

## \* The Farm. \*

### The Florida Velvet Bean.

I have been asked so many times by the people from all over the country to give them the origin of this marvellous and most wonderful forage and fertilizing plant and from what country it came. I will answer by saying that its presence here in Florida can be traced back twenty-five years or more, and it has, until recently, been known among the common people as "The climber." From weight of evidence I unhesitatingly give Florida credit of being its original home.

During the past year the writer introduced this little wonder in almost every civilized country on the globe, and a crop from the seed has grown the present season, but from reports received it still remains a stranger to all. No one, so far as heard from, claims to know anything about it. The celebrated New Gardens, London, grew it the present season as a curiosity. Its vigorous growth and wealth of foliage and vine attracted wide and universal attention. Three thousand people in England grew it the present season. Every state in the American Union is also putting it to the test. From a flood of letters received I learn that from late planting and early frost the seed is not maturing in all sections of our country, but as a successful feed, forage and fertilizing crop, it has nothing but praise from every quarter, and condemnation from none.

Our government at Washington, recognizing its great value to the country at large, bought a car load of seed of the writer last July for general distribution to the various States of our Union.

This bean is marvellously prolific in every way. A bushel of seed will drill an acre. An average acre will produce thirty or more bushels of seed. To cure the forage grown on it as a dry feed it will easily yield four tons. From near the hill the vine throws out laterals ten to thirty feet, like the water melon. Pods in clusters of from two to thirty appear, like the raisin grape, the entire length of the vines. Its foliage and vine at its best during growth will cover the ground solidly up to your armpits. All stock eat the green or cured vine, and dry bean, with greediness. After pods are formed on vines two or three head of stock may be pastured on an acre of the growing crop without material injury to fruitage. At this stage stock will only eat leaf and vine, leaving green pods undisturbed. The Velvet is an annual, and should be planted early in spring, in rows four feet apart, dropping seed in drill rows three or four inches apart, and covering about three inches deep. When bean is up large enough to work, run through with cultivator until vine fills row, then lay by.

When it is possible, it is better to give the growing vine support, keeping pods off the ground, thus largely increasing fruitage. This can be done by mixing corn with the bean seed, and the vine will climb the stalk giving desired support. Don't expect a corn crop—vine will swamp it.

The Velvet can be shelled when pods are crisp and dry. The best home plan to shell them is to place pods in a bag and pound with a bludgeon. A strong man will pound out five or six bushels in a day. We, here, have a better way. We have a velvet bean sheller—a two men machine—that will thrash and clean five or six bushels in an hour. In picking your beans don't pile large quantities together for fear of heat and mould. A scaffold is best.

In habit the Velvet is a natural climber, and to give it something to "run up" it will climb fifty or sixty feet, blooming and fruiting at short intervals all the way up, affording a novel and most wonderful sight to look upon.

It has become a staple crop with us here in Florida. From ten to eighty acres is being grown by many persons here the present season. The leaf, vine and fruit fills every want on the farm. All stock like it and eat it ravenously. As an all-around feed, fertilizer and up-builder of

poor or over-worked land it is simply without a rival.

Any further information will be cheerfully given if desired.—(Capt. R. A. Wilson, Orlando, Fla.

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Apples for 1899.

Those who intend to cultivate apple trees should consider carefully conditions essential to success. Of course, every one has not at command all of these conditions, but many of them he has, or can have. Clay soil is preferable to sandy for most varieties. Among the exceptions are Grimes's Golden and probably most of the Pippins. I find it desirable to plant apple trees with a southeastern exposure, unless there be danger of sap-thawing during the winter. Two or three places on my homestead are so warm during warm winter days that the sap is thawed out and both pears and apples are killed. It is not advisable to grow berries under our apple trees, although many of mine are thus planted. The recent development of the tripeta fly makes it desirable that there be free open draft of air under the trees. With my present experience, if I desired to plant for market I should not go beyond a half-dozen varieties. The Baldwin has won a place in any list, and beside it the Northern Spy and the Greening. It seems now that the Sutton Apple or Sutton Beauty will crowd out the Baldwin over a great deal of territory. In Maine and in Western New York I think the Baldwin will hold its own for some time to come. Hubbardston, Wagner and Roxbury Russet make a trio that may be added to those already named. Where it is desirable to plant for Autumn and early winter sale, Fameuse, Gravenstein and Shilawasse Beauty make a superb list. Apples should be set much further apart than they are in most orchards, and on no account should it be anticipated to grow them thickly and then thin out. The apple tree should be grown with an eye to absolute symmetry. Let all the trimming be done during the process of early growth, so that in no case will it be necessary to remove a large limb. It is hardly worth the while of any man to plant an apple orchard unless he will make a special study of the fine art of trimming. Twice each year the trees should be gone over and every superfluous shoot be removed. Young apple trees should be well mulched with some material like coal ashes. These admit the air and retain moisture. It is also very difficult for the apple tree borer to work where ashes are in his way.—(R. P. P.

## \* \* \* How to Be Well.

### Paine's Celery Compound Will Overcome All Your Troubles and Dangers.

Well people have pure, clean blood, strong nerves, active liver and healthy kidneys.

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#### Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills Cure a Disease hitherto regarded as Incurable.

The case of Mr. G. O. Archibald, of Hopewell Cape, N.B., (a cut of whom appears below), is one of the severest and most intractable that has ever been



reported from the eastern provinces, and his cure by Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills the more remarkable from the fact that he was given up as incurable by worthy and respected physicians.

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"I am agent for P. O. Vickrey, of Augusta Maine, and have sold 300 subscribers in 80 days and won a fifty dollar prize.

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"The seven boxes I took have restored me the full use of my legs and given me strength and energy and better health than I have enjoyed in a long time."

G. O. ARCHIBALD.

Hopewell Cape, N. B.

In addition to the statement by Mr. Archibald, we have the endorsement of two well-known merchants of Hopewell Cape, N. B., viz: Messrs. J. E. Dickson and R. J. Brewster, who certify to the genuineness and accuracy of the facts as given above.

Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills are 50c. a box, or 3 for \$1.25, at all druggists, or sent by mail. T. Milburn & Co., Toronto, Ont.

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