# October, 1882

### THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

#### **Raising Forest Trees from Seeds.**

It is a good general rule to sow seeds of all kinds as soon as they are ripe. They will vegetate sooner if sown immediately after being gathered from the plant than they will do at any future time. Exposure to the air hardens the outside covering of seeds, which has a tendency to retard germination; so that whether a seed will germinate in one week, one month, one, two, or more years after it has been put in the ground, will depend very much upon the amount of drying and exposure to the air that it was subjected to before it was sown.

But it is not always practicable or convenient to sow seeds immediately after they are ripe and have been gathered; therefore, the alternative is to try to preserve them in the best manner so as to retain their vitality unimpaired, so that they will germinate as speedily as possible when sown.

There are many seeds which ripen during late summer and in the fall, which cannot very well be kept during winter without more or less deterioration. Some, such as the silver maple, red maple, elm and poplar, ripen early and will not keep well; these should be sown as soon as ripe, and they will probably grow to good sized plants before the growing season ends. Silver maples may be had from three to four feet high by December from seeds sown the preceding June. Among those which do best when sown in the fall, or immediately after they are ripe, are the seeds of the peach, cherry, sweet chestnut, hazelnut, walnut, hickory, oak, horse chestnut, beech, linden.

If these cannot be sown in the fall they must be kept over until spring by mixing them with sand, or dry earth of any kind, and kept in a cool place, such as an open shed or a well-ventilated, cool cellar; if kept in a warm place they will not be in such good condition in spring as when kept quite cold and slightly moist. Sometimes acorns and the various kinds of nuts will keep in fine condition by spreading them thickly on the surface of the ground in the open air and covering them over with four or six inches of earth or sand.

Small seeds, and those that are light and chaffy, such as seeds of the alder, birch, sycamore, catalpa, tulip tree and mulberry, as also some of the later ripening winged seeds, as the sugar maple and the various species of ash, should be gathered when ripe and spread thinly in an airy situation, to partially dry, after which they can be stored in coarse bags and kept in a cool, airy room until required for sowing in spring. Larch, pine and generally seed of all coniferous plants, should be kept in a similar manner during winter.

in a similar manner during winter. To succeed in raising plants with a good root system, it is essentially necessary that the seeds should be sown in deeply-worked, light, loamy

This comprises the class of plants well-known as the hyacinth, tulip, crocus, snowdrop and others so universally esteemed for their fragrance, beauty and facility of cultivation. There is no class of plants so useful for winter decoration as this, flowering as they do in a season when all vegetation is at a standstill and nothing to greet the eye but a dreary and barren waste, instead of the pleasant garden of the past summer.

**Dutch Flower Roots** 

There are a great many different methods of growing these bulbs which render it all the more pleasant to the cultivator who can watch the various phases presented to his view, and add ma terially to his knowledge of plant lore. The soil necessary to the cultivation of the hyacinth in pots is well rotted cow manure and a good sprinkling of and. Drain the pot by putting in a little grave in the bottom, then a little moss or a few leaves to prevent the soil from getting through, fill the pot nearly full with soil, put in the bulb, press firmly down, then fill the pot, just leaving the crown of the bulb, with a solution of the s the bulb visible-water and put into a cellar or cover over with ashes, manure or soil, and leave them until the pots get well filled with roots, which will be from six to eight weeks. Bring a few of them into the nouse at a time, so as to have a succession of bloom, shade for a few days and gradually inure them to the light, after which they may be placed in the window, giving an abundance of air when the weather is favorable. Water freely with water of the same temperature as the room in which they are growing. A little ammonia or guano stirred in the water will be found very beneficial, increasing the brilliancy and more fully developing the flower.

To grow hyacinths in water, select the finest and strongest bulbs, giving preference to the single varieties, as they are earlier in blooming, sweeter in scent, more brilliant in color, produce larger flower spikes, and altogether do better in water than the double bulbs. Fill with pure water nearly to the top, just barely allowing the base of the bulb to touch, then put in a dark closet or cellar, for a month or six weeks, so as to induce the root growth so necessary for the proper development of the flower. Change the water as frequently as it becomes impure, first taking the bulb out and being careful not to destroy the fine fibres; wash the glass and fill same as before. When the glasses get well filled with roots and the bulbs started a couple of inches, it will be time to take them into the parlor, keeping them shaded for a few days until they become accustomed to the strong light. The great advantage derived from this mode of cultivation is that they will bloom mostly anywhere, whether in the window or on the bureau, or on the mantlepiece, and certainly much more ornamental than the common earthen flower-pot?

A gorgeous display may be made by filling a window box. Have a zinc pan made to fit, and plant it with, say a row of snow drops and crocus in front, then a row of double dwarf tulips, finally a row of hyacinths. Cover the pan as directed before, then when well started put it in the window box, and in due time they will come into bloom with a most gratifying result. There are a thousand and one ways to grow this flower. Take a common soup plate, place a half-dozen bulbs therein, and place between and over them some green moss, and they will do just as well as if they were in the finest piece of china; the roots inter lacing will keep the bulbs upright. grow hyacinth in a garden the soil must be thoroughly incorporated with the soil. Plant hyacinths about four inches deep, tulips three, crocus and snow drops two inches. A nice bed can be made by planting a crown imperial in the centre, surrounding that by polyanthus narcissus, next two or three rows of hyacinth followed by a row of double tournesel tulips, then one row of Duc Van Thol tulips, and finally a row of crocus and snow drops. By planting in this way, the bulbs when in bloom will show to the best advantage, being graded in height from the crown imperial in the centre to the crocus around the The late varieties of tulips had better be edge. planted in a separate bed, as they grow taller and flower later. Planted where they can be shaded and protected from the sun and weather when in bloom, will be of great benefit in extending the period of blooming. About the first week of December, after a few slight frosts, when the ground will be a little hard, cover the bed with three or four inches of coarse stable manure, raking the same off again in the spring when all danger of heavy frosts is over. -[J. T., in Rural World.

#### Farming for Boys.

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## BY THE AUTHOR OF TEN ACRES ENOUGH.

### CHAPTER VII.

#### Visit to a Model Farm.—The Story of Robert Allen.—How to raise Horseradish.—No such Thing as Luck.

The disposition to go ahead which the boys displayed, as well as their aptitude for learning, were strong encouragements with Uncle Benny to continue his fatherly care over them,—to teach them that it was impossible to earn genuine manhood except by steadily and industriously serving out their boyhood. He found his own interest in all their little concerns insensibly increasing, and noticed also that even Spangler himself took constant observation of their doings, though he seldom gave a word of encouragement, but rather doubted whether their labors would ever pay a profit. He estimated results by their money product, not by their moral and educational value.

On the afternoon of a fine early-summer day the old man obtained permission to take them with him to a farm house some two miles off, for the purpose of showing them how a really good farmer managed his business. The boys had often heard of this place, and had many times walked by it, but had never ventured up to the house or over the grounds. It belonged to a Mr. Allen, and consisted of sixty acres. The history of this man was so remarkable, that Uncle Benny, thinking it afforded an example that ought to be impressed on the minds of the boys, took occasion, as they walked leisurely along, to relate it to them.

Mr. Allen was one of a large family of children, his father being a laboring man, so poor that he was glad to have them placed out wherever a situation could be found for them. No great pains were taken to see that the places were good ones, where a tolerable share of schooling would be allowed, or where they would be likely to receive a thorough agricultural education. The father was too poorly off in the world to be very nice in choosing places; besides, his children had had so indifferent a training at home, that whoever took them was quite certain that, if they were ever to do any good, they must be taught how to do it.

This one, Robert, was accordingly placed with a very penurious man, who allowed him very little time, even in winter, for schooling. His very name had a suspicious sound,—it was John Screwme. The poor boy was excessively fond of study, and had luckily learned to read well before he left home. He accordingly read everything he found about the house, and even carried a book of some kind in his bosom whenever he went ploughing. This he read and re-read when he paused to rest his horses, seeking to carry in his memory, while following in the furrow, the information he had obtained. It was so when not at work,---the same passionate desire to obtain knowledge occupying his time and thoughts. But his master's house was a very poor school in which to learn, with very few books or papers about. He therefore borrowed from the neighboring boys all that they were able to lend him. But this supply was insufficient for his wants, as he had become a rapid reader. He had the great good sense to understand that it was important for him to qualify himself, while young, for the busi ness he was to pursue in after life,—that of farming Hence he sought for books on agriculture and natural history, but few of these could be obtained His master was a widower, with an only child, a daughter, whose temperament was directly the opposite of her father's. She was as fond of culti-vating flowers as Robert was of reading books. Her father had indulged her by subscribing for an agricultural paper, which came once a month. From the reading of this he derived so much information, that he never afterward permitted the subscription to run out. Among other useful things, it taught him how to manage bees. So he bought a colony, and, being extremely observant and careful, he gradually multiplied them until the product amounted to twenty or thirty dollars every year. His master made no objection to his doing this, as the bees wasted had they not gathered it from the fields and flowers. In this bee culture the daughter, Alice, assisted him very materially, giving him prompt notice of a swarm coming out, and sometimes even assisting him in getting them safely into a new bive. Several times, from the profit of his honey, (he was able to present her a handsome book at Christmas, and, on more than one occasion, a new bonnet. His bees thus made it a very easy matter

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flower, three grows . S. soils. Clayey soils are not to be selected, as they too readily harden on the surface and form an impervious crust, so far as relates to the pushing power of the young germs. Where no other soil is available except a clay, we have seen good results attained by covering the seed with sand; there is nothing in a clay soil to prevent growth when once the young plants show themselves above the surface. The soil should not only be deeply worked, but it should always be made as rich and fertile as possible. In general there is altogether too little account made of this primary requirement, and very many of the failures in first attempts in the cultivation of specialties, such as that of raising trees from seeds, may be clearly traced to carelessness in the selection, preparation, and enrichment of the soil.—[Rural World.

A correspondent of the *Rural World* says: "We noticed that a tree standing in the immediate vicinity of our dwelling had all at once put forth with renewed energy, and we were at a loss for some time to define the cause. On examination we found that a quantity of lime, which had accidentally been spilled and rendered worthless by becoming mixed with the refuse on the stable floor, had been put at the foot of and around the tree. Taking the hint from the accident, we purchased twelve casks of lime and applied half a bushel to each of the trees in our orchard, and found that it produced immediate beneficial results, not on the health of the tree only, but the quality of the fruit was also greatly improved. This application will be especially beneficial in soils where there is a redundancy of vegetable matter."