# THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

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## CANADIAN THORPE BARLEY.

**Except on rare occasions and in favorable localities, the English Two-Rowed Barley have not done well in Canada, but the Duckbill and the Canadian Thorpe—an improved variety of Duckbill—have done very well in all parts where the Six-Rowed Barley succeeds. For feeding purposes it is far superior to the last named; it is also a much heavier yielder, according to English reports. It is an excellent malting variety, but for this purpose should never be mixed with any other sort. It is an upright grower, long, bright and very stiff in the straw; seldom, if ever, lodges. During the last three years it has been tested by leading farmers residing in various parts of Ontario; also by the Dominion Experimental Farms. All have found it the variety par excellent, being hardier, withstanding frost and drought better than any other sort; in fact, being equal to the hardiest wheats in this respect. The average yields of this variety will vary from 40 to 60 bushels per acre, when sown on suitable soils; when sown on rich cultivated lands, the yield has sometimes reached 70 bushels per acre. The grains are large and plump; if cut early and carefully harvested, are very bright and light in color. We have procured a quantity of this grain; the stock has been carefully hand-picked in the bag and field for the past ten years, and for ten previous years it was each year carefully selected in the field, so that it now is a well-established pedigreed variety. For one new yearly subscriber to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE we will send 20 lbs. of this Barley, or for two new subscribers, 48 lbs.; for every additional new subscriber we will send ½ bushel (24 lbs.) bags free. The grain will be sent by freight or express, as desired by the receiver, who will pay R. R. charges. One dollar must accompany each new name sent.**


# FARM.

## Spring Grain.

TESTIMONY FROM FARMERS REGARDING THE BEST VARIETIES TO BE GROWN.

As is our custom we present to our readers the evidence of farmers from all parts of the province of Ontario, and also from Quebec and Nova Scotia. A careful study of these letters will give our readers a good idea of the varieties of grain that will be likely to do well in their particular sections, and in this way will act as a guide and prevent them investing money in grains which are no longer profitable or useless novelties. The report of the co-operative tests of new varieties made by farmers in every county in Ontario for the Experimental Union will also be found both interesting and instructive.

### Essex, S. R.

REPORTED BY W. S. BALDWIN, COLCHESTER.

Oats—Black Tartarian have done well with me through the past season; threshed over 40 bushels per acre.

Barley is not grown as a crop now, as our market is shut off. The Mensury does the best with me; did not try the English two-rowed, as I could see nothing in it; those who did are coming back to the old variety.

Wheat—White Surprise has done well. Hybrid Mediterranean is grown more than any other variety, with Clawson to fall back upon, which is a sure crop. Spring wheat not sown.

### Middlesex, E. R.

REPORTED BY R. H. HARDING, THORNDALE.

Another year having passed and gone gives us another opportunity of letting the readers of the ADVOCATE and fellow-farmers know the leading varieties of grain in the different sections of Ontario the past year. Although there has not been as many new varieties sown in this section as in some former years, yet there are a few worthy of mention in oats, viz.:—White Schoen, Early White Gothland, White Champion and Black Etampes. A few words on these in the order named:—The little that has been sown of the White Schoen in this district has turned out very satisfactory. They are medium early, very thin hulled, and weigh 35 pounds to 38 pounds per bushel. The Early Gothland has become very popular. They grow on tall, stiff straw, and are heavy yielders; weight, 40 pounds to 45 pounds, and are medium early. They have become so popular that I heard, a few days ago, of a flour, feed and seed firm offering them at 50 cents per bushel—a price, I think, altogether too low for the purchaser to expect a pure sample of such new oats. The White Champion is, I believe, the earliest oat in cultivation. They grow plenty of straw of good quality, and are not very liable to rust; weight, 40 pounds to 45 pounds per measured bushel, and good yielders. For very rich land I believe the Black Etampes or Giant is the leading variety; being so very short in the straw is not at all liable to lodge. I grew 40 bushels or more from one bushel, sowing just on medium soil. Of the older varieties it is not necessary to say much, except to name a few that have given best results, viz.:—American Banner, Australian, American Beauty and Black Tartarian. Of these four varieties the American Beauty is the earliest.

Peas were almost a total failure, owing to excessive wet weather. The Egyptian Mummy and Centennial are yet taking the lead.

In Barley the acreage has been somewhat limited the past year. The two-rowed varieties are fast taking the place of the older sorts.

Spring wheat is not grown to any extent here, although a few farmers have continued to grow it for the last ten years, and have reaped failure nearly every time.

### Oxford, S. R.

REPORTED BY A. & G. RICE, CURRIES, ONT.

Oats—Of the different varieties of this grain, I am quite satisfied that in this locality the Banner oat takes the cake for yield, quality, and an all-round good oat, and a choice oat for milling purposes. The Prize Cluster oats are very early, but my experience with them is that they yield small; they grow to a great height, but the straw is weak and lodges, especially on low land.

Barley—The past year (1892) has been in this section at least a poor year for barley. Of the two-rowed varieties, the Prize Prolific has now no friends, and it is doubtful if many would now sow it if they got the seed free. However, another two-rowed sort, the Duckbill, though not up to the mark of 1891, has done fully as well as any other barley, and I believe will be more widely sown next year. At the present price of grain, farmers are looking to a "home market", and will do well to plan to feed their coarse grain. And, with this object in view, I think I would as leave bank on Duckbill barley as any other kind of grain, when the object is to feed it; it makes splendid chop, having less hull than the six-rowed sorts. Unlike any other kind of barley, Duckbill is easy to harvest; it grows to a good height, and very stiff in the straw, and I have never seen any of it lodged, even where the ground is very rich, and on rich soil a big crop can be grown. If to sell barley is the object, then the old six-rowed variety is the only barley in demand for malting, but the price received has not been very encouraging. I have no doubt many will grow barley this year in anticipation of a lower duty.

Spring wheat has not been a reliable crop of late, and not much interest is taken in it here.

Peas the last year were a failure, except on very dry land. With many they have been a risky crop to grow for several years, between bugs and blight, but in certain sections they still do well. And, in these cases, there is probably no crop that can be grown more profitably; they do not exhaust the soil, and are the very best grain for feed. The small peas are now most in favor. The large varieties have had their day, and that day is past. The Mummy pea is a good sort.

REPORTED BY M. DUNKIN, NORWICH.

What is known as the "Lark" oat in this section has done very well. I tried the Bonanza and Banner, both of which were much inferior to old varieties, such as Australian. A variety called Low Dutch did very well, ripened early, and straw stiff and free from smut. I tried the "Experimental Union" varieties, viz., Joanette Black, Oderbrucker, Bavarian, Poland White, Siberian and White Tartarian. Of these Joanette Black, Bavarian and Poland White were best; Siberian was soft in straw and White Tartarian very late. Don't grow barley or spring wheat, so do not know much about them.

REPORTED BY W. BUDD, NEWARK.

Oats—Black Tartarian and White Banner.

Barley—Crop not very good, but the English two-rowed seemed to turn out best.

Peas—A failure in most parts here. Egyptian Mummy as good as any.

Wheat—Manchester; straw is not large and therefore did not go down as bad as other varieties.

Rye—None sown.

### Oxford, N. R.

REPORTED BY H. BOLÉERT, CASSEL.

Oats—Vick's American Banner came out best. It stood up well where all others lodged very badly. White Cave on medium rich soil will surpass it as a yielder, but on rich soil grows rank in the straw and lodges badly. Among nine varieties the Cave was far the strongest grower. Joanette Black is a very promising variety on very rich soil. It was free from rust and did not lodge, while all others (save the Banner) rusted badly.

Barley—The Select six-rowed proves the best; it yields much better than the two-rowed.

In spring wheat the White Russian still leads in this section, yielding a fair crop where the other varieties entirely failed.

REPORTED BY GEO. GOODGER, WOODSTOCK.

Oats—American Banner and Australian.
Barley—Centennial.
Spring wheat—Very little grown.

REPORTED BY J. D. DOUGLAS, EAST ZORRA.

The oat that is mostly grown in this vicinity is the Banner oat. I tried some of the Golden Giant side oat, but they did not do as well as the Banner. There is very little of either barley or spring wheat grown in the vicinity. Spring wheat was a failure here last year.

### Perth, N. R.

REPORTED BY W. W. BALLANTYNE, STRATFORD.

Surprise fall wheat has been the leading variety the last two or three years. White Fyfe spring wheat has done well. Colorado has also been grown considerably, but I don't think it has been an entire success.

Banner oats have been grown quite extensively, and, I think, with splendid results.

Very little barley has been grown the last two years.

REPORTED BY N. R. MONTIETH, STRATFORD.

Fall Wheat—The Surprise is most largely grown and has proved a fair yielder, standing well.

Oats—The Banner, White Cluster and Victoria Prize have succeeded in the order named.

Barley—Little grown, except for feed.

### Huron, S. R.

REPORTED BY A. P. KETCHEN, BRUCEFIELD.

In oats, which is perhaps the most important cereal grown by Ontario farmers, I might say that the Rosedale is very well liked by those few who have them, but the Banner is rapidly growing in public favor. It is a splendid yielding oat, and although not a very heavy strawed oat, yet the straw is of excellent quality. One man tried a few Joanette black oats, and is well pleased with the result. We intend giving them a trial ourselves next year. They are rather short in the straw, but are, I believe, the best yielding oat in cultivation. Some farmers still stick to the Egyptian, but they are not so popular now as they were a few years ago.

Very little barley is grown since the McKinley Bill came into force; but with the repeal of that law there would be a large acreage sown, as it used to be one of our most staple crops. In that case, of course, the six-rowed would be sown, although some of the two-rowed varieties give better results for feeding purposes.

Among spring wheats the Colorado is still the standard, although even the yield of that was disappointing last year, and the price still more so.

### Huron, N. R.

REPORTED BY J. N. KERNIGHAN, BENMILLER.

In oats about the only variety grown is the Egyptian, which averaged about 35 bushels to the acre. We received six varieties from the Ontario Experimental Farm, and all, with one exception, proved better than the Egyptian under similiar conditions. Oderbrucker and Poland White yielded best—14½ and 14 pounds to the square rod—but the best variety was the Joanette Black, only it was sown too thick.

In barley the most grown was the common Mensury, yielding about 25 bushels. The two-rowed Prize Prolific was grown some, but owing to the shortness of the season it does not yield as well as the six-rowed.

The Colorado was nearly the only variety of spring wheat, yielding about 18 bushels; but one field of Fyfe yielded fully 25 bushels per acre.

The Crown peas yielded best, but were wormy and buggy. The Golden Vine came second, yielding about 26 bushels. Mummies were grown; some yielded about 20 bushels per acre.

### Bruce, W. R.

REPORTED BY J. B. MUIR, NORTH BRUCE.

Oats—Most all the varieties sown did very well during the past year. The New Zealand and Black Tartarian are the most common varieties sown. The New Zealand is a late variety, very free from the attacks of rust, has excellent straw and is one of the best varieties we can grow. During the past year we tested the Joanette and Oderbrucker. They both yield very well, but are too short in the straw for ordinary soils. On rich bottom lands they would do very well. The American Banner did very well with us, but rusted slightly. Flying Scotchman, very early; stiff and tall straw; oats plump and heavy, 36 pounds per bushel. The Early Cluster are a good yielding oat by weight, but very liable to rust. The Magnet and Rosedale oats both yielded very heavy in this locality.

Barley—Very little grown in this district except the common varieties.

Spring Wheat—The Ladoga and Colorado are the two varieties principally grown. Ladoga is hard to thresh, but the millers give five cents per bushel more for it than for the Colorado.

### Bruce, E. R.

REPORTED BY JAMES TOLTON, WALKERTON.

Spring wheat—Spring wheat did not do as well the last year as usual with us, owing, I think, principally to the extreme heat. The Colorado variety did much the best. Fields will yield, I think, about 18 bushels to the acre, weighing, when cleaned, 63 pounds to 64 pounds per bushel. Campbell's White Chaff a failure.

Barley—Barley is not very much grown here, and what is is principally for feeding. Two-rowed has been tried a little, with fairly good results, I am told. Myself and some of my neighbors have been growing the Mensury (a Russian variety), as it seems to give the best results; but it is like the two-rowed—should not be sold to mix with the ordinary six-rowed, as it does not malt in the same time.

Oats—Nearly all the oats grown in this locality are the American Banner. The Bonanza have been tried by some, and reported on favorably. An acquaintance, who is an extensive farmer, has grown a new variety (here at least), called the Lackawanna, which he speaks very highly of.

### Grey, E. R.

REPORTED BY W. CONN, HEATHCOTE.

Oats—Banner and Bavarian yielded best.

There was very little barley grown.

Most of the varieties of spring wheat rusted. I think all the different varieties of fall wheat that were grown were good. The Seneca and Velvet Chaff were mostly grown.

### Brant, S. R.

REPORTED BY D. G. HANMER, MT. VERNON.

Red Winter Wheat—The Manchester stands first. In a four years' test it has proved hardy, a good yielder, and weighing 62 to 63 pounds to the bushel. It can be grown with as much profit at two or three cents less per bushel than most of the other red wheats. Red Clawson gave good results last year, being its first year of cultivation here. In white wheats the White Surprise will probably rank first, although the White Clawson is successfully grown here yet by a number of good farmers.

The season's crop of barley was below the average in quality and quantity. Not much two-rowed barley was grown, and, although some of the samples were of a high quality, the yield was not satisfactory. Very little, if any, will be grown here the coming season.

In oats the American Banner and Probenstein are largely grown. A little over two acres of the Early Gothland was grown by myself the past season, with such excellent results that my next season's crop will be grown from this variety.

### Brant, N. R.

REPORTED BY R. S. STEVENSON, ANCASTER.

Oats—Black Tartarian and White Russian have both done well here.