

As I have grown the Zinnia for a number of years, I will also give my experience. Now, I have found the seed of the Zinnia to be very variable in quality. Plants raised from seed saved from the same plant have produced flowers, some of which were as fine and beautiful as ever I saw, while others were poor, worthless things. And I have observed the same thing both in imported seed and seed of my own growing. If there is Zinnia seed which will uniformly give good flowers, without any mixture of poor, worthless ones, I have never had any of it. The best Zinnias which I ever raised—and I have raised some very fine ones—were grown in deep, rich soil, well cultivated, and occasionally watered with soap suds. In my experience, the only difference between rich and poor soil is, the rich soil, as a matter of course, produces larger plants, and consequently more flowers. My practice is, when the plants begin to flower, to pull up and destroy those which produce only poor flowers.

### FIG CULTURE AT THE NORTH A SUCCESS.

BY G. F. NEEDHAM, WASHINGTON, D. C.

To demonstrate the entire practicability of fig culture in these climates, I place on record two letters. The first is from my revered instructor, Gen. Worthington, who for fifty years has been the pioneer fig culturist of the north. He says:—

“G. F. NEEDHAM, Esq.,

“Dear Sir: \* \* \* Fresh figs have for many years constituted an important part of my summer and autumn diet, and I am glad that the propagation and dissemination of this fine old fruit is in such good and zealous hands as yours, for I am too old to do much in what I consider the good cause of growing semi-tropical fruits cheaply in our climate, though I know that it will be done sooner or later. So I cheerfully hand over the business to other and younger hands.”

“Very respectfully,

“JAS. T. WORTHINGTON.”

“Chillicothe, O., 1879.

The second letter is from a competent and disinterested witness, the manager of John Hopkins' estate, near Baltimore.

CLIFTON GARDEN, BALTIMORE Co., 23rd October, 1879.

“DEAR SIR:—I have read your pamphlet, “Fig Culture,” etc., with much interest, and I fully endorse the instructions you give. I have no doubt but that your expectations about the general culture of the fig will be realized. I have grown figs here over twenty years, without missing a crop; and the demand for them (at \$10 per bushel, N.) is far beyond the supply.”

“Yours truly,

“WILLIAM FOWLER.”