

Garden Seeds, and how to sow them.

Many people complain that the seeds they buy are not good, and assign as a reason for their complaints, that what they have sown never came up. The real cause of failure is, that they sow the seed improperly. Flower seeds, especially, are badly put in; and I think it will not be time wasted if I point out the depth at which each sort of seed should be buried, and thus show young gardeners how to avoid such an annoying mischance as sowing seed and seeing nothing come of it. Let us suppose that the ground has been well prepared and manured in preparation for the proposed crop. The seed should be put in at the following depths:

If the seeds are large, like lupins, sweet-pease, pumpkins, nasturtiums, scabious, etc., they may be buried from half an inch to three quarters deep. Daisies, balsams, mignonnette, phlox, zinnias, etc., prefer a quarter of an inch. Aggeratum, amaranth, antirrhinum, violets, myosotis, and others, should have only a little fine mould sprinkled over them; while calceolarias, lobelias, oxalis, petunias, portulacas, should be simply sown, pressed down with a board, and then watered with a very fine rose on the watering pot. Rodanthes, acrolinums, and globe amaranths, should have their woollen covering pulled off before sowing; and lupins, nasturtiums, etc., should be steeped in warm water for a few hours.

Last year, I adopted a plan of sowing my melons and cucumbers which answered perfectly. Having cut pieces of turf about six inches square, I sowed the seed about an inch deep on the earthy side, and placed them in my hotbed with the grassy side downwards. All I had to do when I wished to transplant them was to take each piece of turf bodily out of the earth in the bed, and they received not the slightest check to their growth, although they were in the fourth leaf, and had been already stopped by pinching.

Choice of Seeds for the kitchen-garden.

Very often, I hear complaints from my readers about the difficulty they find in selecting vegetable seeds. They receive from a seedsman a catalogue full of descriptions of a dozen different sorts of the same plant, and attributing such a mar-



Fig. 1—Conover's Colossal.

vellous amount of good qualities to each that the choice of one of them becomes embarrassing. Nor does it seldom happen that the seedsman has some special interest to serve, and even were it not so, what may have succeeded perfectly with him, may fail entirely under quite different conditions of soil and climate.

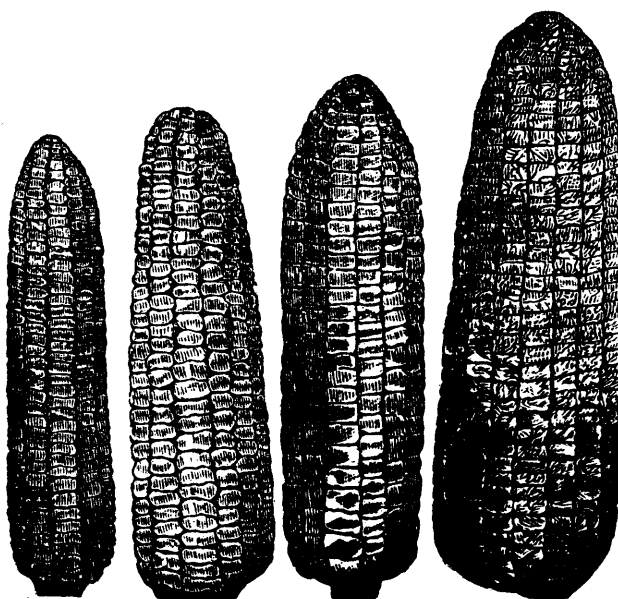


Fig. 2—Round Egyptian beet.

I have chosen the varieties contained in the following list in this way: first, I marked the sorts which the whole body of seedsmen recommend. As some live in Canada, others in the northern States, and others, again, in the southern States, there can be no doubt about a

plant which they all agree in praising: those varieties which succeed everywhere must infallibly be good. Observations which I made for myself, and the remarks I heard from the best gardeners of Canada and the United-States, at the Montreal Exhibition, combined with my own experience of 15 years, as an amateur, formed other grounds on which I based my opinion.

I thought it as well to mention these things, that my readers might have confidence in the selection I put before



Minnesota.

Moore.

Russell.

Mammouth.

(Fig. 3.)

them, and I will now proceed to the enumeration of the varieties which are most worthy of confidence.

GARLIC.—There are two sorts of this pungent root. Both are equally good; the only difference is in size, but there is no distinctive name to either.

ASPARAGUS.—Many different sorts are highly praised; but I am convinced that *Conover's Colossal*, if it receive proper care, will prove as profitable as any. The engraving (fig. 1) is about half the real size.

BET-ROOT—Of the numerous kinds mentioned I prefer the *Egyptian round beet* (fig. 2). It is shaped like a turnip, of good size, and does well in shallow soils; so it can be grown anywhere, if it receive plenty of manure (1).

INDIAN CORN.—A belief has existed for some time that sweet-corn could

with difficulty be grown in the western part of the Province, and not at all in the eastern part. This prejudice is now,

(1) I prefer the *long blood-beet*, except for the early crop. The secret of having good beet-roots is to grow them thickly and quickly. A. R. J. F.



Fig. 4—Scarlet stump-rooted carrot.