

Raglan, Feb. 27th, 1856.

My dear Sir, — I shall comply with your requisitions, as far as my humble abilities will permit.

You enquire first, — "What kind of a fence do I prefer?" I answer British Thorn Hedge.

Second, — "Do you approve of live fences in this country?" Answer — As I cannot see any material in our neighbourhood, such as stone, &c., rails being scarce and high priced, I see no alternative but live fences.

Third, — "What do you prefer as a hedge plant?" Answer — I am inclined to give a preference to *Thorn* either *English* or *Canadian*, and am of opinion that our *wild Plum* or our own *Beech*, or both mixed with *privet*, will make good, substantial, and permanent fences.

Fourthly, — "How do you plant and what is your mode of training?" Answer — I prefer planting on the level, to raising dike or ditch; because the *severe drought* of this country seems to say to me, plant on the level, and in a direct line, seven plants to a yard, and in training, cut down when planted to about six inches, and when one year planted cut down again, to about eight, ten, or twelve inches to cause them to thicken. The third year I would let them have a little more scope.

Fifthly, — "What are the accidents, &c.?" Have no experience, having only a small plot.

Sixthly, — "How many years before they make a good protection?" This is also a puzzler, yet I should say in about seven years *Thorns* or *Plums* may protect.

Sevently, — "What is the cost per rod to make a hedge?" Answer — The present expense will differ according to the plenty or scarcity of the material. I suppose the Canadian *Thorn* are not plenty, nor are the white or *Hawthorn*, but if we could import seed and grow the *Hawthorn* in Canada, 35 or 40 plants to a rod, it could not be considered a high price, although growers should charge 25s. per 1000.

Eighthly, — "What is the cost of rails per 1000?" Answer — I have been making enquiry, as a great quantity of rails and other fence timber passes this way at present, and I find the farmers talk of from £5 to £7 10s. per thousand, laid down in this neighbourhood; and an extensive farmer tells me that he will not furnish rails under £10 per 1000.

Yours, respectfully,  
EXPERIMENTER.

Port Hope, P. O., Hamilton Gardens, January 26, 1856.

Wm. McDougall, Esq.

Dear Sir, — A letter from you, addressed to R. Wade, Senr., was handed by him to me for reply, he supposing you had mistaken the name, he not having had any experience with the *Osage Orange* at all, and I have not had any myself as yet, only having made the attempt to raise them last spring, by sowing about a pound of seed. The plants came up and grew very thrifty during the summer; but this success will altogether depend upon what degree of hardiness they possess in winter. The simple killing down the top shoots a few inches, will not prevent them from making a good hedge plant, provided the old wood is hardy enough to stand the frost, that supplying the knife in pruning. Some years ago, I was making a straight fence on my farm, and having a small plantation of *White Mulberry* in the garden, I took them up and planted them as a hedge by the side of the fence; they are as tender as the *Osage Orange*, and kept killing down every winter the new wood formed during summer to some degree; but now they have got to be quite large and strong enough for a fence, if the plant was adapted for a hedge at all; but it is not, being altogether without thorns, and not stiff enough to resist the cattle pushing through them.

I am intending in the spring to put out my small plantation of the *Osage Orange*, and give them a trial. I have made several attempts at hedges already, but with the exception of the white *Thorn*, without much success. I have tried the *Basket willow*, and in some places where the ground was suitable, I have got quite a hedge from them. I have tried the *Apple tree*, but without much success; they grow too rambling and irregularly for the purpose. I notice in the neighbourhood some hedges of *Buck Thorn*, which seem quite hardy, and of rapid growth.

I notice in the January number of the *Albany Cultivator*, a communication signed H. Van Ostend, Rock City Mills, N. Y., speaking of the *Apple tree* for hedges — but he has only heard that they will do — but he states positively that the *Osage Orange* will not stand our northern winter sufficiently to be depended on. After another year's trial with mine, I will be better able to judge, and will let you know the result.

Yours, most respectfully,  
JOHN WADE.

W. M'Dougall, Esq.

YORK, February 25th, 1856.

Dear Sir, — You, the other day, asked me to give you a few hints on *Osage Orange* and other hedge plants as to their merits for fencing purposes. This I will do with pleasure as far as I