and Future Business Depend Upon Good Seed and Good Results

We want our customers to be our friends. Some varieties of corn are better adapted to certain conditions of soil and climate than others, and we would deem it a favor if you would write us concerning your success or failure. Thus we may keep in touch with, and become better posted for the benefit of our future patrons. If a purchaser procures seed from us, and for some reason should meet with a failure, we may never know it, but we assure you that we are as anxious to hear from him as from the one who meets with success; thus we may be able to learn of his failure and assist him in avoiding further loss in the future. Those who are successful we feel sure are willing to impart the information for our benefit and encouragement to continue in this GREAT WORK OF BREEDING AND IMPROVING SEED CORN.

### All Our Seed Corn is Tested Before Shipping Out

Previous to bagging and packing our seed for shipment each variety of Seed Corn, Oats, Barley, Speltz, and all other seeds, is carefully tested for germination, but we do not give any warranty, express or implied. We request that our customers, upon receipt of Seed Corn and other seeds, will immediately open the bags or packages, examine contents carefully, and if not found entirely satisfactory repack and return to us, and we will cheerfully return the money paid for same at once.

We make tests repeatedly and constantly through the season, from the time our trade begins until it ends, and we never send out any seeds whatever that do not test 95 to 99 per cent good, strong germination. Seed Corn handled as is ours is cheap at any price, and while it costs you but 25 cents per acre for the seed and less than one cent per bushel for the increased yield over common and doubtful sorts, why not try it this year?



SORTING, NUBBING AND BUTTING EVERY EAR BY HAND.

### How Our Seed Corn is Selected

We desire our friends and customers to become more familiar with every line of our business, and the following will give you an idea of how our Seed Corn is handled: In the first place we have more floor space than any seed or drying house in the world, so far as we know. After the crop is grown we prefer it to remain in the field on the stalk as long as possible and until thoroughly dried out by nature's process, which is better than any artificial method known. This year the weather conditions have been so favorable that every ear of our seed corn has matured the most perfectly of any in our twenty-one years in this business. Then when the crop is gathered it is brought direct from the field to our sorting house, where it is carefully sorted, selected and gone over by experts at the business, and nothing passed but the largest, best and most perfectly developed ears. After passing the first man it goes to another and is again looked over; then from there to our drying house; thus all the refuse, such as is not up to standard in size, shape, color and quality, with all shelled corn, silks, husks and trash, consisting of two-thirds to three-fourths, is left behind and is shelled and goes on the market at market prices, much below the original cost of the whole, while the seed goes into a thoroughly well ventilated drying house, suitably arranged for perfect drying, absolutely protected from rain, snow or any dampness. Before shelling to send out it is again carefully gone over and the butt and tip ends taken off every one by hand and by experienced and expert men, leaving nothing but the best and most

uniform grains for seed. Corn thoroughly ripened and dried out by nature's process will withstand as much cold and as low temperature as wheat, oats or rye without the least injury; but if corn is immature, green, soft, wet and sobby, there is no other process to dry it out than to fire it. This claim of itself is sufficient to cast a doubt of suspicion, as corn that cannot be fully matured and dried out by nature's process cannot be depended upon to mature in time to escape either early drouth or early frosts that so often ruin and destroy the crop in many places.

### It Pays to Plant Good Seed

Every farmer knows that it pays to plant good seed. Every farmer should know that there is a great difference in seed. If by changing seed to a better variety you can increase the yield 10 bushels per acre, it means the payment of the rental of the land over and above your regular crop. An increase of 15 to 25 bushels per acre is not at all impossible. The cost to get the maximum crops in corn is very trifling, indeed. A bushel of seed will plant about 7 acres. The plowing, pulverizing, planting and cultivating are exactly the same, whether you raise 30 bushels or over 100 bushels per acre. The only extra labor is in harvesting, a task that is always gladly performed.

### We Grow All Our Corn for Seed Purposes

In regard to our Seed Corn, it is all grown by us in this vicinity under special contract and under our special supervision. We select and furnish the seed stock, all of which is grown by us under the most scientific methods known for growing and improving pure bred Seed Corn. We had crops this season aggregating more than six thousand acres of corn that we have grown especially for seed purposes, and we are pleased to assure you we have for our season of 1905 the BEST SUPPLY OF SEED CORN ever before offered by any grower, seed house or seed firm in the world, and again this season we have made new additions to our already well equipped plant, and our facilities are, now better than ever before for handling, drying, storing, sorting, nubbing and butting, shelling and cleaning, and are not equalled by any other seed house in the world.

Another point we desire to call attention to is the fact that it costs more to raise an acre of corn for seed purposes than it does for market or feeding, because it requires extra choice seed stock, special preparation of the land, special cultivation, great care in harvesting, cleaning, testing, preparing for shipment, bagging, etc., which all goes to make the seed of the best quality, and is worth much more than we ask for it. Poor seed, poor crop; with good seed, half the crop is made to start with. Change your seed this season.

### When to Order Seed Corn

The last two seasons we have not been able to fill near all the orders for Seed Corn, on account of the great demand for it, and have returned hundreds and hundreds of orders for it, and wish to impress on the minds of those buying to order as soon as possible. It need not be shipped until toward spring, but if your order is received early, we will hold the seed for you.

### To the Man Who Plants the Corn

During our twenty-one years' experience growing and handling seed corn as a specialty, we have observed many freaks, as well as fakes and fakirs, who have appeared from time to time and advertised and offered



seed corn for sale. Usually they were never before heard of, and would never after be known except for the injury they have done to those who patronized them. These fellows usually offer great inducements in the way of cheap prices; "just as good as anybody's seed," etc., etc. This brings us to the point where we venture to say that cheap and inferior seeds can always be bought at cheap and reduced prices, but they are not only dear at any price, even as a gift, but are always ruinous to the man who plants them. We have had a thousand farmers tell us and write us their experience with regard to results of their crops from seed bought of these fakirs; saying that their seed in many cases had cost them from \$10, \$20, \$30 and as high as \$40 per bushel in the results of their crops. Since one bushel of good seed corn will plant about seven to eight acres, this statement is not at all unreasonable. By the loss of one-fourth to half crop or yield they would have obtained from good seed of good varieties, they lost more than enough to have paid for good seed at \$25 per bushel.

We cannot and do not undertake to compete in price with anyone, but first try to make the best quality of seed that can be produced at any price; then fix our prices in harmony with the cost of producing such seed. All our seed is carefully sorted and selected and nothing but largest and best ears used for seed, and each and every ear is carefully examined as to vitality, and butt and tip ends taken off before shelling and sending out. It is seed corn, not mixed sorts of elevator corn.

In addition to what we have already said, allow us to suggest that when you buy your seed corn from us or other reliable seed growers, then you know somewhere within a thousand miles of where your seed was grown, which of itself ought to be of some interest to the "man who plants the corn."

### The Value of Changing Seed Corn

Have you ever stopped to think that you may not be growing just the right sort of corn, best adapted to your climate and soil conditions, and that with the same amount of energy you are now expending in raising your crop, that you may increase your yield five, ten, fifteen, twenty or more bushels per acre by getting the seed corn best suited to your locality? And that every additional bushel of corn you produce is just that much added profit to your year's business? Thousands of intelligent and progressive farmers have enjoyed the experience of enormously increased crops just from a change from medium seed to the best. One variety of seed planted in a locality runs out in a little while, and, just like stock, the best results can only be obtained from planting new and fresh seed, getting greater germinating and producing power. It is easy to "make your brains save your heels" by exercising the judgment and intelligence which the Creator has given you and which He intends that you should use; your profits will be many fold greater and your work will be exactly the same, except in the harvesting of the crop.

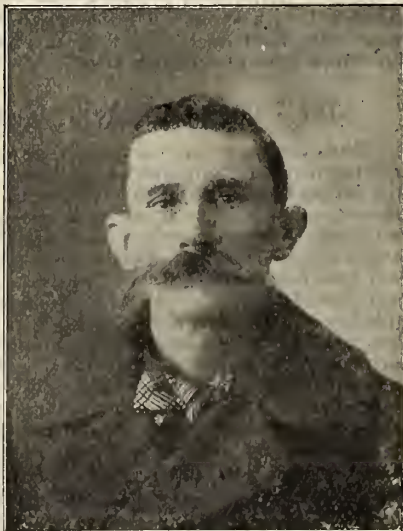


## RATEKIN'S YELLOW DENT.

**Description** "RATEKIN'S YELLOW DENT" is of a strong, robust character; grows off vigorously from the start; stalk medium height, and is very thick, heavy and sturdy, with broad, heavy blades which help to protect and mature the heavy crop it grows. The roots are very heavy and run down deep into the ground, thus making it one of the greatest drouth resisters in existence. It has been bred with an eye single to the elimination of all barren stalks, and each and every stalk bears one or more good large well-developed ears running from 9 to 11 inches long, with 16 to 22 rows of deep, solidly-set grains on a small red cob. The color is a golden yellow, and with the uniformity in size and color, makes it very attractive. The ears are about the same size and shape as our Iowa Silver-Mine, except more solid on the cob, and matures safely and soundly in any county in Iowa, or that latitude, in 90 to 100 days, and as before stated, we regard this corn as being one of the best all-round varieties for general purposes that has ever been introduced and feel sure that it will become one of the most notable leading varieties in existence. Price: pkt., 5c; lb., 30c; 3 lbs., 75c; 7 lbs. (will plant an acre), \$1.25; sent postpaid to any postoffice in the United States on receipt of price. By freight or express at expense of purchaser, per pk., 90c; ½ bu., \$1.75; bu., \$3.00; 2 bu. or more, \$2.75 per bu.; 5 bu. or more, \$2.60 per bu., sacks included; crated in ear, ½ bu., \$2.25; 1 bu., \$4.00.

Page County, Iowa, Dec. 2, 1904.

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa: I have just finished gathering my corn and am pleased to say to you, that my field of 50 acres of Ratekin's Yellow Dent planted from your seed has made an average yield of 110 bushels to the acre by actual weight, which is the best yield known in my territory. I planted this corn May 2nd—and it was soundly matured long before frost, and I am pleased to say in my fifty years' farming and raising corn, never saw corn that equaled "Ratekin's Yellow Dent," for early, large eared corn. Very truly,  
ABRAHAM MERRITT.



The eleven bushels "Pride of Nishna" seed corn I got from you grew almost to a grain; made a splendid crop; hundreds of the ears were a foot long. Shall send you an order for what seed I want later.—  
JEROME BARNELL, Saunders Co., Neb.

ABRAHAM MERRITT.

Like stock breeding, corn breeding and growing have brought about marvels in possibilities of yields and development of corn during the past ten years. The ordinary farmer will, however, never turn his close, careful attention to the breeding of corn any more than he does now to fancy stock breeding, but will turn to the seed specialist, same as he does to the importer and breeder of fine horses and cattle, and will secure from him new and improved strains for his practical and general use. For these reasons the past ten years have stimulated the specialist to his best, which has been the means of bringing out many new and improved varieties. In our extended experience we have received samples and specimens from all parts of the country, many of them, however, of little merit or value, but some of so marked characteristics that we have found it well worth while to give them a thorough trial, and to send out samples gratuitously to a large number of our customers to be tested over a wide latitude in order to better demonstrate their real value. In this search and experience for an ideal variety of yellow corn for general field and crop purposes we believe we now have, and are offering a variety of corn which we have named "RATEKIN'S YELLOW DENT." We have given it our name because we have the utmost confidence that it will prove to be the BEST YELLOW DENT CORN EVER OFFERED or introduced, and for the further reason that it comes nearest our ideal in yellow corn of anything we have ever found, and we have tried hundreds of so-called new varieties.

I have received catalog and have talked with my neighbor, Mr. Huggins, who bought seed "Pride of Nishna" from you last year, who recommends you very highly. Inclosed find order and money for ten bushels "Pride of Nishna."—P. M. GRUBB, Ellsworth Co., Kan.

Warren County, Ill., Jan. 1, 1904.

The Ratekin's Yellow Dent I purchased from you last spring proved first-class and gave me excellent results.

W. V. R. LUDWIG.

Moniteau County, Missouri, Dec. 5, 1904.

The Ratekin's Yellow Dent I bought of you last spring gave me the most profitable results I ever had, it matured well and averaged a yield far in excess of native sorts.

V. D. DEIKEN.

"Pride of Nishna" got from you made fine stand; yielded 20 bushels more per acre than any corn I planted.—A. MANSFIELD, Harrison County, Iowa.

"Pride of Nishna" obtained from you was all right and a splendid variety.—HON. C. H. BEETHE, Elk Creek, Johnson County, Neb.

"Pride of Nishna" is all right; so is the farmer who plants it. My crop from your seed averaged 74 bushels per acre.—JERRY MCWILLIAMS, Otoe County, Neb.

"Pride of Nishna" seed corn planted May 4th matured soundly and made average yield of 77 bushels per acre.—JAMES CARPENTER, Lyon County, Iowa.

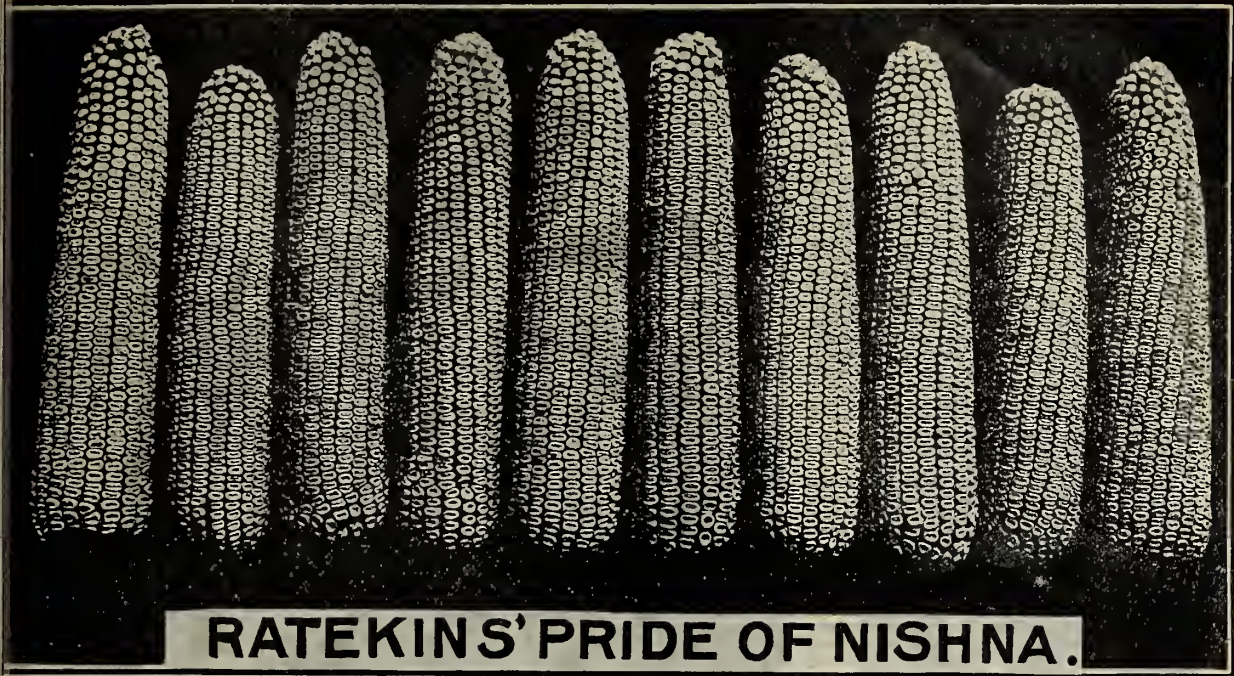
"Pride of Nishna" seed corn bought from you planted May 19th; matured soundly in 100 days, and made yield of 100 bushels.—E. C. BEEBE, McHenry County, Wis.

"Pride of Nishna" planted May 25th; matured September 15th; best corn in this part of state.—A. D. BULLARD, Rock County, Wis.

"Pride of Nishna" made a yield of 64 bushels, and your "Silver Mine" 65; am well pleased; shall want two or three bushels of your other varieties.—W. A. STARK, Adair Co., Iowa.

"Pride of Nishna" seed corn got from you done fine, matured well; yielded an average of 72 bushels per acre.—J. R. SHEARON, Union County, So. Dakota.

# RATEKIN'S PRIDE OF NISHNA



**"Ratekin's Pride of Nishna"** is not a newly discovered variety of corn that has been recently found buried under the rough sands of the sea for a thousand years or more, as is claimed for some of the so-called new sorts and novelties, but it was originated by us here in the Nishna Valley of Southwestern Iowa some twenty years or more ago, in one of the richest and finest corn-growing districts in existence; in the biggest corn-producing county in the world; in the biggest corn-growing state in the Union; in the state that has grown a net balance of 370,000,000 BUSHELS OVER ANY OTHER STATE IN THE UNION during the period of the last past eleven years.

**"RATEKIN'S PRIDE OF NISHNA"** Yellow Dent Corn is one of the most wonderful varieties of corn this country has ever produced, and it has never been known to fail in making a good crop wherever corn is grown. It has been grown over as wide a range of latitude, perhaps, as any other variety in existence, always and everywhere with remarkable yields and good results.

This marvelous variety of corn combines more solid merit and vital points than any other

corn in cultivation or in existence, and in all our experience with other varieties we have never found another variety of yellow corn so well adapted to all the varying conditions over a wide range of latitude as our "Pride of Nishna." Its greatest merit lies in always producing the largest yield of the soundest and best corn that can be produced anywhere in 90 to 100 days. Expert Corn Growers Pronounce It **"A Perfect All-Round Field Corn for Feeding and for Market, for Size, for Yield, and for Quality of Corn."**

This corn is the result of hybridization of two remarkably fine varieties of corn made twenty years ago, since which time, by careful selection and improvement, its type and characteristics have been fixed and developed to the highest degree of excellence, thus in every way making it the superior of any yellow corn grown or in cultivation.

**Description** Stalk is strong and vigorous, with dark, heavy foliage; with a deep, heavy root, and is of great vitality, withstanding drouth and other unfavorable conditions to a wonderful degree. One of the most marked characteristics of this corn, developed from careful breeding and selection, is that it is free from any barren stalks and that every stalk bears at least one good-sized, well-developed ear, and many of them two, thereby materially increasing the yield from 30 to 50 per cent over ordinary common varieties. The ears are very  
(Continued on next page.)

**Certificate** We are introducers of the Pride of Nishna yellow dent corn and headquarters for the genuine seed. Because some other parties have sold other varieties under this name and given this variety other names, thus causing confusion, doubt, and frequently disappointment in the crops, we have decided to send a certificate of genuineness to each purchaser of Pride of Nishna corn from us.

We are determined to protect the name and fame of this grand variety, and caution all purchasers to obtain their seed from us. Each certificate will bear our name and brand, as follows:

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

## Twenty-Seven Bushels More Per Acre

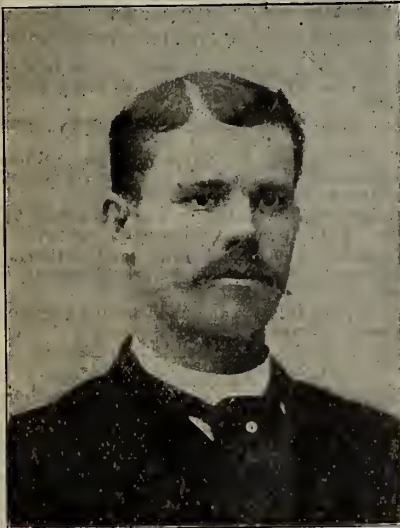
Ratekin's Seed House—Gentlemen:

I should have written before with regard to results from seed corn, "Pride of Nishna" and "Iowa Silver Mine," obtained from you last spring, but have waited until I was through gathering, in order that I might write intelligently. I am now done. To commence, would say: I planted about May 25th; obtained an excellent stand; cultivation ordinary good. Corn matured soundly before frost; ready for cribbing early in October; yield from actual measurement of ground and corn, "Pride of Nishna" 72 bushels per acre. "Silver Mine" was good, but yield not quite up to "Pride of Nishna." Character and quality of each was indeed fine. Both were a success for me. We held a "Harvest Home" exhibition here this fall. I exhibited samples of each variety and am pleased to say that I was awarded first prize on both varieties, and there was a large number of exhibits, as well as sharp competition. My ground was not of the best, and other common sorts planted side by side with your corn made but 45 bushels per acre, all under like conditions—a difference of 27 bushels per acre, or over one-third in favor of crop from your seed. I am well pleased and have booked quite a number of orders for seed for next spring. It's the best and beats anything ever before grown here.

Yours truly,

M. F. OLDFIELD.

(Du Page County, Ill., is directly west of Chicago, and joins Cook County.)



MR. M. F. OLDFIELD

## "Pride of Nishna"-Continued

uniform in size and appearance, also in color, which is a beautiful golden yellow; ears measure about 7 inches in circumference, and range from 9 to 11 inches in length, many of them running a foot long, with from 16 to 24 rows of deep, rugged grains solidly set on medium SMALL COB. This corn is undoubtedly the earliest medium-large-eared corn in existence, and will mature safely beyond danger of frost in from 90 to 100 days from planting time. Since the origin of this corn our supreme and paramount purpose has been to produce a fixed type of large-eared early that would produce and mature the largest yield of good sound corn in the shortest length of time, and in this we feel proud to congratulate ourselves and our thousands of customers; for we have received more than ten thousand unsolicited letters from farmers who have bought and planted our seed all over the country wherever corn is grown, during the last ten years, all uniformly extolling it as the largest yielder; the earliest to mature; the uniformity of the ear; its vitality to withstand drouth and other unfavorable conditions, and in fact being the best all-round yellow dent field corn in existence. It is like a vigorous young horse, full of blood, strong and vigorous, bred for a certain purpose.

The halftone cut on this page was made from a photograph and is a reproduction, exact, from a basket of select ears of this corn, none of which measured less than twelve inches long and some even more.

If you want a golden yellow corn for feeding purposes it is the corn to plant; it's the best cattle corn in the world, superior in strength and flesh producing qualities to any other sort, and we hope every farmer in the land that plants corn will try at least a part of his crop to "Pride of Nishna." We cannot too highly recommend it, and can assure all that it will not disappoint your best expectations. Price, pkt., 5c; sample ears, 25c; lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant one acre), \$1.00. By freight or express: Pk., 40c; 1/2 bu., 75c; bu., \$1.35; 2 bu. and over, \$1.30; 10 bu. and over, \$1.25 per bu. Sacks included. Crated, in ear, 1 bu., \$2.50; 10 bu. or more, \$2.25 per bu.

Write for Special Quotations on Larger Quantities.

"Pride of Nishna" gotten from you made 74 bushels per acre, 20 bushels better than from my best sorts.—S. L. Boyd, Lucas County, Iowa.

"Pride of Nishna" planted May 25th; find it the soundest, solidest corn I have; best and most perfect ears of all, running 8 to 11 inches long, well filled out at both ends. It's just what I have been looking for for five or six years.—G. W. Love, Randolph Co., Ills.



A BASKET OF "PRIDE OF NISHNA," SHOWING HOW WE NUB AND BUTT OUR SEED CORN!

"Pride of Nishna" and "Silver Mine" obtained from you planted May 18th to 23rd; got perfect stand; matured finely, yielding 75 bushels per acre; believe "Silver Mine" even better.—O. J. Lunn, Rock County, Wis.

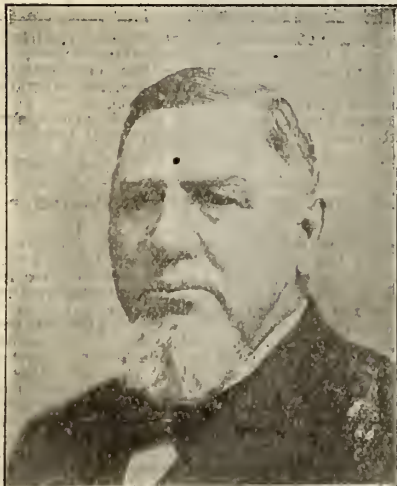
"Pride of Nishna" planted May 19th; made splendid crop.—Wm. Saxe, Sauk County, Wis.

We shall want 800 pounds "Dwarf Essex" Rape seed. Name us prices. Would prefer buying it from you because of the splendid luck we had from the fifty bushels "Pride of Nishna" we got from you this year.—P. Jansen & Son, Jansen, Neb.

Inclosed find order for thirty-five bushels "Pride of Nishna." You will get quite a number of orders from other farmers here.—Paul Reaume, Ellsworth County, Kan.

I am well acquainted with Mr. Paul Reaume; he is a large farmer and cattle man. You may send me thirty-five bushels of your "Pride of Nishna" Seed Corn.—F. C. Babcock, Manager, Ellsworth Co., Kansas.

The last order I sent you received and planted July 1st, and had roasting ears from it in sixty-three days.—C. A. Hendon, Obian Co., Tenn.



OLIVER MILLS.

Lewis, Cass County, Iowa, Feb. 1.  
Ratekin's Seed House: I am just in receipt of your catalog, and have looked over your deductions with regard to Seed Corn and Corn Growing, and think them perfect. We planted 15 acres to your "Pride of Nishna" and "Iowa Silver Mine" last season, on clover sod, fall plowed, and have just completed gathering it. It made the largest yield that I have ever obtained in all my years of experience in corn growing. On five acres which we measured and weighed the yield was 103 1/2 BUSHELS PER ACRE and the remainder of the field was equally as good. The corn measured was "Pride of Nishna," yellow, but the whole field was the finest piece of corn I ever saw. My health is comfortably good for one of my age and one who has suffered intensely for most of the time during the last two years. I am, however, still able, almost at my 84th birthday, to look after my affairs, with good help to carry out details. With kind regards, I am, sincerely yours,  
OLIVER MILLS.



# RATEKIN'S IOWA SILVER MINE WHITE CORN.

The Greatest and Best Variety of White Corn in Existence.



"Ratekin's Iowa Silver Mine" is absolutely pure stock, grown from our most select strains and finest type of our experimental grounds, under the most scientific methods as to purity and freedom from barrenness, and when you plant our seed you can confidently rely upon obtaining from 33 to 50 per cent better yield than from ordinary sorts catalogued under the name of this famous variety. In fact, we could name grain dealers and elevators who supply seed-houses and dealers with corn for seed from the ordinary elevator corn of the common sorts, shelled directly from the dump as brought in from the corn cribs and afterwards listed as silver mine.

"RATEKIN'S IOWA SILVER MINE" white corn is unquestionably the most marvelous variety of corn ever grown or in existence and will happily surprise the best expectations of all who plant or grow it. This corn was first introduced in 1894, ten years ago, and in that length of time it has almost revolutionized the corn growing of this state; besides it has been grown with equally as good results in every part of the United States where corn is grown, and has likewise been crowned the queen of all varieties of white corn wherever tried or tested, it having proven to be suited to a wider range of climate, soil and other conditions than any white corn in existence. The record it has made and results obtained under all conditions of weather have never been equalled by any other white corn. Seed corn growing has been our main and leading specialty for 21 years, and during all that time we have never found any variety of white corn that has given such uniform good yields and results year after year, regardless of place or locality, as this corn has given.

### 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.

**Description** Stalk grows to a height of about seven or eight feet, and sets the ears about three and one-half to four feet from the ground, just the right height for easy picking. One peculiarity we noticed in going over the field was that there were no Barren Stalks; every one had an ear, many stalks had two good ears, and the originator says that has been characteristic every year that he has grown it. The type is very even. Ears measuring from Ten to Twelve inches in length and weighing one and one-half pounds are often found. The ears are very uniform in size and shape, with sixteen to twenty straight rows (usually eighteen rows), of deep, pure white kernels set on a small white cob, and the ears are well filled over the tip. It is early, maturing in less than ninety-five days, and never has been caught by the frost. The cob dries out rapidly, so that it is ready for market earlier than any other White Field Corn in existence. In its yield it will surpass all other varieties of White Corn. Seventy pounds in the ear will make sixty-two pounds shelled. It is adapted to a wider range of soil and climate than any corn ever offered. 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 "Pride of Nishna" so popular. It is hardy and a wonderful resister of drouth. Price, lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant an acre), \$1.00; sample ears, 25c, post paid to any postoffice in the United States. By express or freight, purchaser's expense, peck, 40c; 1/2 bush., 75c; bush., \$1.35; 2 bush. or more, \$1.30; 10 bush. or more, \$1.25. Sacks included on board cars here. Crated in ear, 1 bush., \$2.50; 10 bush. or more, \$2.25 per bush.

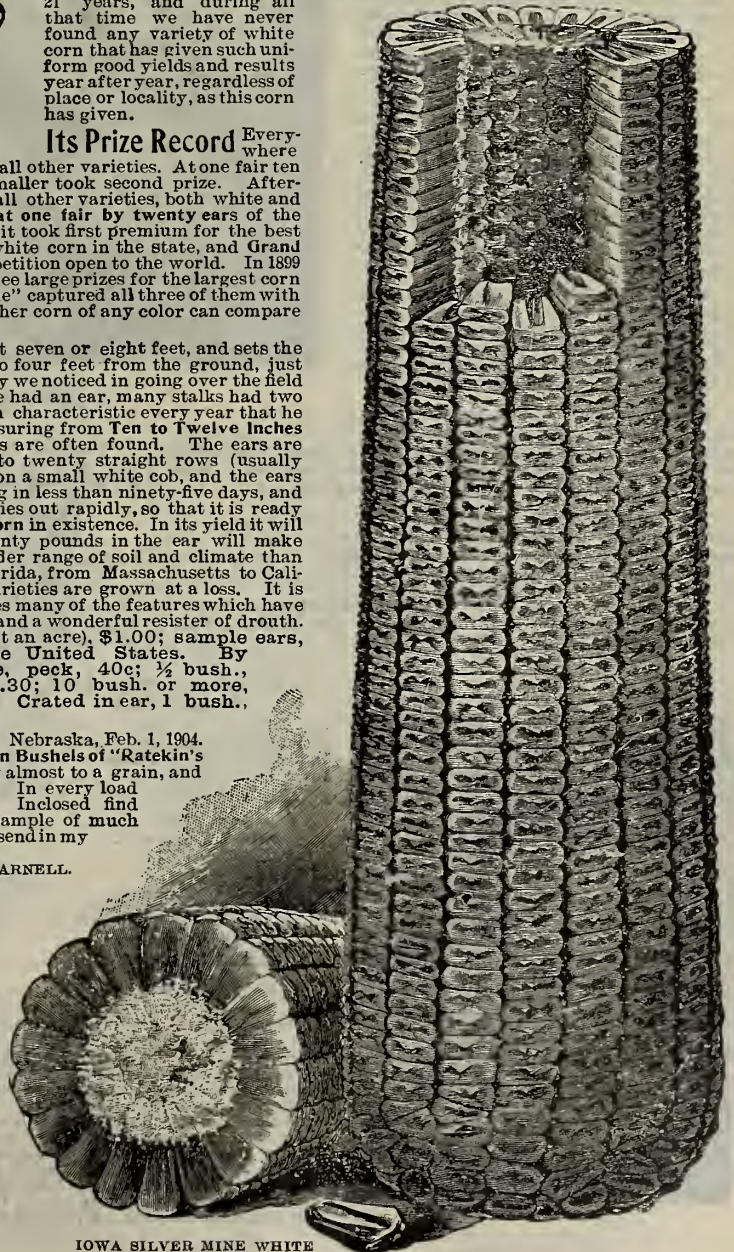
Saunders County, Nebraska, Feb. 1, 1904.

Ratekin's Seed House—Gentlemen: The Eleven Bushels of "Ratekin's Pride of Nishna" bought from you last year grew almost to a grain, and my corn was too thick, but made a splendid crop. In every load could be found hundreds of ears a foot long. Inclosed find Kodak Photo of a few ears which are only a fair sample of much of it. Shall want some seed this season and will send in my order later.

Very truly yours,  
JEROME BARNELL.

### We Stand Behind Our Advertisements.

We have nothing in our advertisements or printed matter that we mail to our customers which we cannot stand squarely behind. Our twenty-one years of fair and honest dealings with the public has returned its reward. We have thousands of customers each season who look to us to supply them with Ratekin's Reliable Seeds, and we want every customer, whether new or old, to know that in buying seeds from us Ratekin's name is behind them, and should anything prove unsatisfactory it will be cheerfully made right should it be the fault of the seeds.



IOWA SILVER MINE WHITE

Seed Corn received; am well pleased with way you do business. Inclosed find another order for seed.—J. H. Pickett, Ouachita County, Ark.

The Seed Corn bought of you was planted very late and on poor ground, but produced fifteen bushels better yield than my native sorts.—J. H. Mathers, Chickasaw County, Indian Territory.

The Seed Corn bought of you last spring was distributed among my neighbors, and without exception all were well pleased. This corn was safe from drouth when native corn was tassling and silking and was completely burned up, while your corn made a good yield; many of the farmers here will order all their seed from you next year.—W. G. Thornhill, Washington County, Texas.

The Seed Corn that my neighbors and myself ordered from you last spring matured early and before the drouth, and made more than double that of native sorts. We will plant nothing else in the future.—T. L. Grace, Milan County, Texas.

The eight bushels of Seed Corn I sent to you for was the best investment I ever made in my life for seed corn. It is fully four weeks earlier than the native sorts, and I am now gathering fifty bushels per acre from it. It would be the salvation of this country if the farmers only knew the benefits to be derived from planting your Iowa grown seed.—D. A. Connelly, Sulphur Spring, Texas.

The "Pride of Nishna" purchased from you is a world beater. I planted three weeks later than native sorts, but it stood the drouth and made more than a third better yield than our earliest varieties.—Y. M. Mack, Independence County, Ark.

Seed Corn bought of you has proven entirely satisfactory, and am under many obligations for prompt manner in which my order was taken care of. I have a fine stand of corn and will want more seeds next spring.—D. Dool, Republic County, Kansas.

I am delighted with the results from "Pride of Nishna." Got fine stand, and corn stands fully eleven feet high and is heavily eared, while my native corn is not half as good. I will buy all my seed from you next year.—B. B. Cronin, Clay County, Neb.

It stood the drouth well. In fact it is about all the corn I have that will make any showing this year.—Jno. A. Miller, Standard County, Mo.



TYPICAL GRAINS OF "IOWA SILVER MINE"

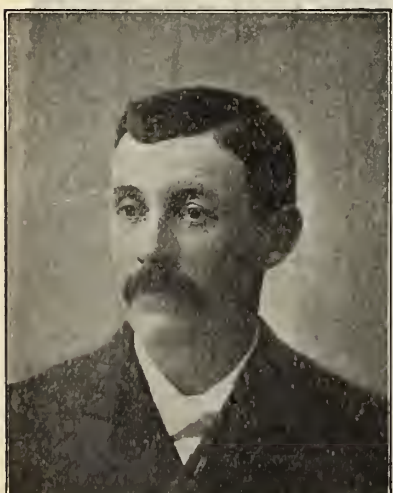
I planted the Seed Corn got from you May 9th, harrowed once and cultivated four times and obtained an average yield of seventy bushels per acre.—Wm. F. Clark, Whiteside County, Ill.

### One Hundred Bushels per Acre

Lancaster County, Neb., Feb. 2, 1904.

Ratekin's Seed House:  
You doubtless remember my order for 10 bushels of seed corn sent you last spring. I found the corn all right and as good as advertised, especially your "Pride of Nishna" and "Iowa Silver Mine." Some of my crop from your "Silver Mine" went over 100 bushels per acre.  
Yours truly, C. H. ARMANN.

CONDENSED PRICE LIST OF SEED CORN	Shelled					Ear
	Peck	½ bu.	Bushel	2 bu.	10 bu. or more	Bushel
Ratekin's Yellow Dent.....	\$0.00	\$1.75	\$3.00	\$2.75	.....	\$4.00
Ratekin's Pride of Nishna.....	.40	.75	1.85	1.90	\$1.25	2.50
Iowa Silver Mine.....	.40	.75	1.85	1.90	1.25	2.50
Ratekin's Imperial White.....	.40	.75	1.85	1.90	1.25	2.50
Legal Tender.....	.40	.75	1.85	1.90	1.25	.....
St. Charles White.....	.40	.75	1.40	1.90	1.25	.....
Champion White Pearl.....	.40	.75	1.50	1.40	1.80	.....
Reid's Yellow Dent.....	.40	.75	1.50	1.40	1.80	.....
Iowa Gold Mine.....	.40	.75	1.50	1.40	1.80	.....
Iowa Yellow Dent.....	.40	.70	1.35	1.25	1.10	.....
Ratekin's Queen of Nishna.....	.50	.80	1.50	1.45	1.40	.....
Ratekin's Extra Early White.....	.50	.80	1.50	1.45	1.40	.....
Pride of North.....	.50	.85	1.60	1.50	1.40	.....
Giant Fodder Corn.....	.30	.55	1.00	.95	.90	.....



C. P. DICKERMAN.

Mallet Creek, Medina County, Ohio, Oct. 10.  
Ratekin's Seed House—Gentlemen: The bushel of "Pride of Nishna" seed corn I ordered from you last spring was received promptly and on time, but owing to extreme dry weather I did not plant it until June 9th, at which time I planted it on new seed that had been in pasture for several years, planting with an ordinary grain drill, rows three feet apart. I got an excellent stand, and just as the corn was coming through the ground I dragged it with a short toothed harrow, cultivating it afterwards with a grasshopper cultivator, leaving the surface smooth and absolutely clean. Owing to continued dry weather it grew very slow until about the first of July, when we had good rains, followed by hot weather, which made it fairly leap and jump until it was twelve feet high, earing finely and in proportion to the stalks, fully maturing by the first of October. I have now husked it and find it yielded considerably over 100 bushels per acre, just how much I cannot now tell, but safely above the 100 bushel mark. For a large variety it has a wonderfully deep grain and small cob, thus maturing in a remarkably short time. It is just the kind of corn I have long been looking and experimenting for. With best wishes for your success, I am,  
Yours very truly,  
C. P. DICKERMAN.  
Breeder of Yorkshire Swine, Jersey Cattle, Delain Sheep and Fancy Poultry.

# “RATEKIN'S IMPERIAL WHITE CORN”

A Great Favorite Wherever Tried and Tested



This excellent and superior variety of corn has been grown here in the Nishna Valley of Southwestern Iowa for the past ten or twelve years with good results and uniform large yields. It was first introduced here from Illinois by an old German farmer, and on account of its many valuable and meritorious qualities, including its uniform big yields and its vitality to resist drouth and other unfavorable conditions, it soon became a favorite with many of our largest farmers and best corn growers. By reason of this and after seeing it growing we have for the past five years been experimenting with it by sending out small quantities all over the country, gratuitous to our customers who ordered seeds from us. This, in order to thoroughly test the adaptability over a

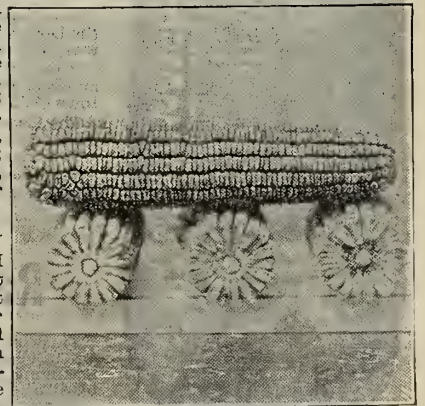
wide range of territory under all varying conditions, including climate, soil, and other things incident to our wide trade. There are many varieties of corn well suited to one locality that may be of little or no value in another place, but on the face of our observation we were so favorably impressed with this corn that we felt impelled to make a thorough trial and test of it in this way, and our judgment of it has now been proven correct, and in 1902, for the first time, we catalogued it along with our other improved varieties, and especially all over the southern states, and we are pleased to say and to know that all reports from those who planted and grew crops from it are remarkably well pleased and show a marvelous record as one of the hardest varieties, surest croppers and best yielders that we have ever sent out.

**Description** It is a pure white corn with red cob—a sign in itself of great vitality; ears measure from seven to eight inches in circumference and nine to twelve inches in length; sixteen to twenty-four rows solidly set on a medium small cob, not unusually hard but solid and compact, and will weigh out from three to four bushels more shelled corn to the wagon load than ordinary varieties. Stalks strong and rugged and grow from seven to ten feet and set ears about three and a half feet from the ground, and matures safely and soundly in ninety to one hundred days good corn weather from the time of planting.

It is a corn every farmer can plant with assurance always of a good crop of the best grade and quality of corn that is grown. It is especially well adapted to thin and old ground, but will respond to good land and good cultivation second to no other variety in existence. Owing to the increasing demand for white corn, not alone in the United States but throughout all the world where corn is rapidly being introduced for its multiplicity of uses for food, white corn is destined to command, as it now does, a premium of two to five cents per bushel over yellow corn. Cereal mills the world over want white corn; to have it and to get it farmers must plant and grow it. Only a few years ago we were selling six bushels of yellow seed corn where we were selling but one of white. Now we are selling more white corn than we are yellow. Why is it? Because farmers have learned during the past few years that white corn not only commands a better price than yellow corn but withstands drouth and other unfavorable conditions much better than yellow varieties. We cannot too strongly urge all of our customers who order seed corn from us this season to include in their order a few bushels of our “Imperial White.” It is a sure cropper, big yielder, early to mature and an all-around field corn that you can always depend upon.

Price: Pkt., 5c; lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant one acre), \$1.00. Sample ears, 25c, prepaid to any postoffice in the United States. By express or freight, purchaser's expense: Pk., 40c; ½ bu., 75c; 1 bu., \$1.35; 2 bu. or more, \$1.30; 10 bu. or more, \$1.25. Sacks included. Crated, in ear, 1 bu., \$2.50; 10 bu. or more, \$2.25.

**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 cornmeal and it is therefore highly valued by the millers. The ears are usually eight and one-half to 10 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: Pkt., 5c; lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c, postpaid. By freight, pk., 40c; bu., \$1.40; 2 bu. or more, \$1.30; 10 bu. or more, \$1.25.



The seed corn I bought of you last spring was the best investment I ever made. It produced fully double as much as that of my neighbors and it is of the finest quality.—W. C. McHenry, Crawford County, Iowa.

ST. CHARLES WHITE CORN.

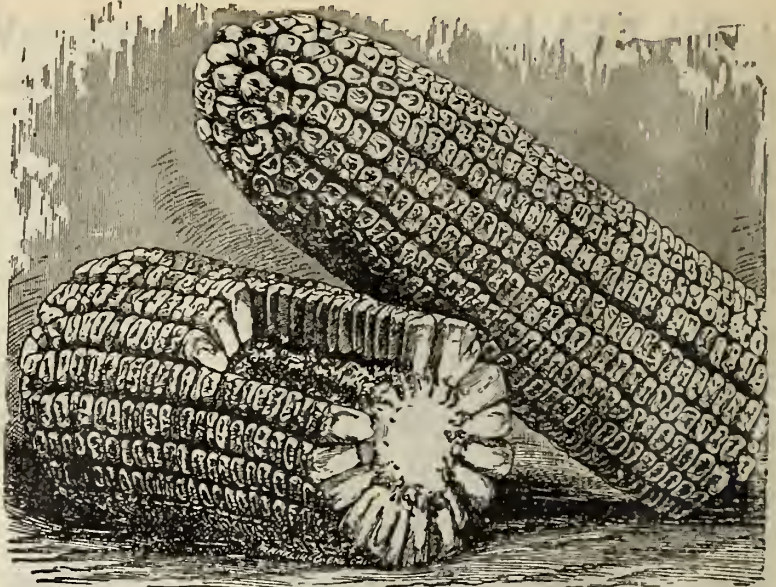
## "LEGAL TENDER"

This is now one of the most prominent late varieties of yellow Dent corn in the country. It is the result of about twenty years selection by a seed corn specialist in Iowa, and has taken first premium at many state and county fairs. The corn is productive, and of uniform pure yellow color, ear very large and long and a deep grain on a small cob, while the stalk does not grow too large. The introducer says: "Our ideal ear is an ear two-thirds as large around as it is long, containing sixteen to twenty rows, and small shank. The kernels are deep, the cob is small at the butt, and the ear holds its bigness toward the point until near tapering off. It should be capped over and the kernels should hold their bigness toward the point and the butt run out straight and not crinkle."

The above engraving, from photograph, is not exaggerated, but is a true picture of the corn. It should be planted north of the latitude of a line running east and west through the center of the state of Iowa, but it will do well anywhere south of that line. Price: Pkt., postpaid, 5c; lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant an acre), \$1.00. By freight at expense of purchaser,

peck 40c.  
 1/2 bush.,  
 75c; 1  
 bush.,  
 \$1.35; 2  
 bush.,  
 \$1.30 per  
 bush.;

10 bush. or more \$1.25 per bush. Sacks included, f. o. b. here.



LEGAL TENDER.

## Champion White Pearl.

This was undoubtedly the best variety of white corn before the introduction of the Iowa Silver Mine. It is recognized and catalogued as a leading standard variety of medium sized early white Dent corn, suitable for general crop. Matures in 115 days; is prolific; the grain is deep and wide, with small cob. The stalk is short and thick, and roots very deeply, with ear growing very low upon it, thus standing our

severe storms and drouth well. Desirable for milling, and very largely grown for that purpose throughout the South.

If you want some good, palatable cornmeal, grow a little of the "Champion White Pearl" and have it ground. Price: Pkt., 5c; lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c, postpaid. By freight, peck, 40c; bush., \$1.50; 2 bush. or more, \$1.40; 10 bush. or more, \$1.30.

## Iowa Gold Mine Corn.

It is early ripening, only a few days later than "Pride of the North." Golden yellow, as handsome as gold; grain is very deep, cob small, and therefore dries out very quickly as soon as ripe. Seventy pounds of ear corn makes sixty pounds of shelled corn, and in hauling to market it weighs out more to the wagon than common varieties. We have shelled selected ears of this variety which produced sixty-two pounds of

shelled corn and only eight pounds of cobs to the bushel. It matures perfectly in southern Minnesota.

We can most confidently recommend it. See a sample before buying elsewhere. Price: Pkt., 5c; lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c, postpaid. By freight, peck, 40c; bush., \$1.50; 2 bush. or more, \$1.40; 10 bush. or more, \$1.30.

Your Legal Tender Corn took first premium for the best yellow corn at the Cass county fair. It was very fine.—F. B. Van Orman, Cass Co., Ia.

It pays to buy seed corn from you, as I have an excellent crop of both Iowa Silver Mine and Iowa Gold Mine.—Anton Karkosh, Tama Co., Ia.

The Iowa Gold Mine Corn I purchased of you last spring is the best yielder I ever planted.—O. E. Hughes, Butler County, Iowa.

The Iowa Gold Mine Corn proved very satisfactory. It cared better than any other variety

I have ever seen. The ears are better filled with deep grains of golden yellow corn, and I can say that it is more than it is claimed to be.—D. A. Rose, Washington County, Iowa.

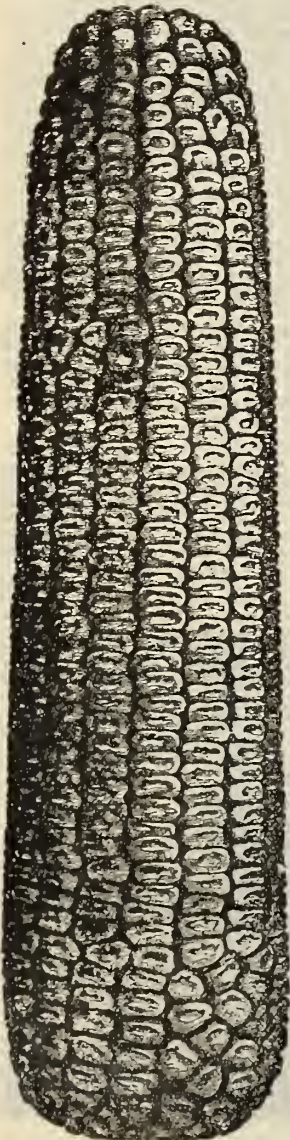
Iowa Gold Mine Corn is a grand variety, and we were well pleased with it.—W. D. Ballantyne, Hamilton County, Iowa.

I think Iowa Gold Mine Corn the best of all, and am satisfied with it.—B. W. Fisher, Pike County, Mo.

## 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 cornmeal. 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 bush., \$1.50; 2 bush., \$2.90; 10 bush. and over, \$1.40 per bush.



RATKIN'S EXTRA EARLY WHITE CORN.

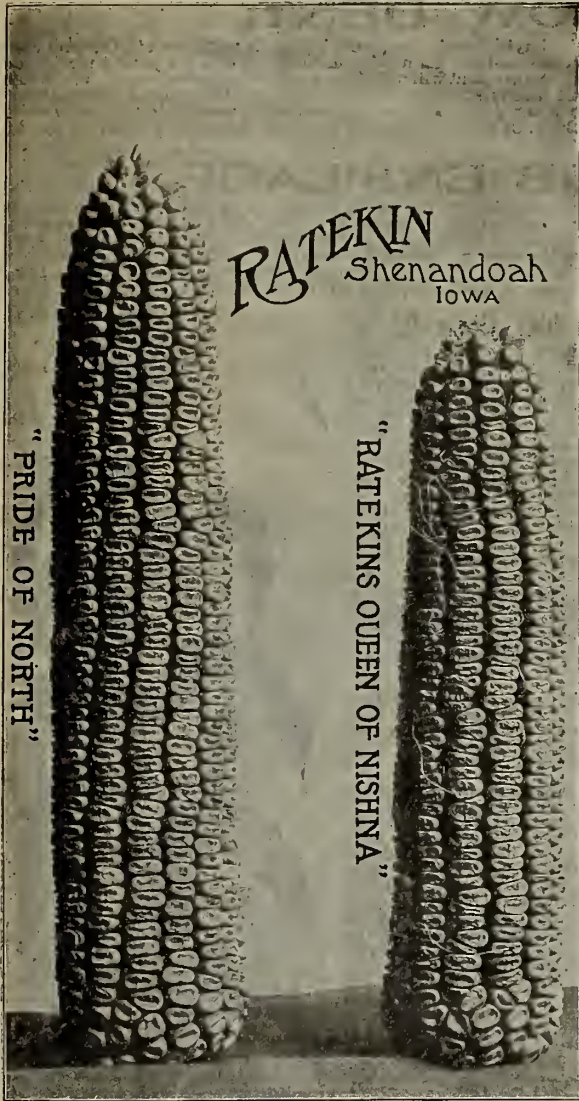
# RATEKIN'S QUEEN OF NISHNA

The Earliest Dent Corn in Existence

**Ratekin's Queen of Nishna** Is without doubt the earliest dent corn there is in existence or that is grown, and is especially well adapted to northern climates, where the seasons are short and where frost is expected early; also to the south, where corn is often planted late in the season, after the small grain crop is harvested and taken off the ground. It supplies the place and is far superior to the Mexican June corn in the south, and the extra earlies in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan and New England, always maturing in seventy to eighty days, and even where any of the flint corns will mature.

"**RATEKIN'S QUEEN OF NISHNA**" resembles very much the "Pride of the North." By careful selection and improvement by planting only from the best strains and from stock grown especially for seed purposes with the utmost care, we claim our stock to be of superior quality in earliness as well as in yield and quality of product. In fact, we have used every known method in breeding this corn up to obtain all the essential points of highest standard known in the perfection of an extra early variety of field corn for the extreme north, as well as to supply an extra early corn for the central, western and southern states for late planting.

**Description** The ears run from seven to ten inches long, with sixteen to twenty rows (usually about eighteen rows) of very deep, compact grains, solidly set on a very small red cob, and yields from forty to sixty bushels per acre; our seed crop this season was unusually fine, and yielded strong **Fifty-five Bushels per acre.** We have sold hundreds of bushels of this corn all over North and South Dakota and Minnesota, and it has given remarkably good satisfaction and yield. In 1901 we sold one large farm company in North Dakota sixty bushels of this seed for their own planting purposes, and another land company fifty bushels, besides hundreds of smaller orders, and without exception they obtained the best of results, and many of them have since given us large orders, many of them from 100 to 500 bushels, on the strength of results from this seed corn. 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 commend it to our customers and to the farmers everywhere where you want an extra early variety. It's the corn to plant. Price: Pkt., 5c; lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs., \$1.00, postpaid. By freight, per pk., 50c; bu., \$1.50; 2 bu., \$2.90; 10 bu. or more, at \$1.40. Bags free on board cars here.



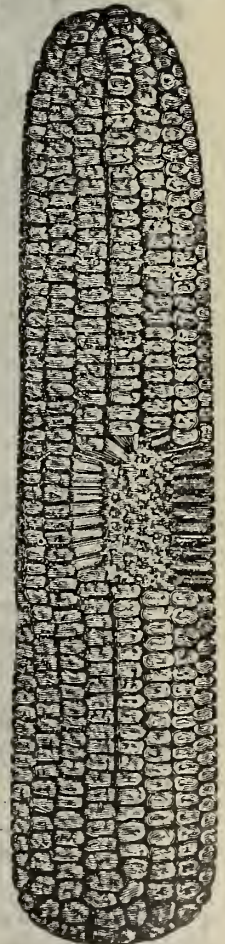
## PRIDE OF THE NORTH

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., 50c; bu., \$1.60; 2 bu. or more at \$1.50; 10 bu. or more at \$1.40.

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.

## REID'S YELLOW DENT

A well known variety which is very popular in Illinois and has taken many prizes at various corn shows and fairs, it being grown quite largely for an exhibition corn. Until recently it has been but little known in Iowa, though during the past two or three years much has been said about it at corn shows, in agricultural papers. It has also been used as a standard at the corn judging school. This variety has been bred up by selection for more than fifty years by Robert Reid and his son, J. L. Reid, and its characteristics are fixed and quite constant. The ear is of excellent shape, nearly cylindrical, tapering slowly to tip; length about 9½ inches, kernels firm on cob, eighteen to twenty-four rows, with narrow space between rows; color medium yellow with red cob. The ear is quite solid and rather smooth; matures in about 110 days and yields well, although not equal in this respect to some other sorts. Grown quite largely by farmers who take pride in the quality of their corn, or desire it for exhibition. We procured stock seed from the originator three years ago and have grown it near Shenandoah each year since, and it is now well acclimated here. We can furnish strictly pure, carefully selected seed at the following prices: Pkt., 5c; lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c, postpaid. By freight, pk., 40c; bu., \$1.50; 2 bu. or more at \$1.40; 10 bu. or more at \$1.30.



REID'S YELLOW DENT

# IOWA YELLOW DENT.

We always advise farmers to select the best named varieties in buying seed corn, and believe it pays them in the long run. This year, however, there are thousands of farmers in need of seed corn, and their main object is to secure at a low price a nice grade of good yellow corn which is well matured, thoroughly tested, of strong vitality, and will produce a good crop of sound corn. While this corn is not equal to our best named varieties, still we believe you will find it superior to nine-tenths of the corn in your neighborhood. At our price it will cost you only about 15 Cents per Acre to plant your fields with this variety and it will pay you well to order sufficient for your planting. Price: Pk., 40c; bu., \$1.35; 2 bu. or more, @ \$1.25; 5 bu. or more, @ \$1.15; 25 bu. or more, @ \$1.00.

## GIANT RED COB ENSILAGE.

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. It is a pure white corn, 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., 30c, postpaid; by freight, per pk., 40c; bu., \$1.35; two bu. or more, @ \$1.25; five bu. or more, @ \$1.10.



EVERGREEN SWEET FODDER CORN.

**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., 70c; bu. (measured), \$2.25; 2 bu. or more, @ \$2.00.

**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. Pkt., 60c; bu., \$2.00; 2 bu., or more @ \$1.90.

**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 car load. 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.

**Giant Fodder Corn** BEYOND ANY DOUBT, we are strictly in it on the best Fodder Corn in existence. It is pure white corn, cropping as high as fifty tons per acre, but not over-large and coarse stalks as some varieties are. It is well adapted to any section where silos exist, and is especially popular with dairy farmers, to whom we have sold thousands of bushels of this corn for ensilage purposes. It grows very tall and leafy. Drill one and one-fourth bushels to the acre in rows three and one-half feet apart. Price: Pk., 30c; bu., \$1.00; 10 bu. and over, 90c. per bu. Bags included, f. o. b. here.

### Endorsement from a Home Farmer.

Ratekins' Seed House, Shenandoah.

Shenandoah, Iowa, Dec. 1, 1904.

The finest corn I have ever raised was this last year, when I planted your "Queen of Nishna," and if the farmers of this country would accept advice from me I would say for them to plant your famous "Queen of Nishna." I would recommend every farmer to plant this wonderful corn, at least on a part of his farm. It made more bushels of better corn than any of my neighbors.

JOHN TRUE.

We can guarantee the Shenandoah Incubator to hatch as many chicks for you as any other machine ever made, under similar conditions. Every farmer should raise chickens, and use an incubator; read about the famous Shenandoah on page 71 of this catalog.



RATEKIN  
Shenandoah, Ia.

FODDER CORN.

# SEED OATS

Our Seed Oats for this season's trade was all harvested, stacked and threshed without rain, and the quality is very fine. We feel sure our customers will make no mistake in ordering their seed from us. There is nothing grown, not even potatoes, that will so readily respond to a change of climate and soil as oats, and in no other crop is it so profitable to sow nothing but the best improved varieties. Oats, like other seed, except in a more marked degree, will run out in constant cropping on the same farm, and a change is necessary. Our seed is thoroughly re-cleaned and graded, and absolutely free from noxious weed seed, trash, or any other particles of any kind. It is SEED OATS. We hope you will give our oats a trial, and we venture the assertion that you will not regret it, and when threshing time comes you will reap a profitable investment from the seed oats you received from us.

## RATEKIN'S NEW SENSATION OATS The Earliest of All Oats

Are the kind to grow for sure croppers. Our "Sensation Oats" are noted for vigorous growth, and rust does not affect them so much as less vigorous varieties. The grain is large, white, plump, with thin hull, running over weight, often eight to ten pounds; we unreservedly recommend our "Sensation Oats." They will yield sixty to eighty bushels per acre in ordinary farm cultivation, and more under favorable conditions. We don't ask you to base your hopes on 200 to 1,000 bushels per acre, as you will see claimed in some catalogs; we believe we are dealing with intelligent people and they realize such yields are impossible. We aim to gain and hold the confidence of the farmers everywhere, and we should be pleased to have you devote part of your farm to our "Sensation Oats"—it will pay you. Who would not rather grow a pure, true, heavy oat in preference to the mixed, light, chaffy kinds grown on some farms? It's time to look to quality; sow good seed and you will reap a good harvest. When you sow our "Sensation Oats," you have an insurance policy on your crop. We make it possible for every farmer to get some of these oats by making the price very low. Order them early, and secure some of this seed. We believe our new "Sensation Oats" to be the best ever introduced for earliness, enormous yielding qualities and freedom from rust. Hundreds of our customers have written us that, on account of its stiff straw, it stood up perfectly under weather that caused all other varieties to lodge. It is the best and most economical oat for feeding, on account of its thin hull, heavy meat and soft nib. Price of "Sensation Oats": \$1.25 per bu.; 10 bu., \$1.20 per bu.; 50 bushels, \$1.10 per bu.; 100 bu., \$1.00 per bu. Bags free.

These are the oats which F. Rockefeller, one of the Standard Oil Co., used this last year on one of his Kansas farms, ordering 400 bushels by telegram on March 18, 1904. Read the copy of his dispatch on page 4.

### Ratekin's Early Champion White Oats

The "Early Champion" are without doubt the earliest variety of oats to mature that there is in existence; are of short, stiff straw, always standing up well on the richest soil; and these two reasons make them the most desirable nurse crop in existence to sow with grass or clover. In addition to superior quality already named they are among the largest yielders and surest croppers. In fact, they have given the largest yield in field tests at the Iowa Experimental Station, and are highly recommended by that station as superior to any other variety on points named here. You will make no mistake in sowing largely of this variety for field and general crop; they always get there before rust gets other sorts. Price: Bu., 90c; 10 bu., 80c; 50 bu., 70c. Bags free.

Enid, Oklahoma.

Ratekin's Seed House: I am pleased to say that my crop of oats grown from your New Sensation did splendidly. They are the earliest oats I have ever raised, and will sow no other varieties.

ABRAHAM MERRITT.

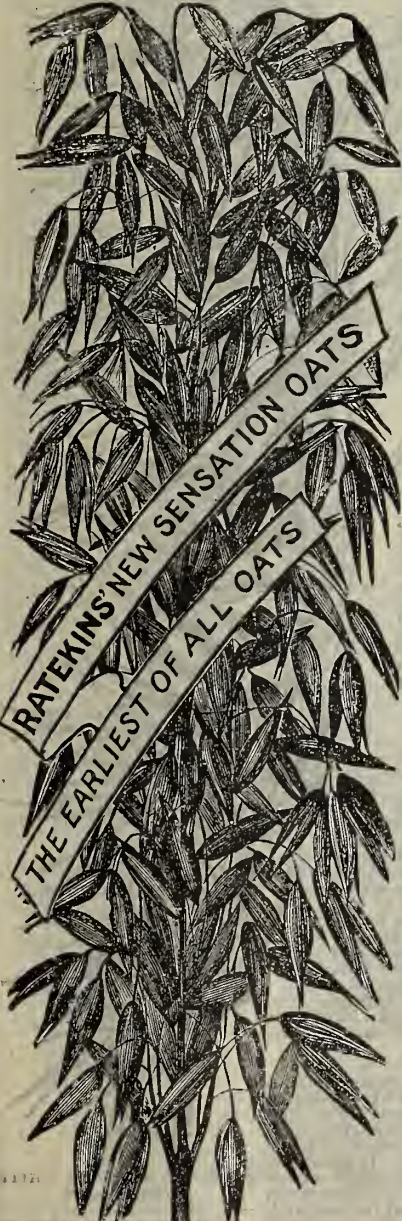
Johnson County, Iowa.

The Early Champion Seed Oats I purchased from you last season did well, and I advise every farmer to try them.

J. D. WHITESIDE.

### Change Your Seed Oats This Year

It will pay you to sell your common oats and sow these improved varieties this year while the seed is so cheap. In our field the New Sensation Oats yielded about 102 bushels to the acre, and the Lincoln 90 bushels, while neighboring fields of other varieties under similar conditions yielded only 40 to 50 bushels. The increased yield on a few acres will cover entire cost of seed for your farm.



RATEKIN'S EARLY CHAMPION WHITE

# SEED OATS==Continued

## Our Improved Mammoth White Russian Oats.

"Mammoth White Russian Oats" are a white oat; grow vigorous and with a very strong, stiff straw, almost absolutely rust proof. They are always sure croppers and make more big bushels per acre than any other white oats in existence. They are oats every farmer should plant or grow. Our seed of these oats are of an excellent and superior grade and quality, all cleaned

and sacked in our two bushel bags. Such seeds are worth twice the price we ask for them, as compared with the ordinary sorts, even if you could obtain them as a gift. Now is the time to order your seed, then you will have them when you are ready to sow, and you will not have to sow some common or inferior sorts. Order today. Price: bush., 90c; 10 bush. lots @ 80c; 50 bush. lots @ 65c. Bags free.

## Texas Red Rust-Proof Oats.

Grown by us from seed imported from Texas, they are a valuable acquisition to the varieties of oats we have to offer, and an oat that a large number of farmers in all parts of the country are so favorably impressed with; they get such good results that they sow no other kind, being a stiff straw and an early oat, also extremely hardy, they have short spikelets or beards on them which protect them from the extreme hot sun; they can be sown as early or earlier than spring wheat, as light freezes do not affect them; they are sown in the South more than any other variety.

We import our seed for our own planting from our growers in Texas each year, and therefore sell nothing to our customers which we do not grow ourselves. These oats made this season on our own farm 75 bushels to an acre, while other varieties of common oats in neighboring fields made only about half, this being an off season for oats. We sell thousands of bushels of these oats each season all over the North as well as the South, and this season the crop of our own raising of these oats we offer to our customers is something of real worth and value to all who will sow them. Oats, like other seeds, necessitates a change. Order early and get enough of this seed to sow all the land you expect to put in oats. It will pay you. Price: Bu., \$1.00; 10 bu., @ 90c; 50 bu., @ 80c. Bags free.

## Mammoth White Side Oats.

Called by some New Zealand. We will put this variety up against any kind for an all purpose oat south of Iowa. That this is the very best variety of oats for this part of the country there is no doubt, and we will refer you to those who run threshing machines here and they will say that Mammoth White Side oats make the best yield, best grade and brightest and heaviest oats. They stand up better, grow heavier straw and yield better than any other kind, is the experience of most all of those who have tried them. They are a week or two later than most varieties, and allow hay harvest to be finished before harvesting them. We have tried a number of varieties and have seen most of the new ones tried, and never saw a variety that would equal them for late oats. We are placing the seed very low, actual cost of cleaning, bagging, and the necessary cost of shipping small orders, above market price. Look at these prices: 1 bu., 75c; 2 or more bu., 70c. per bu.; 10 bu. lots, 65c. per bu.; 25 bu. lots, 55c. per bu. Bags free.



MAMMOTH WHITE SIDE OATS



IMPROVED MAMMOTH WHITE RUSSIAN OATS.

**The New Lincoln** First introduced in 1893. Has stood the test very well and proven to be an excellent variety. No variety has ever had such a boom in advertising as the New Lincoln, and was introduced in Minnesota with wonderful success. It has done well here, and we have raised it since its introduction with very good results. It is very productive, having in all instances yielded more to the acre than any of the standard varieties, in one case yielding 174 bushels from a single bushel of seed. It is very early and thus far has proven itself dust-proof. It stands up remarkably well. On account of its thin hull, heavy meat and soft nib, it is a desirable variety for feeding. For oatmeal or grinding it is exceptionally valuable. Choicest stock feed. The above is a description from the originator. We will say that this is a very good oat and has, as is stated, stood the test well. We have grown it for several years past, and it has done well. It is a splendid variety, and to those who want that kind we will guarantee it genuine and pure. Price: Bu., 90c; 10 bu. lots, 80c; 50 bu. lots, 65c.

Write for special prices on Oats for larger amounts.



# SPELTZ or EMMER

The Valuable New Grain from Russia

Speltz has now been grown in the United States in a large way for several years, and each succeeding season not only EMPHASIZES ITS VALUE, but sees its production increasing to an enormous extent. It is found to be adapted to a WIDE RANGE OF SOIL AND CLIMATE,

to RESIST EXTREMES OF WEATHER, to be of SUPERIOR FEEDING VALUE, and to YIELD SO MUCH MORE HEAVILY than oats and barley as to insure its increasing popularity and its eventual place among the leading and standard cereal crops of the world. THOSE WHO HAVE NOT GROWN SPELTZ SHOULD NOT LET ANOTHER SEASON GO BY WITHOUT GIVING IT A PLACE, AND AN IMPORTANT PLACE, TOO, ON THEIR FARMS.

Professor Shepard, of the South Dakota Experiment Station, states:

"It is readily eaten by all kinds of stock and has shown itself to be especially adapted when fed to milch cows. It is better to mix, however, with bran and shorts, as it is a pretty heavy feed when fed alone. As a swine feed, we think very well of it indeed, especially for breed sows. Horses do well on it, but I do not think it is equal to oats in that case. Its most striking value is found in the fact of its drought-resistant qualities."

As will be seen by the statement of Mr. Cooley,

published below, one acre of Speltz will produce three times the value of produce of wheat, barley or oats. This tells the story in few and strong words, and this statement made by Mr. Cooley during the fall of 1900 has been fully borne out by the experience of thousands. Other cereals, especially oats and barley, have shrunk into insignificance as compared with the Speltz grown side by side. The United States Department of Agriculture has issued a bulletin on Speltz, commending it highly, and the introductory paragraph of that bulletin states:

"The extremely variable climatic conditions in some of our western states have made it desirable to give particular attention to crops resistant especially to cold and drought. Among such crops Emmer holds high rank and should become one of the prominent crops for stock feeding."

**Cultivation** In methods of cultivation this is probably the least exacting of all cereals. It should be sown very early, and this can safely be done, as it is not easily harmed by, and easily resists, early and severe frosts.

Speltz is unhesitatingly recommended for growing in the extreme northern states of this country, from Minnesota to Washington, and even in Alaska, also in the semi-arid districts further south, and it should also be grown in all other sections of the United States. The following letter from Mr. J. N. Cooley, of South Dakota, gives the conservative expression of a practical farmer. Mr. Cooley has been a valued correspondent for many years, and his word is as good as gold. His letter is a fair sample of the many expressions we have received regarding this new cereal:

"I am very glad to say anything I know about Speltz. Our best farmers have awakened to the realization that Speltz is just what we need. First, it is a crop on which farmers can rely, as it greatly out-yields any other grain. Second, it is unequalled as feed for any kind of stock, as its nutritious shuck, enclosing two kernels of incomparable richness, makes feed that is hard to equal for any kind of stock, and especially for working teams. Third, the straw is second to none as a 'go-between' hay and corn. One acre of Speltz will produce three times the value of produce of wheat, barley or oats. As an example, from a field of wheat of twenty acres, grown during the past season by my son, he realized \$60.00; and from twenty acres of Speltz adjoining it he raised and sold \$340.00 worth. Speltz is a surer crop than oats, barley or wheat; no crinkling down so that the heads are cut off and fall on the ground, no rust or smut to shrink and make light the berry or lower the grade of the grain. Farmers here are grinding and feeding Speltz to stock, when they might get a big price for it for seed. A prominent farmer told me he was going to sow one hundred acres to Speltz as a grain to feed his stock, of which he has a large herd. This man now has 500 bushels of Speltz, but not a bushel to sell. It is conceded by all who have raised and fed it to be the best stock food of any of the family of grains. I am not feeding any of it, as I have only about 350 bushels, and it is all wanted for seed right about here at advanced prices. Farmers are going to sow less wheat, oats and barley, and more Speltz, this year. The above is the prevailing sentiment in this section on the Speltz question, and you cannot recommend it too highly."

January 30th.

Mr. Cooley does not say half enough for it. Speltz can be cut with a header and stacked like wheat. It will shed rain better than wheat. It is superior to any other grain for feeding, as it is not necessary to grind it for horses and a little goes a long way.

G. W. BEAN, South Dakota.

Price per bu. of 40 pounds, 90c; 3 bu., \$2.40; 6 bu., \$4.50; 10 bu., \$7.00; 50 bu., 65c per bu. Bags free.

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.



RATEKIN  
Shenandoah, Ia.

SPELTZ

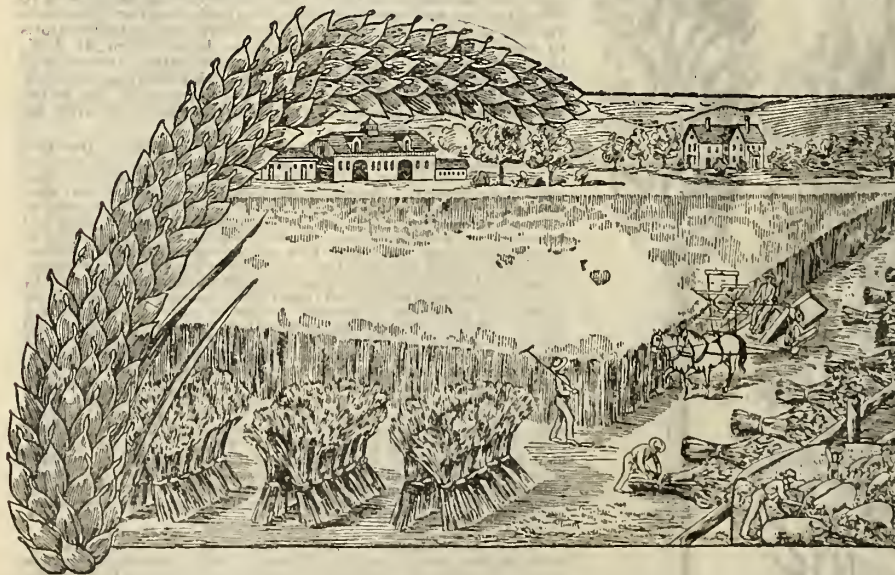
# SEED WHEAT

## Haynes' Pedigree Wheat

We cannot too highly recommend this grand new variety as being the best kind of Spring Wheat in existence, and are sure it will please everyone who tries it. It was originated by Mr. L. H. Haynes, who spent eight years in selecting and improving it in his garden, each year choosing all the largest and best heads and discarding all the balance. This continued selection has had the effect of improving it in vigor, size of head and quality. For the past few years he has been growing it as a farm crop, taking the greatest pains each season to keep it strictly pure by going through the fields and removing everything that was not of ideal quality. The heads are very large, well filled out, the kernel is hard; the plant stools greatly, and, under ordinary favorable conditions, will yield 40 to 50 bushels per acre. It is an improvement on Blue Stem Wheat, and fully five days earlier in maturing. We most highly recommend this variety to customers everywhere in the wheat growing belt, and are sure it will greatly please them in every respect. Outyields them all. Price: Pkt., 5c; lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c, postpaid. By freight, pk., 65c; bu., \$2.00; 2 bu. or more, \$1.90.



BLUE STEM SPRING WHEAT



## Blue Stem Spring Wheat

The "Velvet Chaff or Minnesota Blue Stem Spring Wheat" does the best throughout the spring wheat growing country. It is a remarkable semi-hard spring wheat, yielding large crops, and is free from rust. Our millers pay more for it than for any other sort. It is fully equal to the old Fife Wheat and yields a very much larger crop. Our seed this year is very fine, and we are sure it will please our customers. It is cleaned and graded and you will find it absolutely free and clean, clear from all oats and other noxious seed. Price: Lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c. By frt., bags free, aboard the cars here, bu., \$1.75; 5 bu. or more, \$1.65; 10 bu. or more, \$1.50.

**Success Beardless Barley** Earliest barley known. The straw is about the height of common barley, but better, and will stand up on any land. With good land and season has produced 80 bushels per acre. Sow as early as you can; frost does not hurt it. Many farmers will not grow barley on account of the long harsh beards which are so disgraceable in threshing, although it is a profitable crop.

This is beardless, and as easy to grow and handle as oats. It has hulls like the Manshury or any other old variety, and is a heavy cropper, yielding from 50 to 75 bushels per acre, and the quality is excellent, both for maturing and for feeding hogs and other stock. Seed is scarce this year. Price, by freight, bu., \$1.25; 2 bu. or more, \$1.20; 10 bu. or more, \$1.00. Bags free.

**MONSTER RYE** We consider Winter Rye one of the most important of all farm crops. In the first place it is a sure crop—failures being almost unknown. Every farmer should have at least a few acres of it. It is usually sown in the fall and as it grows very vigorously will furnish pasture till late in the fall and also early in the spring before other grasses have begun to make a growth. If sown very early in the spring it makes an early and abundant pasture but will not make a grain crop. Our "Monster Rye" is of extra quality and we are sure it will please you no matter whether you want it for pasture or a grain crop. Price, bush., \$1.00; 5 bush. or more, 90c; 10 bush. or over, 75c.

**SPRING RYE** Distinct from the Winter Rye; grain of finer quality and more productive, and can be successfully grown in any latitude. It is now being largely sown in

**Manshure Bearded Barley** This is an old well known six-rowed variety introduced by Professor Henry, of the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station eleven or twelve years ago. Since then it has been the standard and most popular barley ever introduced. It has been worth millions of dollars to the farmers in the barley growing states. It is a barley of wonderful productiveness and is not surpassed as a heavy yielder. Its malting qualities are unsurpassed, and on this account always commands the highest market price. It ripens early and has strong, stiff straw, with long heavy heads, filled with plump, nice kernels, which are of a pretty bright color, and will not discolor from wet weather. Barley is in better demand than it used to be, and even at a moderate price it is a good and profitable crop to grow. The "Manshure Barley" yields in ordinary seasons 60 to 65 bushels per acre, and in favorable seasons has yielded as high as 80 bushels; figuring only 45 to 50 cents a bushel, it is one of the best paying crops. Price, 1 lb. 30c; 4 lbs., 75c, by mail. By freight or express, peck, 50c; 1 bush., \$1.00; 10 bush. or more, 85c. Bags free.



MANSHURE BARLEY.

**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 and 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 pkt., 5c; lb., 50c; 3 lbs., 75c, postpaid. By freight, per peck, 75c; bush. (48 lbs.), \$2.00; 2 bush. or more, \$1.80.

At the prices quoted here we make no charges for bags or cartage on farm seeds. The prices quoted are subject to market fluctuations. Should any seeds seem high, or when customers are in need of large quantities, we will be pleased to quote them on application, the Lowest Prices that the market will justify at any time. Please state quantities when writing for prices.

**SEED FLAX**

A very profitable crop and it pays to own your own seed. Prices subject to market changes. Price, lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c. By freight, peck, 65c; bush., \$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 3 feet. Price, by mail, postpaid, 30c per lb. By freight, peck, 60c; half bush., \$1.10; 1 bush., \$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

the North in the place of oats, being a more profitable crop on account of the production of nearly four times the straw. Price, lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c, postpaid. By freight, bush., \$1.50; 2 bush. or more, \$1.40; 5 bush. or more, \$1.25.

**WINTER WHEAT** When you are interested in Fall or Winter Wheat, write for our Special Winter Wheat Catalog, giving full description of our well known varieties, also our Imported Malakoff Winter Wheat. Will be ready to mail about August 1st. Mailed free for the asking. Don't fail to sow some of our Winter Wheat this fall.

brushy and make a fine yield. Price, by mail, postpaid, 30c per lb. By freight, peck, 60c; half bush., \$1.10; 1 bush., \$1.75.

**BUCKWHEAT**

Should be sown about the middle of June, broadcast, using from 1 to 3 pecks of seed to the acre.

**New Japanese**

This new sort has proven to be much earlier and more productive than any other variety, grains very large and of a rich brown color. It excels all in yield and earliness. Price, postpaid, lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c. By express or freight, peck, 40c; bush., \$1.50; 5 bush., \$1.40; 10 bush. or over, \$1.30.



**Silver Hull**

A very good and popular variety. The grain is of a light gray color, is rounder than the common variety, has a much thinner hull, matures earlier and yields a half more to the acre. Price, postpaid, lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c. By freight or express, peck, 40c; bush., \$1.50; 5 bush. or more, \$1.40.

**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; bush., \$2.50.

**Clay**—A rank and rapid grower, but later than the Whippoorwill. Price, peck, 75c; bush., \$2.50.

**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; oz., 10c; 1/4 lb., 20c; lb., 50c, postpaid. By express, 5 lbs. or more, at 35c.

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

## EARLY AMBER CANE

Amber cane in recent years has attracted great attention as food for live stock, and is now recognized for its great value and adaptability as such. Its great merit as a food has become known and is here to stay, being very generally known and appreciated. The demand is increasing more and more every year and each year ten fold more than the last. It is profitably grown everywhere, from Manitoba to Mexico, on any good corn land, and is not affected by drouth as other crops are, but produces wonderful forage crops, rain or shine. As a fodder plant it is the most productive and economical plant in existence, and of the very best quality. Being sweet, tender and nutritious, it is greedily eaten by cattle, horses and hogs. Dairy men find that cows give more and richer milk from its use than any other food, and it is claimed by some that as high as twenty-five, thirty and even fifty tons of the green fodder have been grown from one acre. It can be cut several times during the season if not allowed to grow too large or high, and make a good, sweet hay. Sow 100 pounds per acre for best results. Price: Per lb., post-paid by mail 15c, 2 lbs., 40c. By freight 10 lbs., 50c; 25 lbs., 85c; 100 lbs., \$2.50; 500 lbs. or more, \$2.00 per 100 lbs.



EARLY AMBER CANE.

Write for prices on large quantities of these seeds, as they are subject to market changes and we will always quote you lowest prices.

## KAFFIR CORN

This is a most excellent fodder plant, yielding two crops of fodder during the season. It grows from five to six feet high, making a straight, upright growth. The stem or stalk bears numerous wide leaves. The stalks keep green and are brittle and juicy, not hard and like other varieties of sorghum, making excellent fodder either green or dried, which is highly relished by cattle, horses and mules. The seed crop is also heavy, sometimes yielding sixty bushels to the acre. Both grain and fodder are excellent; the stalk remains tender to the full maturity of the seed. There is no failure about it, as it possesses the quality that all the tribe possess, of waiting for rain without any loss of capacity to yield. The grain is extremely valuable for feeding to poultry and will make a flour that is like wheat. Cultivated the same as our common Indian corn, requiring five pounds of seed per acre. For Fodder sow one-half to one bushel, either broadcast or in drills. Price: By freight, pk., 50c; bu. (50 pounds), \$1.25; 2 bu. or more, \$1.15; 5 bu. or more, \$1.00.



KAFFIR CORN.

one-half to one bushel, either broadcast or in drills. Price: By freight, pk., 50c; bu. (50 pounds), \$1.25; 2 bu. or more, \$1.15; 5 bu. or more, \$1.00.

## MANGELS AND SUGAR BEETS

Extensively grown in all parts of the country for feeding stock. Sow in April and May, in drills three feet apart, and thin to ten inches in the row. If your soil is deep and mellow, try the long varieties; if shallow the round kinds will do better. No crop pays the farmer or stock raiser better than mangels; 1,000 bushels to the acre is an ordinary yield, while with good culture 2,000 bushels and over have been grown to this amount of ground. These make the cheapest of foods for all kinds of live stock—horses, cattle, pigs, sheep, chickens, etc. Easily grown and they help to keep stock in good condition and free from disease. Dairy men claim that a bushel of mangels and a bushel of corn are worth more than two bushels of corn. Use 6 pounds of seed to an acre. "GOLDEN TANKARD"—The popular variety. Roots are smooth, of very large size, and of excellent quality. Is a splendid keeper and we heartily recommend this strain of Golden Tankard to all. Price: Oz., 5c; ½ lb. 15c; 1 lb., 40c; or 5 lbs., for one acre, \$1.50.

## BEETS FOR STOCK FEED

**Mangel Wurzels** An ever increasing acreage is being planted to stock beets, because of the wonderful results by feeding them as shown by the reports of our experiment stations, and leading farmers and stockmen. Fattening, breeding and milk cattle do equally well on them. With dairy cattle, the flow of the milk is largely increased. About one-fourth of the dairy ration should be of roots. Hog cholera is prevented by their use. Sow in rows two and a half to three feet apart as soon as the ground can be thoroughly worked. Cover seed about one and a half inches, making ground firm over the seed. Thin to eight in. apart, when four inches high. Where many are grown a good drill and cultivator are needed. Five pounds sows an acre. Decidedly a monstrous size beet and of regular shape and quality, nutritious, and valuable as a stock food; blood-red color, very smooth and decidedly improved strain of mangels. Plant from first of April up to last of June. A good root crop is essential from which to realize a good profit. Price: Pkt., 4c; ¼ lb. 10c; ½ lb., 15c; 1 lb., 25c; 5 lbs., \$1.00.

### How We Serve our Customers by Mail

If you live a thousand miles away your seed buying can be done as easily and satisfactorily as if you lived in reach of our Seed House.

This is because we give personal and careful attention to the filling of each order. If you are undecided as to the merits of a vegetable you can leave it to our judgment and we will send you a variety we know will give satisfaction.

## PUMPKINS

We place this among our field seeds, as they should be grown in every corn field. Hundreds of loads of pumpkins can be grown without the cost of a cent for use of land, and but very little cost to plant, as they need no tending further than what is needed in caring for the corn. Some plant them by putting the seed in one of the planter boxes and making the hole one size larger; others wait until corn is plowed the first time and plant with a hoe. Either way is good, and we think it would pay to use both methods of planting, part one way and part the other.

**Connecticut Field** This is widely known as Yankee Cow Pumpkin, and there is no variety that will do so well among corn. Plant them on your richest corn land and you will be amply repaid. Price: Lb., 15c; in 10 lb. lots, 12 cents per pound.

**Kentucky Field** Or sweet pumpkins. These are the thick meated, sweet kind that are used for pies. They are extra good for stock but do not always thrive as well in corn. Some seasons they do fully as well as the other sort. Many farmers plant a patch of them by themselves on an acre or two of land and it pays them, too, as they keep it up year after year. We price these extremely low, as it is much harder to save the seed, as they are very much smaller. Price: lb., 25c., postpaid. By freight, or express, 5 lbs., 16c per lb.; 10 lbs., 15c per pound.

### Special Pumpkin Offer

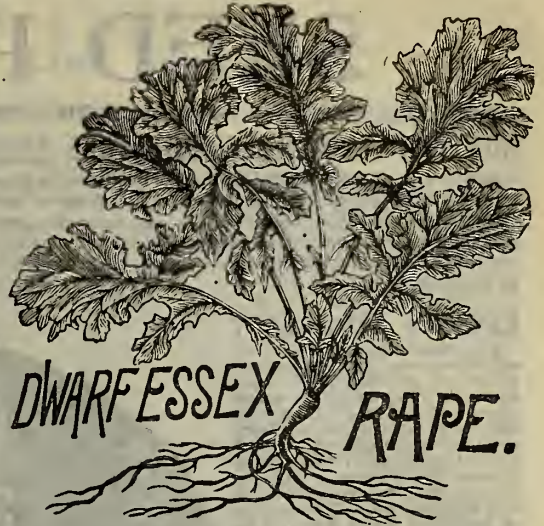
We want every one of our farmer friends, and that means all who receive this book, to plant pumpkins this year, and will make special prices as follows:

5 pounds Connecticut Field	} \$1.25
5 pounds Kentucky Field	
10 pounds Connecticut Field	} \$2.25
10 pounds Kentucky Field	

## Dwarf Essex Rape

The Most Popular and Profitable Forage Plant in Existence

The demand for "Dwarf Essex Rape" is increasing four-fold every year, and everywhere it gives the greatest satisfaction. It is easily grown everywhere and is unsurpassed as a forage plant for hogs, cattle or sheep. They eat it greedily and seem to prefer it to any other pasture during the summer and until late in the fall or early winter. Can be sown early in the season to provide early pasture for sheep and swine; or sow in small grain a week or so before cutting, to provide pasture after harvest; or sow on the stubble; but it is usually sown in June, July or August, with corn or potatoes, or on well prepared land alone for summer and fall pasture. Makes a wonderfully productive pasture for sheep, hogs or cattle, and they gain flesh so rapidly that they soon "weigh like lead." While it is an ideal food for sheep, still it is of equal value for hogs and cattle, as they are very fond of it. It is extremely cheap, having yielded twenty tons of fodder per acre. In the east it is usually sown in drills, two or three pounds per acre, and cultivated, but in western states it is almost invariably sown broadcast, four to five pounds per acre, and it grows so rapidly that all weeds are quickly smothered. When it is sown as a secondary or catch crop after small grain has been harvested, it is well to disk the ground thoroughly immediately before sowing. The United States Department of Agriculture claims that it adds greatly to the fertility of the soil for the following grain crop. One Nebraska farmer says that he sowed only three pounds per acre on a four and one-half acre field, and five weeks after sowing he turned eighty head of hogs and forty pigs into the field and they pastured there constantly until October. The plants grew so rapidly that at no time could he tell where the hogs had been, twenty feet away from the gate. Our stock is the True "Dwarf Essex," imported by us in carload lots direct from the best grower in England. Beware of low prices on rape seed this year, as some unscrupulous dealers last year substituted German rape, which can be sold at less than half price, but it goes quickly to seed and is worthless for forage purposes. Every one of our customers was pleased last year. Price: Pkt., 5c; 1b., 30c; 3 lbs., 75c, postpaid. By freight, 5 lbs., 50c; 10 lbs., 85c; 25 lbs., \$1.75; 100 lbs., \$6.00. Ask for circular on growing rape.



**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.



PENCILLARIA

## 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 fire-wood. It is also said to afford protection against malaria. Large pkt., 5c; 1b., 20c; 3 lbs., 55c. By freight, 10 lbs., 70c; bu. of 25 lbs., \$1.50.

# SEED POTATOES

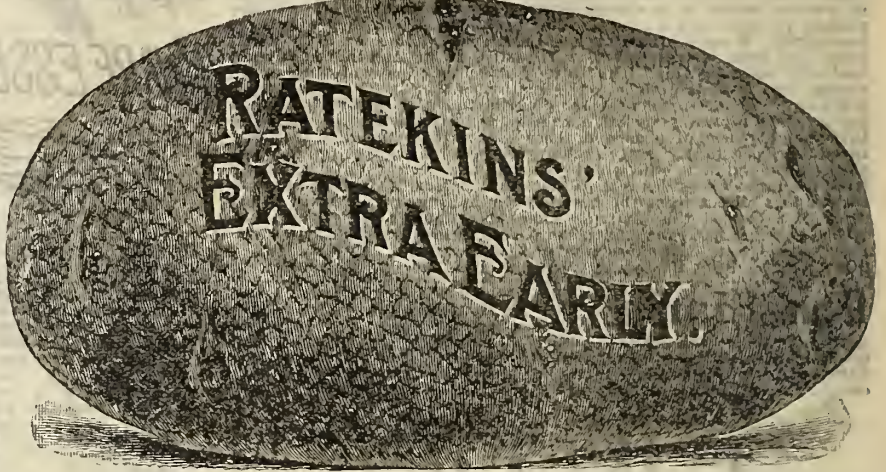
IT PAYS TO CHANGE SEED EVERY YEAR.

**NORTHERN GROWN SEED POTATOES** No potatoes grown can compare with those produced in the North, either for vigor and freedom from disease, or producing and long-keeping qualities. Our seed potatoes have been carefully and especially grown for seed. Last season was rather unfavorable for growing potatoes, but we are pleased to say that the quality of our stock is as fine as was ever grown.

**ADVANTAGES OF CHANGING SEED** There is no other crop that we raise that is so much benefited by the introduction of fresh seed from time to time as the potato. They seem to take on new life and to prosper wonderfully, provided the change is to a well selected stock, and the further north it is grown, the better. Our best customers will not plant their own raising of seed at all, but buy of us every year. They can grow nearly double the crop on the same land that they can from their own raising, and the tubers are smoother, handsomer and of better quality, and more saleable on the markets.

## Ratekin's Extra Early

The finest in quality of all early potatoes, and the earliest variety of good size. We have tested it thoroughly for many years, and still find it as early as the very early small southern sorts under the same conditions, while it produces larger and finer tubers. The potatoes are oblong in form, with very pale brownish skin with few eyes. The cooking of Ratekin's Extra Early is all that could be desired, it being the very finest variety that we have ever grown. It is the best variety for truckers, as it ripens very evenly as well as early. The tops die down quickly as soon as the crops are matured so that the potato may be dug early and the land planted to second crop for succession. Price, by freight at purchaser's expense, peck, 60c; half bush., \$1.00; bush., \$1.75; 5 bush. or more, \$1.60 per bush.

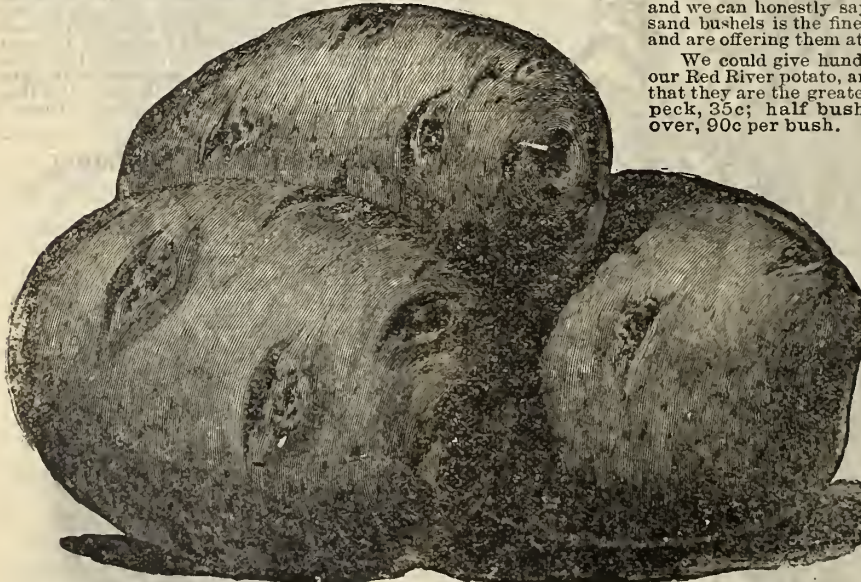


## Early Rose

Grown in Red River Valley of North Dakota. Fancy hand-picked, selected stock, smooth and nice. For several years past we have been having these grown in the noted Red River Valley, about 500 miles north, and careful tests have proven them to be fully ten days earlier than our Iowa grown stock. This is a great advantage to the gardener and puts this variety at the head of the list of extra earlys. They are all of good average size, strictly pure, smooth and entirely free from scab and rot. In our tests

they are positively the earliest to mature their entire crop of any variety we have ever had, and outyield others about two to one. This is a standard variety. Don't plant Iowa grown stock when you can obtain these, as the result our customers obtain from this seed is wonderful. One prominent market gardener, who raised a great many varieties, reported that our Early Rose beat them all. We bought our stock early from the most reliable growers and we can honestly say our present stock of several thousand bushels is the finest we have ever stored away for seed and are offering them at an exceptionally low price.

We could give hundreds of testimonials, highly praising our Red River potato, and there is not the shadow of a doubt that they are the greatest early potato ever raised. Price, peck, 35c; half bush., 55c; bush., \$1.00; 5 bush. or over, 90c per bush.



EARLY ROSE POTATO.

**Large Orders** If you desire to purchase a large lot of seed of any kind, be sure to send list and let us quote special prices. Our orders range from five cents upwards, but we are not afraid of big orders. Our largest retail order was for \$1,570.00 worth of seed. Another customer's purchases amounted to \$1,487.33 during the season, but it was divided up into several orders. Both were perfectly satisfied.

Potatoes received today in good condition.—W. E. Crawford, Cleone, Oregon.

The potatoes received from you are the finest I ever had.—A. A. Perry, Meckling, South Dakota.

The potatoes you shipped me are the nicest I have ever seen in size, smoothness and purity.—Geo. M. Graff, Orleans, Illinois.

Potatoes received, O. K. and they are very nice.—L. Woodman, Blocksburg, California.

**Fine Potatoes** J.W. Ratekin, the seedhouse man, is harvesting his potatoes which he had planted in the west end of town, and is himself surprised and gratified at the quality and the yield. The soil is black and loamy and the potatoes roll out large, clean, smooth and wholly free from scabs or defects of any kind; and they are of almost uniform size, no small ones to throw away, all are marketable and average near a pound in weight. The Sentinel representative had the pleasure of see-

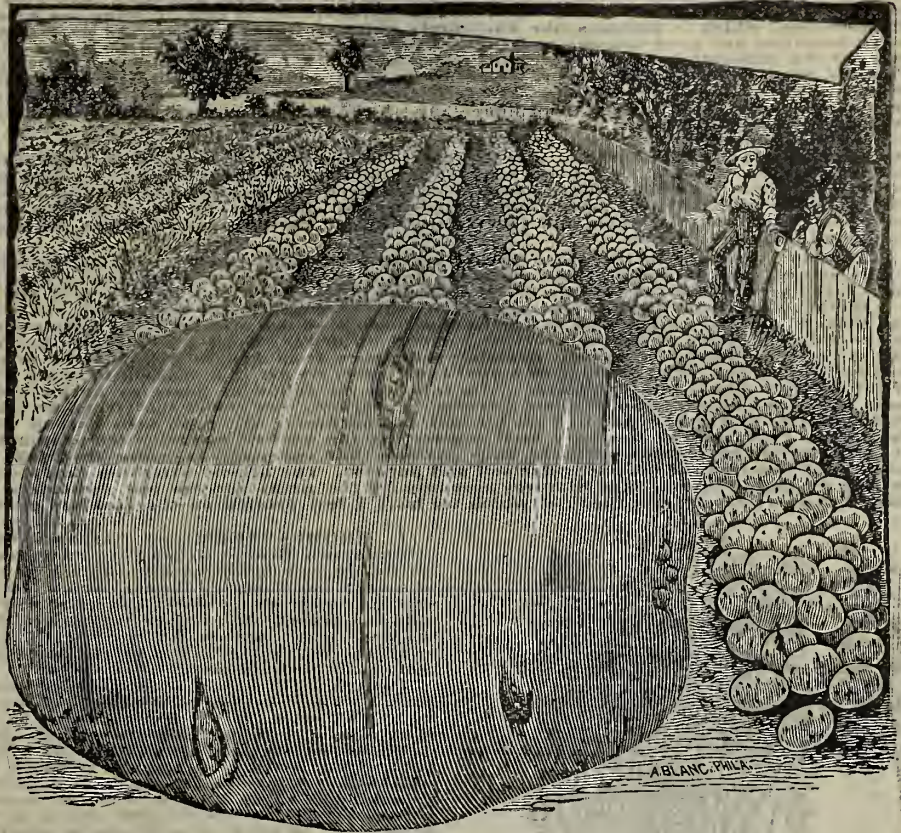
ing these potatoes as they were being gathered from the ground and he certainly never before saw so fine a lot of spuds. They are of the Early Ohio variety and the seed was selected with special care by Mr. Ratekin from the Red River Valley. The yield will be considerably over 300 bushels to the acre. If Mr. Ratekin is as successful with all his seed products as he has been with these potatoes, his patrons will have occasion to rejoice.  
—Shenandoah Sentinel, Oct. 4.

# SEED POTATOES—Continued

## Early Ohio Potatoes Our Specialty

**Early Ohio** Early Ohio is the most popular early potato in the country. We have more calls for it than for any other variety. Every potato grower knows what it is and just about what it will do in his locality. It is the standard extra early the country over, and other varieties are measured by it. We will venture to say that not one farmer in ten, the country over, who thinks he has Early Ohio, has pure stock. Most of them do not know they are mixed. But Early Ohio is an old variety and has become frightfully mixed throughout the United States. Farmers and market gardeners better sell off their own Ohios and get some of our improved, grown from Red River Valley seed. We consider our stock of Ohios to be the earliest, purest and altogether the handsomest stock of Early Ohio potatoes to be found anywhere. They are grown under conditions that make them cost more than common stock. They are selected with the utmost care, and the result is grand, such as to delight everyone who knows and appreciates a good potato. Every one of them is a picture of what an Early Ohio potato should be. Price: Pk., 35c; 1/2 bu., 55c; bu., \$1.00; 5 bu. or over, 90c a bu.

Write for prices on larger quantities.



EARLY OHIO

**Pat's Choice** A splendid medium late variety originated in Minnesota. The tubers are long, smooth and handsome, skin light pink in color, with eyes of a deeper shade, and covered over with a thick netting, which always indicates excellent quality. As is known, Pat is a sharp fellow when it comes to passing judgment on Irish potatoes, and the general testimony is that he knew what he was about when he made his choice. Price: Pk., 35c; bu., \$1.00.

**Banner Potato** Introduced in 1891. 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: Pk., 40c; 1/2 bu., 70c; bu., \$1.25; 5 bu. or over, \$1.10.

**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 heaviest yielder, but is particularly adapted for the early garden, as it will produce good size, round to 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: Pk., 35c; 1/2 bu., 55c; bu., \$1.00.

Potatoes, like oats, the seed should be changed often. Always buy Northern stock, and you will have the best potatoes. We are headquarters.

Write for special prices on potatoes in large quantities.

With no other seed is the importance of change more essential than with potatoes, and by using our northern grown seed you are assured of early maturity, increased yield and vigorous growth. The varieties we list, we think the best and most satisfactory sorts for growing in Iowa and other states of the same latitude, and we have many customers in the north and far south who consider our stock much superior to any other.

Order as early as possible, stating whether you desire them shipped by express or freight, and we will ship as soon as the weather permits. We will ship at any time, when requested to do so, regardless of the weather, but customers in this case must take the risk. Prices are subject to any important market changes. Ask for special quotations on large lots.

## Mammoth White Artichokes

An improvement on the Jerusalem Artichoke. The greatest hog food known. These are attracting much attention on account of their great fattening properties, great productiveness (over one thousand bushels having been grown on one acre), and the ease with which they can be grown. They need not be dug in the fall; the hogs should be turned on them, and will help themselves by rooting for them. One acre will keep from twenty to thirty head in fine condition from October to April, except when the ground is frozen too hard for them to root. They are also said to be a preventive of hog cholera and other diseases, and they are also highly recommended for milch cows, increasing the yield of milk and at the same time improving their condition. Three to five bushels will seed an acre, and they may be planted whole or cut the same as potatoes, one eye to a piece being sufficient. Plant in April or May, in rows three feet apart and two feet in the row, and cover about two inches deep. To destroy them they should be plowed under when the plant is about a foot high, at the time the old tuber has decayed and new ones are not yet formed. Price: Lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c, postpaid. By freight or express, pk., 40c; bu., 90c.

The barrel of Extra Early Ohio potatoes received from you were all right in every respect.—D. E. Hoffman, Arcanum, Ohio.

# GRASS AND CLOVER SEEDS

Since the last three or four years all the meat and dairy products have commanded a very high market price, so that most all intelligent farmers have given this more attention than ever before. The best breeds of cattle and swine obtainable are secured, almost regardless of cost, to bring the herds up to the highest point of perfection, which is business-like and surely a step towards success. As necessary as good breeding stock is, so essential are good Grasses and Clovers for your stock to feed and thrive on. Good Pastures and Meadows are the foundation for all successful Dairy and Stock farming. More and better grasses are required than Timothy, Blue Grass or Red Clover, which are in most sections the only grasses sown. The more grass we grow, the more cows and cattle we can feed, and the larger the income. Of all the crops produced, the grass crop of the world is by far the most important. No other crop is so necessary to the sustenance of the various forms of animal life, and in no other way can soil fertility and soil moisture be so easily maintained as by sowing the proper kinds of Grass and Clover Seed. No matter how large a variety of forage and fodder plants you may grow, you cannot replace a good Pasture or Meadow, for not any of these contain such nourishing and milk-producing elements as a good combination of Grasses and Clovers. We say combination, for one kind of Grass or Clover will not make a complete or balanced ration any more than single varieties of fodder plants, and as nearly all kinds of Grasses and Clovers supply different forms of nourishment, it is plain that the larger the varieties of Grasses and Clovers we sow for Pastures and Meadows, the better the feeding and milk-producing qualities will be.

Another important factor which should not be overlooked is that most all the different Grass and Clover plants subsist also on different soil elements, and it is therefore obvious that the larger the variety of Grass and Clover Seeds sown for Pasture or Meadow, the larger the yields of these will be.

We have for years devoted a large part of our Catalogue to the description of the various kinds of Grasses and Clovers, and have carried on extensive experiments on our own farms to ascertain the varieties best adapted to the different kinds of soil and for the various purposes. These are not only garden plot tests, but are as extensive as conducted by anyone, devoting sometimes from five to fifteen acres to single varieties. Having studied the Grasses and Grass Seeds from actual experience, we are in a position to know something about the habits of the different kinds and their nature. On this and the following pages we have given a full description of the most important Pasture and Meadow Grasses. Everybody can select therefrom, according to the requirements, such varieties as are best adapted for his soil and purpose. We have also put up Clover-Grass Mixtures for Permanent Pastures and Meadows, well considering the growth, maturity and adaptability to the different kinds of soil and for the various purposes, thus enabling our customer to make the right selection of the proper Grass Seed required for his particular soil and purpose. The utmost attention that we exercise in selecting and putting up these Clover-Grass Mixtures accounts for the great success our customers have with them, as the many letters received from them, of which we have a few printed on the enclosed circular, will prove.

**1. 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, drought and cold better than any other 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.

Bromus Inermis is a native of Europe and Asia, ranging from France eastward into Siberia, growing along roadsides, river banks, borders of fields and woods, and upon sterile hillsides and pastures. It is a vigorous, hardy perennial, with strong, creeping rootstocks, smooth, upright, leafy stems, one to four feet high, and loose, open panicles, or "seed heads," four to eight inches long. In a few years it forms a very tough sod, soon crowding out other grasses, clovers and weeds. Its remarkable drought-resisting qualities have proved it to be the most valuable grass for dry regions where other grasses could hardly exist.

As it is thoroughly permanent and grows with wonderful rapidity, producing heavy crops and luxuriant pastures, its value to the farmers of dry regions cannot be over-estimated. All kinds of stock eat it with relish, and the chemical analyses made show that it is rich in flesh-forming ingredients, much more so than timothy. It is very hardy and is not injured by severe spring and fall frosts when once established. As it starts to grow very early in the spring before any of the grasses upon the native prairies show any signs of life, and remains green and succulent far into November, it will supply the long-felt want of early spring and late fall pastures.

The yield of hay from Bromus Inermis varies from two to four and a half tons per acre, according to climatic conditions, method of seeding and fertility of soil. The quality of the hay is excellent, fully equaling that of timothy in palatability and nutritive qualities. In order to obtain the best product, the hay should be cut at time of full bloom. One important feature which distinguishes Bromus Inermis from other hay grasses is that it does not deteriorate rapidly after the flowering period, and, even if cut when the seeds are ripe, the hay will have lost but little of its nutritive qualities, owing to the fact that after the seed-bearing stem has grown up, a large number of leafy shoots spring up from the base. After furnishing three or four crops of hay the sod thickens up too much for a good growth of stems. This thickening occurs sooner if the grass is allowed to ripen seed than it does when it is cut for hay, or if it has been seeded heavily at first.

After the hay crop has been taken off a heavy growth of aftermath or second growth springs up. It seems to be especially adapted for permanent pastures. If one desires to use it for pasture at once it will be better to seed it thickly at the rate of about twenty-five pounds per acre.

Bromus Inermis will withstand extreme changes in the temperature without injury. Its ability to produce good pasture during long periods of drought far exceeds that of any other cultivated variety. In Canada, where it had been exposed to a temperature of forty and fifty degrees below zero and not covered by snow, it was entirely uninjured. Out of seven or eight hundred varieties tried at the Kansas Experiment Station this proved to be the best. Without doubt it is the grass for the semi-arid regions of the West. From



BROMUS INERMIS

the reports received it is evident that it is very little influenced by the changes of climate. It does well in California, Kansas, Montana, North and South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Wyoming, and all parts of Canada.

In ordering Bromus Inermis be sure that you procure our **Superior Northern Grown Bromus Inermis**, as this is the only seed that is well filled, plump and heavy, and is considerably better than such brands as are sold under "Prime," "Sterling," and is therefore of **greater vitality and better germination** than imported seed. Our seed being grown on clean ground, is free from all impurities and true to name.

**Price: Superior Northern Grown Bromus Inermis**—lb., 10c.; bu. (14 lbs.), \$1.75; 100 lbs., \$11.00. **Lb.** prepaid by mail, 25c. **Choice or Imported Bromus Inermis**—Lb., 15c.; bu., \$1.50; 100 lbs., \$10.00.



# GRASS SEED—Continued

## TIMOTHY



TIMOTHY

No variety of our natural grasses is more cultivated than timothy, and for meadows it is very valuable. It is best suited to moist, rich, strong and loamy soils, where it grows to perfection, but does not succeed well on dry, sandy soil. It is very nutritious, and makes good hay, but should be cut at the time of flowering. When sown with clover it makes but a small growth and must be cut young if the clover is secured in good season. We are located in the best section of the country for growing timothy seed, and more of it is grown in Iowa than in any part of the world. Our seed is extra nice. Sow 11 pounds per acre. Price: Per lb., 20c; 3 lbs., 50c, postpaid. By freight per bu. (45 lbs.), \$1.50. Bags 15c each extra. Ask for price in quantity.

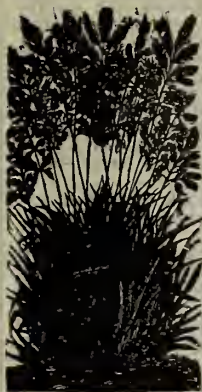
**Red Top** A very hardy native perennial grass, succeeding best on moist land. It accommodates itself to a variety of soils, however, even to quite dry situations, and stands our hot climate admirably. It is, perhaps, the most permanent grass we have. It remains green for the greater part of the year, 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.), \$1.40; 5 bu. or more, @ \$1.30.

**Meadow Fescue or English Blue Grass** Succeeds well in almost all soils, from high, dry land to moist, standing the dry summer heat excellently. It is valuable as a pasture grass, being one of the earliest in the spring and latest in the fall. It is very nutritious and greedily eaten by all kinds of stock, and very fattening. Is hardy, never grows in tufts, and, being tender and succulent, makes excellent hay. It is a perennial, two to three feet high, flowering in June and July. Price: Lb., 30c; 3 lbs., 75c, postpaid. By freight per bu. (14 lbs.), \$1.50; 5 bu. or more, @ \$1.35.

**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.

**Perennial Rye Grass (Or English Rye Grass)** A nutritious, permanent grass for meadows and pasture, or for mixing with other grasses for lawns. Does well on sloping banks, as its roots are fibrous and mat-like. Is especially adapted for pastures, as it will endure close cropping and is of strong, quick and successive after-growth. It 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. Does well on almost any land, but prefers rich or moist soil. Sow twenty pounds per acre. Price: Per lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c, postpaid. By freight, per bu. (14 lbs.), \$1.20; 5 bu. or more, @ \$1.00.

**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 winterkill. 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 as a pasture grass. It is productive and unusually early in spring, furnishing 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; bu. (14 lbs.), \$1.75; 5 bu. or more, \$1.60.

**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, @ \$1.00.

**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 drouth 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.

## PRICES

Grass seeds are sold on a very close margin of profit and prices are constantly changing with the market. Should you desire a quantity of anything in this line, be sure to write us for special prices, naming the amount needed. Most kinds of grass seeds are somewhat higher in prices this year, but please remember that our quotations are for our best grades of cleaned seed, and we know that price is as low as such grades can be bought for anywhere. At the pound rate we prepay postage. Grain bags to hold seed, 15 cents each extra.

Not a pound of Grass and Clover Seeds leaves our house until being thoroughly cleaned.

## Japanese Barnyard Millet

Is called by one Seedsman "Billion Dollar Grass." Our Japanese Millet Seed is Hardy, being Northern Grown.

If sown on good soil, will out-yield any variety. The best soil is rather moist, but not wet. On good corn land it has yielded over 20 tons of green forage per acre. The forage is tender and sweet and highly relished by stock, and it is superior to corn fodder for milch cows. For horses, mules, cows, hogs, etc., it has no superior, while all kinds of poultry thrive upon it in its green state. It is endorsed by Agricultural Experiment Stations all over the country. It will average close to 75 bushels of seed per acre (35 lbs. per bu.), which is the equal of oats in nutritive value. Sow about 12 quarts per acre about the first of May, but can be sown as late as August first with good results. Price: Per lb., 30c; 3 lbs., 75c, postpaid. By freight, per bu. \$2.25.

## 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. Sow about 20 lbs. per acre, or for a top seeding about half the amount.

**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.

## PERMANENT PASTURE MIXTURES

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, or for top seeding, half the amount.

**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 Dogtail, 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., 75c., postpaid. By freight, 20 lbs., \$2.25; 50 lbs., \$5.00; 100 lbs., \$9.50.

## CLOVER SEED

For many years we have made this a specialty, and we now have our electrical machinery for cleaning so perfected that we claim that our grades average better than those of most other markets, and believe that they cannot fail to please the most particular. Other seed dealers who have happened to be in our warehouse when we were cleaning clover, have often remarked that the seed looked so extra nice they should not reclean it. From these same lots of seed we were cleaning out three to five pounds per bushel of trash, sand and shrunken clover seed. This makes quite a difference in real value, and our seed is really worth 10 cents to \$1.00 per bushel more than that obtained from most dealers.



Medium Red CLOVER.

On clover and grass seeds are changing almost daily, so that we are unable to quote prices which will be invariable. Don't fail to write for prices before buying. We issue a price list each week from January to June. Crop is short this year. If you are in a hurry for the seed you can order it and we will send seed to full value of money sent on day order is received. The following are the prices we are selling at on the date this catalogue goes to press (Dec. 10, 1904): We prepay postage at the 1 and 3 lb. rate; larger quantities shipped at purchaser's expense. Trial pkts. of any variety at 5c each. Grain bags 15c each extra.

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**Medium Red Clover** This is the most important of all clovers and the standard everywhere for hay and pasture. It is known as Common Red or June Clover in many sections. Our Iowa grown clover seed has become widely known for its purity, strong vitality, hardiness, vigorous and healthy growth, and stooing quantities, so that now we receive many orders annually from the most distant parts of the U.S. and also from foreign countries. It has been tested by Agricultural Experiment Stations throughout the country, and ranks among the highest everywhere. We claim that it will produce as much if not more hay per acre and that of better quality than seed from any other section, and well posted farmers are beginning to appreciate the difference between it and ordinary stock. Perhaps you can buy seed a trifle cheaper per bushel from some other dealer, but if you really desire to save money you will find that it does not pay to buy the inferior seed containing a mixture of weed seeds, dirt, sand, shrunken clover, etc. It pays to have the best. Sow 15 lbs. per acre. Per lb., 30c; 3 lbs., 80c, postpaid. Per pk., \$2.00; bu. (60 lbs), \$7.50. Bags extra, 15c each.

**Medium Red Clover** Second Grade. Useful for thickening pastures, etc. Will list this for our customers who want a cheaper grade, and while we do not claim that it is equal to our best, it is as good as much of the seed furnished by other dealers. Country merchants frequently buy this grade because they can make a larger profit out of it. Per bu., \$6.75.

**Alfalfa or Lucerne Clover** Very popular in many portions of the country. Under proper management it will yield from ten to twelve tons

to the acre. All classes of stock are exceedingly fond of it. The roots are so long and grow so deep, frost cannot heave or throw them out in winter. One sowing will stand for twenty years, and instead of impoverishing the soil, enriches it. Grows on the thinnest sandy soil and thrives in greatest drouth. Sow broadcast about 25 lbs. to the acre. Comes up very spindling and slowly and it is necessary to mow the weeds to give it light, but when once established the weeds will be smothered. Per lb., 30c; 3 lbs., 80c, postpaid. By freight, per pk., \$2.50; bu. (60 lbs.), \$9.00.



ALFALFA or Lucerne CLOVER.

Mr. Davidson of Ottawa county, Kansas, says that his Alfalfa Clover produced four crops of hay—3 tons—value, \$4.00 per ton in the country, or \$32.00; also a yield of 11 bushels of seed worth \$3.00 per bushel or \$33.00, making a total of \$120.00 per acre in one season, or about 3 times the value of the land. How would that kind of a crop suit you? Better try Alfalfa this year. Ask for our prices on Alfalfa seed.

**Sanfoin Clover** Also Called Esparcette Clover. An excellent but comparatively little known variety of especial value for growing on light, dry, sandy or limestone soils. It is very deep rooted, therefore withstands drouths. It is a good fodder plant and when made into hay it is claimed to be of special value for milch cows. The seed is quite large. Usually sown with oats or barley, using thirty or forty pounds of seed to an acre. Per lb., 35c; three lbs., 90c; pk., \$1.40; bu. (45 lbs.), \$4.75.

**Crimson Clover** Also Called Giant Incarnate. This is an annual variety in common use in the east and south for feeding green. The yield in fodder is immense, and after cutting it at once commences to grow again and continues until severe cold, freezing weather. It grows about one foot high, roots nearly black, leaves long, blossoms long, pointed and of a very deep red or carmine color. Makes good hay. Sow in April or May, 20 lbs. of seed per acre, or it may be sown in corn at time of last cultivation in July and will produce an excellent pasture for fall, or it can be plowed under and will add greatly to the fertility of the soil. The only objection to it is that it winter-kills in this latitude. Per lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 65c; pk., \$1.40; bu., \$5.00.

**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 drouth 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 lbs. per acre or half that quantity if sown with timothy. Per lb., 35c; 3 lbs., 90c; pk., \$2.00; bu., \$7.50.

The clover and grass seed bought of your firm are O. K. I secured a splendid stand of grass.—Alois Nolte, Kansas.

ALSIKE CLOVER.

# GRASS SEEDS—Continued

**German Millet** "German Millet," the true large headed variety and largely grown wherever its value is known. It helps out wonderfully when a short crop of hay is threatened, and produces two to three times as much per acre as timothy or clover. Write us and we will cheerfully quote prices on large quantities. Price: Bushel, 50 lbs., \$1.25. Bags free. 10 bu. or over, \$1.00 per bu.

**Common Millet** Best quality. Preferred by some to German. Per bu. (50 lbs.), \$1.00. 10 bu. or over, 90c.

**New Siberian Millet** This is a new and distinct variety, having bright red seed, produces a fine crop of hay about two weeks earlier than German Millet, is very leafy and of excellent quality. Sow twenty-five pounds per acre. By mail, per pound, 20c; 3 pounds, 50c; bushel, \$1.25. Write us for prices on large quantities.

**Pearl Millet** Entirely different from ordinary millet; an immense fodder yielder, of tall growth, highly recommended by the U. S. Department of Agriculture for the south. Pkt., 5c; lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 70c. By freight, 10 lbs. (for one acre), \$1.25; 25 lbs., \$2.50; 100 lbs., \$9.00.

The seeds you sent us are indeed more than you claim for them. The timothy is fresh and clean; clover seed the cleanest I ever saw tested under a microscope. Please accept my thanks for honorable treatment.  
C. N. BOWMAN, Nemaha Co., Neb.

Office of the President  
WESTERN NORMAL COLLEGE.  
J. M. Hussey, Pres.  
Shenandoah, Iowa, Oct. 7, 1904.  
Ratekin's Seed House,  
Shenandoah, Iowa.

Gentlemen: The lawn grass which we sowed has given our college campus a beautiful appearance, and we are more than proud of its velvety lawn. I heartily recommend your lawn grass to any one who desires to secure a beautiful grassy place.  
J. M. HUSSEY, President.

## NOTICE.

This closes our list of field seeds, which is a full one, and we hope you have made up your mind to take in some of the rare bargains we have offered. Our corn descriptions and prices are such that they are sure worth reading about and taking advantage of. Our Forage Plants such as Cane, Kaffir Corn, Pennellaria, Rape, are of such quality and low price that they should surely bring an order. Our Millet is of the best variety and at the price you need not be afraid to get "up against it." Our Barley, Wheat, and Rye, in fact all grains, are good and at prices that will sell them; and we always have a good supply. To start with, our Grass Seed is unexcelled, and for quality it cannot be surpassed. They are guaranteed not to be excelled by anything, and the prices—they speak for themselves. Our Potatoes are fine and we put a guarantee behind them as being superior to any put out by other Seed Houses. We ask that you examine the price. One and all there was never a better lot of Farm Seed offered you, and as you can see, you can buy cheaper from us than any other reliable Seed House selling these. Our motto: **Reliable Seeds for the Least Money.**

# RATEKIN'S LAWN GRASS SEED.

"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."

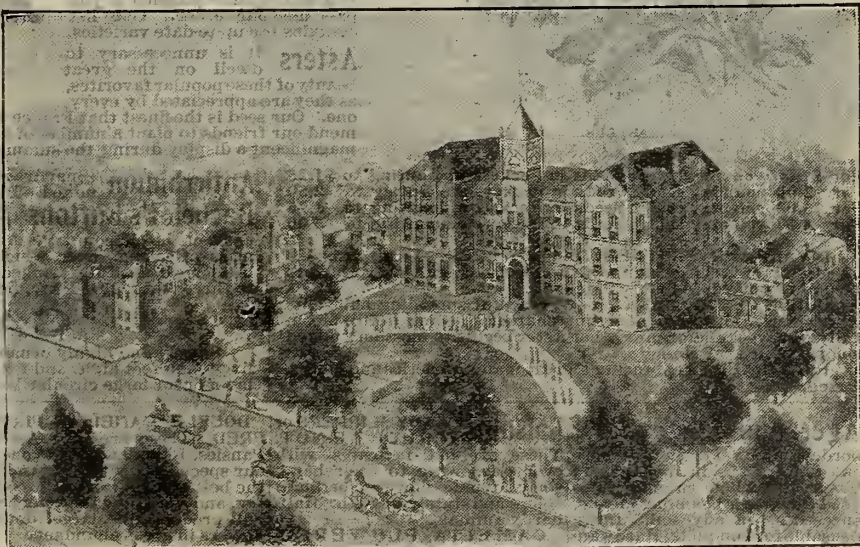
A nice velvety lawn adds more to the beauty of a place than any other adornment, and even the humblest home may be made attractive with such surroundings, while without a good lawn even the finest flowering plants and elegantly arranged beds seem insignificant. How important it is then to plan for the 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.

**Ratekin's Mixed Lawn Grass Seed.** This is a mixture 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 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 in 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. (15 lbs.), \$2.75; 50 lbs., \$8.00; 100 lbs. (will sow one acre), \$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. (15 lbs.), \$4.00.

**Kentucky Blue Grass** Many of our customers prefer a clear blue grass lawn to the mixtures. Our stock of this is the best grade of fancy cleaned new crop, tested seed. Lb., 30c; 3 lbs., 75c postpaid. By freight, bu. (14 lbs.), \$1.75.



A BEAUTIFUL GRASSY LAWN.  
The Western Normal College Campus, Shenandoah, Iowa.

# A Note for the Ladies

The best advertisement of Ratekin's Seeds has been the kind words spoken by admiring friends. We have over 6,000 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 catalog 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.

## RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE

J. W. RATEKIN

### 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.

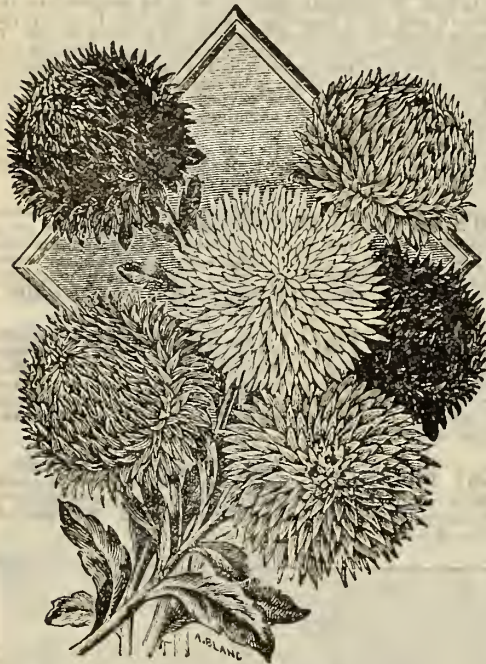
The pleasure resulting from a large and varied collection of flowers will amply repay for the time and labor used.

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 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.



ASTERS



ASTERS.

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

We pay the postage.

**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.

**Ageratum** 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, 4c.

**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 clusters; 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

### 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.

### 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.

### Cypress Vine

A beautiful rapid climber with delicate, dark green foliage, and an abundance of bright star-shaped scarlet and white blossoms, which

Mixed colors. Pkt., 5c.

### 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** Everyone 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. Finest 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; 1 ft. Pkt., 5c.  
**FANCY MIXED.** Pkt., 5c.

**FORGET-ME-NOT.** Well known garden favorites. Flowers freely from seed the first summer. Blue, skyblue, white, mixed. Pkt., 5c.

**Gourds** (Climbing.) These curious and interesting plants should be more largely grown. All varieties mixed. Pkt., 5c.

**FOUR O'CLOCK, Harvel 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.

### Gaillardia

(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; 1 1/2 inch. Pkt., 5c.



FOX-GLOVE

### 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 drought 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.



HELIOTROPE

### 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.



DAISY

## 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 nor to 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.



HOLLYHOCKS.

## 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. 1/2 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.

## Pansy

**WHITE OR SNOW QUEEN**—Flowers of a delicate, pure satiny white. 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 as 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.



Double and Single Petunia



DOUBLE PORTULACA.

**FINEST SINGLE MIXED**—A great variety of colors. Pkt., 5c.

**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.



RATEKIN  
Shenandoah Ia

RATEKIN'S DOUBLE HOLLYHOCKS

## 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 (Heartease)

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.

**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; ½ lb., 25c; pkt., 4c.



## 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; ½ lb., 30c; ¼ lb., 15c; oz., 10c; pkt., large size, 4c.

**COUNTESS OF RADNOR.** One of the handsomest, standard rich lavender mauve, wings lighter. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ 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; ¼ 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; ¼ 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; ¼ lb., 20c.

**WILHELMINA.** Very large and perfect shaped flower; white, striped with bright rose carmine. Pkt., 4c; 2 oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 15c; lb., 45c.

**LADY PENZANCE.** Orange-Pink, wings pure white. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ 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; ¼ lb., 15c; lb., 50c; postpaid.

**EMILY ECKFORD.** A superb, large flower of rosy heliotrope color. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c.

**EX. EARLY BLANCHE FERRY.** Earliest of all. An improvement on Painted Lady. Delicately handsome and a profuse bloomer. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ 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; ¼ lb., 15c; lb., 45c.

**MARS.** Crimson scarlet. Pkt., 4c; oz., 8c; ¼ lb., 15c; lb., 45c.

### 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. 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.

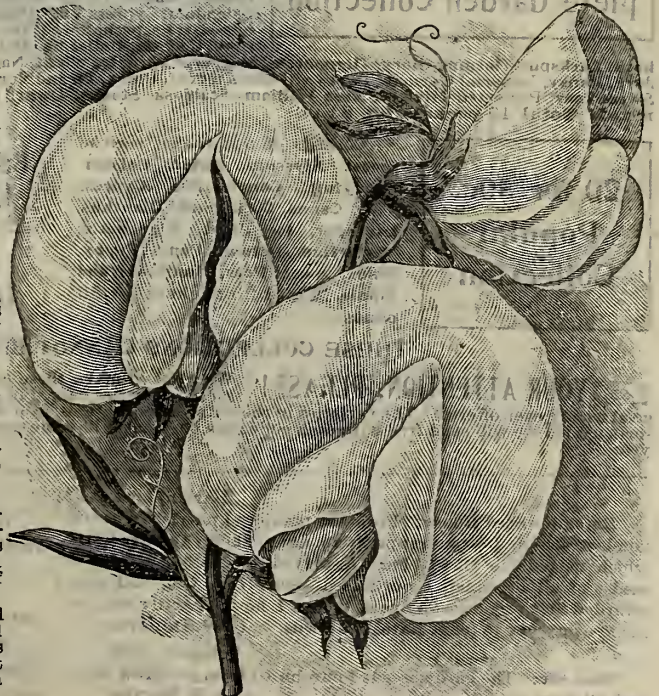
**SINGLE MIXED.** Blue and white, pkt., 10c.

### 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 produced in great profusion. Pkt., 10c.

### SPECIAL OFFER

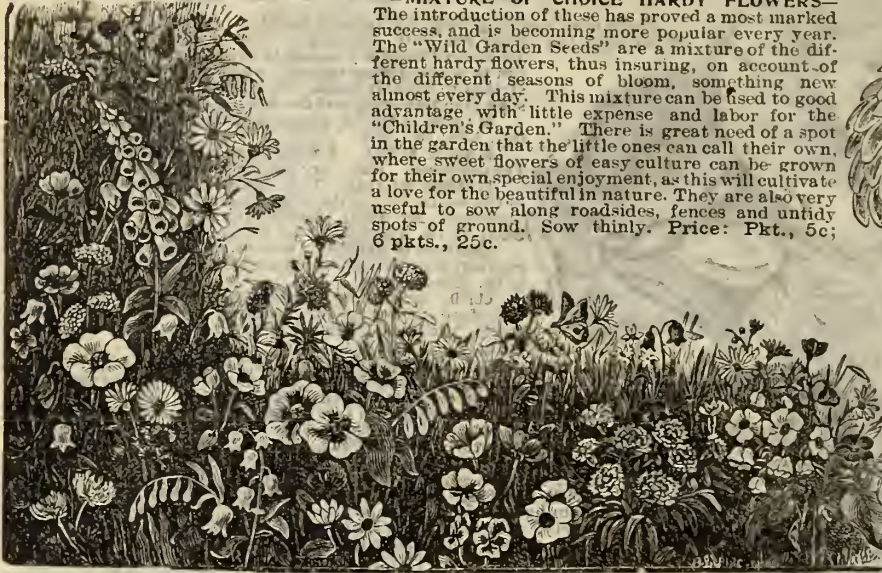
We want your neighbors, as well as yourself, to test our seeds, and will make it an object to you to interest them. Secure orders from your friends for four Surprise Collections, and remit us \$1.00 in payment thereof, and we will mail you an extra collection for your trouble. If goods are not as represented, 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 spots of ground. Sow thinly. Price: Pkt., 5c; 6 pkts., 25c.



WILD FLOWER COLLECTION

**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.



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.

# Special Collection for the Ladies

Price Very Low      FLOWERS FOR EVERYBODY      No Trouble to Select

**40 for \$1.00. Complete Garden Collection**

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, Gallardia, Heliotrope, Holly-

**Can One Dollar be Better Invested?**

hock, 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, Varieined, 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**

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.

**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.

## 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.

Harlan, Iowa.  
Ratekin's Seed House: From the potatoes I purchased from you last season I won first premium at the Shelby County Fair, which netted me \$15.90. I also displayed seven other vegetable seeds, of all of which I purchased seed from you, and was awarded first premium on five of them. I most heartily recommend every one to plant Ratekin's Seeds. C. W. HOPKINS.  
Poterson, Iowa.

Dear Sir: The garden seeds I purchased from you grew well, and all were true to name. A. B. KINYON.

Esckridge, Kan.  
Ratekin's Seed Houso: Your seeds which I purchased from you last season gave excellent satisfaction. L. R. KRANS.

Ross, Iowa.  
Ratekin's Seed House.  
Dear Sir: I got a splendid stand of your Pride of Nishna. Grew well, and think will make about 45 bushels to the acre. Am well pleased. C. D. HARR.



# 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 \$8.50.

**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.

## CURRANTS

**LONDON MARKET**—A new currant of great merit; a sure cropper. It's 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.

## 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.



GRAPES

## GOOSEBERRIES

**JOSELYN**—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. Ea., 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.

## 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. Ea., 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.

## NURSERY STOCK—Continued

## STRAWBERRIES

From new beds are worth four times as much as from old worn-out 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** (g) Large, roundish, conical, bright scarlet, moderately firm; fair quality. A very valuable early sort for home use or near market, following Michel's Early.

**Bisel** (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.

**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 productivity 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 1000. Tied in bundles of 25; hence we do not sell less than 25 of any one variety.

**RATEKIN'S CHICK FOOD** This is not a compound that has been accidentally produced, nor has it been unscientifically prepared. The cause of the death of young chicks due to improper food has been most carefully and exhaustively studied, in a practical and accurate manner. Microscopic and chemical examination of the digestive organs of chicks and careful investigations of the thorough and ready assimilation of the food fed have been resorted to. By feeding our chick food your young chickens will grow and thrive, and always keep in a good, healthy condition. No one who grows chickens at all should be without this food. Everyone who raises chickens knows that more 50 per cent of chickens die before they become full grown; it's profit that pays—save the chicks. We have made the price of this chick food in reach of everybody, and we trust you will at least try it. Price: 10 lb. bag, 75c; 25 lb. bag, \$1.50; 50 lb. bag, \$2.50; 100 lb. bag, \$4.50. Special prices in large quantities.

**RATEKIN'S SURE CURE FOR ROUP** Will positively cure roup in all its forms. Is a simple preparation which we have manufactured for a number of years, and has given the best of satisfaction by all who have tried it. Is made from roots, herbs, bark and seeds. It is in powdered form and can be easily fed. Every raiser of chickens should keep some of this on hand at all times; it's well to feed it to your chickens, even if they are in the best of condition; it tones them up, puts them in good condition, and will prevent your chickens from taking the cholera. There is nothing on the farm so easily raised, and in which there is so handsome profit, as chickens, and you should pay more attention to the coming new industry; it will pay you. You should always keep some of this cure on hand at all times; it will greatly increase the laying of eggs; include at least a bag of it with your order; mix it with other feed for your chickens, as follows: Mix one part to ten parts of corn meal, bran or other feed, and feed regularly.

Price: 10 lb. bag, \$1.00; 25 lb. bag, \$2.25; 50 lb. bag, \$4.00.

## 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. Ea., 20c; doz., \$1.25, prepaid. By express, per 100, \$3.00.

**Cumberland** This is undoubtedly the best blackcap 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. Ea., 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. Ea., 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 these varieties; never crumbles and stands up well in shipping. Considered the best purple cap yet introduced. Roots firm 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.

If you want to buy a large lot of nursery stock ask for prices

## RATEKIN'S LIVE STOCK POWDERS

## A Perfectly Safe Vegetable Compound

They are a stimulating tonic, as well as a blood purifier and a blood maker. They do what no stock food on earth is made to do. They cleanse the blood, purify the system and keep stock absolutely healthy.

## AMERICAN LIVE STOCK POWDERS

Will remove every particle of danger from hog cholera and other disease when properly administered with other food, at a cost of less than 25 cents per head, during the natural lifetime of the hog. LIVE STOCK POWDERS are sold on a GUARANTEE; SPOT CASH REFUNDED IN ANY CASE OF FAILURE. Feed them to your horses, cattle and hogs; they will not only save you money, but they will make you dollars for dimes spent for this unexcelled preparation. We sell direct to the farmer and consumer, thus cutting out all middlemen's profits and reducing the cost and expense to a point which enables every stock farmer to try it. We put it up only in three size sacks—25, 50 and 100 lbs. Prices: 25 lb. bag, \$2.50; 50 lbs., \$5.00; 100 lb. sack, \$9.00; freight prepaid to your nearest railroad station.

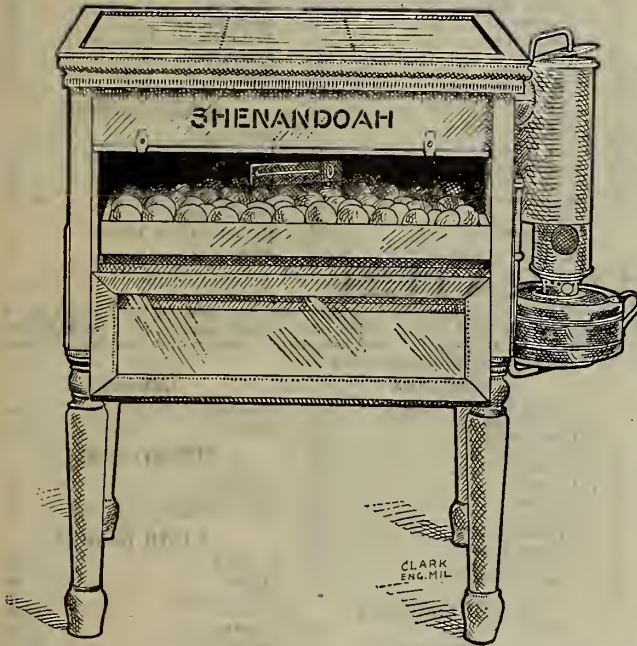


# INCUBATORS AND BROODERS.

BUY AN INCUBATOR—IT IS THE MOST PROFITABLE INVESTMENT YOU CAN MAKE.

Of all the farm products, none other shows the profits that poultry does. Therefore raise more poultry. No farmer can afford to be without chickens on the place; no more can he afford to be without an incubator to raise those chickens. An incubator costs but little to start with, raises all the chickens you want and without any trouble (provided you get the right kind of a machine), and at the end of the season the farm has shown increased profits in direct proportion to the number of chickens raised. The farmer is working for the profits he makes on the farm; so why not increase your chicken crop, buy an incubator, and make four or five or even ten times as much money out of your chickens as you are making now? With an incubator you can raise several times as many chickens and you can hatch them with less trouble.

After a visit to the incubator exhibit at the World's Fair at St. Louis, and going to different cities where incubators are manufactured and investigating the merits of the different machines thoroughly, we are fully convinced that our home machine, the SHENANDOAH, is the best and most dependable machine on the market; we know the work it has done for other people, and we have yet to find a single case where it has not given better satisfaction than the purchaser expected. On this account we are perfectly willing and glad to recommend and guarantee this machine to give satisfaction. We are acquainted with the manufacturers, and know them to be reputable and dependable business men of Shenandoah, ones who will not put out anything but the best of machines.



**THE SHENANDOAH INCUBATOR** is a warm air machine, scientifically made and yet so simple that a child can run it; it will HATCH LIVE, HEALTHY CHICKENS, and this is the result you desire. The manufacturers of this machine have a record of twenty years behind them in the business, and they understand it thoroughly, and give their personal guarantee that the machines will do all or more than is claimed for them. Thousands of pleased customers tell of the good work the machine does. No matter whether you buy a machine of us or not, let us warn you against the cheap and inferior machines with which the market is flooded, which are a worry and a detriment to every one who buys them.

You are taking no chances if you buy a SHENANDOAH, and we hope that you will not fail to buy one of these machines; they will please you and will make dollars for you, and the price is within the reach of everybody. Remember we suggest this machine to you because we know that it is a good and satisfactory machine for you, and one that will please you.

Following are the prices of the different sizes:

We furnish these machines in four sizes, each with a nursery under the egg tray, and with a thermometer and egg tester furnished with each machine, in the following sizes:

**Style A** Dimensions, about 23x23 inches; capacity, 50 eggs; weight, crated for shipment, about 50 pounds. Price, \$10.

**Style B** Dimensions, about 27x27 inches; capacity, 100 eggs; weight, crated for shipment, about 75 lbs. Price, \$12.

**Style C** Dimensions, about 34x34 inches; capacity, 150 eggs; weight, crated for shipment, about 90 lbs. Price, \$15.

**Style D** Dimensions, about 41x41 inches; capacity, 200 eggs; weight, crated for shipment, about 120 lbs. Price, \$18.

## BROODERS.

Number One—Capacity, 50 to 75 newly hatched chicks; price, \$9.

Number Two—Capacity, 100 to 150 newly hatched chicks; price, \$12.

Number Three—Capacity, 150 to 250 newly hatched chicks; price, \$16.

Send your orders direct to us and they will receive our personal and prompt attention; or if you want any further information, address us. Don't put off ordering an incubator until in after years you will say you are "sorry you didn't have one years ago," but order a machine today and be in the line of progress.

Denver, Colorado, Sept. 7, 1904.

Gentlemen: I will give my experience with your 230 egg incubator. First hatch, 165 chicks out of 195 eggs; second hatch, 137 chicks out of 209 eggs, and last hatch 193 chicks from 213 eggs. This is far better than that of any other incubator I know of in this part. I can say that I am more than pleased with it.

Yours truly,

WARREN TAYLOR.

Nashville, Tenn., May 24, 1904.

Gentlemen: The incubator I bought of your house early this season has pleased me very much, easy to operate, easy to clean, and does the work fine.

Respectfully,

R. J. GOUDY.

Detroit, Mich., June 11, 1904.

Gentlemen: I have about closed my season and will make a report. My 240 egg incubator has done me excellent service; out of three hatches I have an average per cent of 76; this is of fertile eggs. One could not ask for an incubator to be better. I ran it in the cellar; it was clean and well ventilated and the machine ran very evenly. Your regulator is by far the best I have seen; you will sell several in this city another season. Wishing you the success your incubator deserves, I am

Very truly,

HARRY MILLS.

Peabody, Mass., Aug. 19, 1904.

Gentlemen: Your Incubators are all you claim for them. I am well pleased with my 100 egg size. Were I to buy a dozen they would all be like this one.

Hastily yours,

FRANK ANNOUS

Stillwater, N. Y., July 1, 1904.

Gentlemen: If all the incubators gave the satisfaction that yours has given, there would be little room for complaint. I have handled almost all the leading makes but not with the success that I have had with yours. I have had as high as 90 per cent hatches. This is good enough for me; but I am very careful to use good fresh eggs, from vigorous stock, and as fresh as I can possibly get them. Mistakes are made in setting old eggs; the older the egg the poorer the hatch. Your brooder is indeed a good mother; I like it very much. May success be yours.

Respectfully,

JOHN M. ROBERTS.

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Rutabagas.....	37		<b>Hibiscus.....</b> 66		

## FREIGHT RATES

All heavy seed is sent by freight, and to give an idea as to the rate our customers have to pay, we have secured the freight rates given below. No shipment is made for less than 25 cents for each road shipped over. Corn, oats, wheat, barley, rye, buckwheat, potatoes, artichokes, etc., take fourth-class rate, while seed, millet, cane seed, and smaller seed take third-class, which is a little higher than fourth-class. The following is the rate on 100 pounds, fourth-class, from Shenandoah, Iowa:

ARKANSAS	KENTUCKY	NEBRASKA	OREGON
Little Rock.....	Louisville.....	Grand Island.....	Portland.....
Pine Bluff.....	.44	Red Cloud.....	Salem.....
Ft. Smith.....	<b>KANSAS</b>	Hastings.....	
Hoxie.....	Emporia.....	Kearney.....	<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>	Topeka.....	Beatrice.....	Pittsburg.....
Sacramento.....	Great Bend.....	Lincoln.....	Harrisburg.....
<b>CANADA</b>	Lawrence.....	Omaha.....	Philadelphia.....
Toronto.....	Atchison.....	Holdrege.....	<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>
<b>COLORADO</b>	Dodge City.....	Alliance.....	Sioux Falls.....
Denver.....	Ft. Scott.....	Broken Bow.....	Huron.....
Leadville.....	Olathe.....	Loup City.....	Watertown.....
<b>GEORGIA</b>	Coffeyville.....	North Platte.....	Pierre.....
Macon.....	Beloit.....	<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>	Deadwood.....
Savannah.....	<b>MISSOURI</b>	Raleigh.....	Rapid City.....
<b>IOWA</b>	Bothany.....	<b>NEW YORK</b>	<b>TEXAS</b>
Council Bluffs.....	Kansas City.....	New York.....	Houston.....
Albia.....	Springfield.....	Buffalo.....	Ft. Worth.....
Chariton.....	St. Louis.....	Albany.....	Austin.....
Burlington.....	St. Joseph.....	Syracuse.....	Dallas.....
Oreston.....	Carthage.....	<b>NEW MEXICO.</b>	Laredo.....
Ottumwa.....	Kirksville.....	Santa Fe.....	<b>WYOMING</b>
Des Moines.....	Poplar Bluff.....	<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>	Cheyenne.....
Sioux City.....	Jefferson City.....	Fargo.....	Sheridan.....
Fort Dodge.....	Sedalia.....	Bismarek.....	<b>WISCONSIN</b>
Cedar Rapids.....	Liberal.....	Devil's Lake.....	La Crosse.....
Oskaloosa.....	Bismarek.....	Grand Forks.....	Madison.....
<b>ILLINOIS</b>	<b>MINNESOTA</b>	<b>OHIO</b>	Green Bay.....
Quincy.....	Worthington.....	Mansfield.....	Milwaukee.....
Peoria.....	Minneapolis.....	Columbus.....	<b>WASHINGTON</b>
Springfield.....	Moorhead.....	Cincinnati.....	Walla Walla.....
Strator.....	Duluth.....	Toledo.....	<b>TENNESSEE</b>
Galesburg.....	Brainerd.....	Cleveland.....	Memphis.....
Chicago.....	Granite Falls.....	Zanesville.....	Nashville.....
Champaign.....	<b>MONTANA</b>	Canton.....	<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>
Murphessboro.....	Holena.....	<b>OKLAHOMA</b>	Columbia.....
<b>INDIANA</b>	Billings.....	El Reno.....	
Indianapolis.....	<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>	Enid.....	
Evansville.....	Jackson.....	Guthrie.....	
Ft. Wayne.....		Oklahoma City.....	
Muneie.....		Woodward.....	

**CORN BOOK** TO THE FARMER: A book for the farmer, his wife, his sons and daughters; a book that gives you all the latest methods and thoughts of our best practical workers and thinkers upon the subject that most interests the farmer of today. It treats of the past, the present, and what one may reasonably expect in the future. It pictures to you farm life and surroundings, the beauty and purity of association with NATURE, the influence that such surroundings have on after life, and the solidity it gives to our nation. It gives you an idea of what the government is doing toward testing plants, seeds and their adaptability to different parts of our land—in fact, the aim is to so bring to your notice such thoughts as shall awaken in your mind the wish to take your position in the foremost ranks too—in fact, give you a new train of thought which will be sure to do you good and help you forward to wealth and happiness. Send in your orders at once. If not satisfactory, return the book at once and your money will be refunded. Price: Cloth, \$1.00; paper, 75c.

See Illustrations on back outside cover page, which are Painted from Nature

## Ratekins' Wonderful Collection of special merit--one packet each of the seven novelties, only 25c, postpaid

**Ratekins' Earliest Tomato** Unquestionably the earliest of all. If you sow "Ratekins' 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 RATEKINS' 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.

**Ratekins' 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.

**Ratekins' 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.

**Ratekins' 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, unequalled 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.

**Ratekins' 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.

## REFERENCE TABLES

### Weight of Various Articles

	Per bu.	Per lb.
Apples.....	48	48
" dried.....	22	22
Barley.....	48	48
Beans.....	60	60
Buckwheat.....	48	48
Blue Grass, Kentucky.....	14	14
" English.....	24	24
Bran.....	20	20
Canary Seed.....	60	60
Clover Seed.....	60	60
Corn, field, shelled.....	56	56
" on ear.....	70	70
" sweet, sold by measured bushel.....	50	50
Corn Meal.....	50	50
Cranberries.....	40	40
Dried Peaches.....	28	28
Flax Seed.....	56	56
Fowl Meadow.....	12	12
Hemp Seed.....	44	44
Hungarian.....	48	48
Millet.....	50	50
Oats.....	32	32
Onions.....	54	54
Orchard Grass.....	14	14
Osage Orange.....	33	33
Peach Pits.....	60	60
Peas, smooth.....	60	60
" wrinkled.....	56	56
Perennial Rye.....	20	20
Potatoes, heaping measure.....	60	60
Rape.....	50	50
Rye.....	56	56
Red Top.....	14	14
Salt, coarse.....	50	50
" Michigan.....	56	56
Sweet Potatoes.....	56	56
Timothy Seed.....	45	45
Turnips.....	58	58
Wheat.....	60	60
Flour, per bbl., net.....	196	196
Salt, per bbl.....	280	280

### WEIGHT PER CUBIC FOOT.

Hay, well settled.....	4½	4½
Corn, on cob, in bin.....	22	22
" shelled, ".....	45	45
Wheat, in bin.....	48	48
Oats, ".....	25½	25½
Potatoes, ".....	38½	38½

### Quantity of Seed Requisite to Produce a Given Number of Plants and 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 Meadow.....	2 bu.
Asparagus, 1 oz. to 800 plants.....	1 lb.	Hemp.....	½
Asparagus Roots.....	1000 to 7250	Horse Radish Roots.....	10000 to 15000
Barley.....	2½ bu.	Kale, 1 oz. to 5,000 plants.....	2 oz.
Beans, dwarf, 1 pint to 100 feet of drill.....	1 ½	Kohl Rabi, ½ oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	4 lbs.
Beans, pole, 1 pint to 100 hills.....	½	Leek, ½ oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	4
Beet, garden, 1 oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	7 lbs.	Lettuce, ¼ oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	3
Beet, Mangel, 1 oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	5	Martynia, 1 oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	5
Brocoli, 1 oz. to 5,000 plants.....	2 oz.	Melon, Musk, 1 oz. to 100 hills.....	1 to 3
Brussels Sprouts, 1 oz. to 5,000 plants.....	2	Melon, Water, 4 oz. to 100 hills.....	1½ to 4
Buckwheat.....	½ bu.	Nasturtium, 2 oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	15
Cabbage, 1 oz. to 5,000 plants.....	2 oz.	Okra, 1 oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	8
Carrot, ¼ oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	2½ lbs.	Onion Seed, ½ oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	4 to 5
Cauliflower, 1 oz. to 5,000 plants.....	2½ oz.	Onion Seed, for Sets.....	40 to 80
Celery, 1 oz. to 15,000 plants.....	2	Onion Sets, 1 quart to 40 feet of drill.....	8 bu.
Chicory.....	4 lbs.	Parsnip, ¼ oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	8 lbs.
Clover, Alsike and White Dutch.....	6	Parsley, ¼ oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	8
Clover, Lucerne.....	15 to 25	Peas, garden, 1 pint to 100 ft. of drill, 1 to 3	bu.
Clover, Crimson Trefoil.....	10 to 15	Peas, field.....	2
Clover, Large Red and Medium.....	8 to 12	Pepper, 1 oz. to 1,500 plants.....	3 oz.
Collards, 1 oz. to 5,000 plants.....	2 oz.	Pumpkin, ½ qt. to 100 hills.....	8 to 4
Corn, rice (shelled).....	2 qts.	Radish, ½ oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	10 to 12
Corn, sweet, ¼ pint to 100 hills.....	6	Rye.....	1½ bu.
Cress, ½ oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	12 lbs.	Salsify, ¼ oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	8 lbs.
Cucumber, 1 oz. to 100 hills.....	1 to 3	Spinach, ½ oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	8
Egg Plant, 1 oz. to 2,000 plants.....	4 oz.	Spurry.....	15
Endive, ¼ oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	4½ lbs.	Summer Savory.....	¾
Flax, broadcast.....	½ bu.	Sunflower.....	8
Garlic, bulbs, 1 lb. to 10 feet of drill.....	1	Squash, Summer, 4 oz. to 100 hills.....	2
Gourd, 2 oz. to 100 hills.....	2 bu.	Squash, Winter, 3 oz. to 100 hills.....	2
Grass, Blue, Kentucky.....	1	Tomato, 1 oz. to 4,500 plants.....	1 oz.
Grass, Blue, English.....	1	Tobacco, 1 oz. to 5,000 plants.....	2
Grass, Hungarian and Millet.....	½	Turnip, 1 oz. to 250 feet of drill.....	1 to 3 lbs.
Grass, Mixed Lawn.....	8 to 5	Vetches.....	2 bu.
Grass, Red Top, Fancy Clean.....	6 to 10		
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 1905 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,

**RATEKINS' SEED HOUSE, Shenandoah, Iowa.**

# RATEKIN'S RELIABLE SEEDS

ARE THE BEST THAT GROW



FOR 25 CENTS  
SEVEN SPLENDID VEGETABLE SORTS

- 1 TOMATO RATEKIN'S BEAUTY 10¢
- 2 SQUASH NEW GOLDEN HUBBARD 5¢
- 3 BEETS EXTRA EARLY DARK BEAUTY 5¢
- 4 WATER MELON RATEKIN'S CHAMPION 10¢
- 5 MUSK MELON RATEKIN'S EARLY MARKET 10¢
- 6 CABBAGE RATEKIN'S IDEAL 10¢
- 7 CUCUMBER RATEKIN'S CRESCENT 10¢

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# RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE

THE LARGEST MAIL ORDER SEED HOUSE IN THE WEST  
SELLING DIRECT TO THE PLANTER AT WHOLESALE PRICES

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