

my neighbors did; we supposed that the spring months were the only proper ones for that purpose. But later in life, by reading agricultural papers, I discovered that some enterprising farmers were successful in sowing their grass-seed in August or September. I tried the experiment with complete success: that being the season it would naturally fall, it appeared evident to my mind that it was the right one. But still later I have not been particular, and have sowed grass-seed at any season when my ground was prepared to receive it, and if the seed was good it has uniformly vegetated and done well.

Last fall we (my son and myself) after harvesting our potatoes from the low, wet soil, which will not admit of seeding down in early spring, sowed herds-grass and red-top seed on the 14th and 15th of October upon said potato field, doubting, but still hoping for the best; and now, the 8th of July, it bids fair to give us the best crop of hay produced on any of my farm lots. This grass probably will require two weeks longer time to grow than that which has been seeded down longer. I think I never saw seed vegetate any better at any season. Grass-seed will vegetate a longer time after being sowed. In the spring of 1862, I seeded down a lot of good ground, but rather dry, with red-top seed; the months of June and July were uncommonly dry, and at the middle of August there was no appearance of grass sprout on the piece. On the 10th of August, the same year, it began to rain profusely, and continued raining for several weeks till the ground was saturated. In September, more than four months after the seed was sown, every seed seemed to vegetate, and the ground appeared like a beautiful lawn. And on the whole, I have concluded that any time when our land is in a good state of preparation to receive the seed, is the best time to sow it. SILAS BROWN.

#### BUCKTHORN FOR HEDGES.

This thorn is used to a considerable extent in Clinton, and vicinity, for hedges. It grows to a sufficient height and thickness in five or six years, and if clipped annually it makes as beautiful and efficient an hedge as one can desire. In the severe climate of Central New York it never winter-kills, not even the tips of the branches.

A writer of the *Prairie Farmer*, (Chicago) makes some remarks of this shrub, which are mainly correct. He says:

As briefly as possible let me enumerate

some of which I understand to be its points of merit:

1. With proper care it will make a thorough defense against all kinds of stock in six years from the seed.

2. It is perfectly hardy in the highest latitudes, growing wild in Siberia.

3. It is a *shrub* (not a tree) and naturally attains a height of but 12 or 15 feet.

4. It is propagated from seed which germinates as readily as peas, and may be transplanted from the seed-bed at the age of one or two years, with as little per cent. of loss as any other woody plant.

5. No insect feeds upon it or attacks it, and it therefore harbors none.

6. The sap is acrid, bitter, and extremely unpleasant to the taste. Stock are rarely tempted to browse it.

7. It bears severe pruning at any time, and may be trimmed as often as desired during the growing season without danger of starting a feeble growth to be killed the following winter.—As a consequence of this the tender shoots may be cut, and the hedge preserved in proper shape by the use of the common Dutch grass-hook alone—one man thoroughly pruning half a mile per day with ease; while the portions cut off may be left where they fall without injury, inconvenience or unsightliness, or may be raked up and handled *without gloves*.

8. The hedge may and should be confined to a base not exceeding five feet in width, and after maturity without extra labor be kept at a uniform height of six feet; or, if shelter is desired, it may be allowed to attain a greater height, say ten feet, without danger to its efficiency as a fence, or increase of width at the base.

9. It does not "sprout from the root," and there need be no apprehension, when setting it near cultivated grounds, of having a forest where you desired only a fence.

10. It is beautiful both in foliage and fruit, which latter (small berries with four seeds in each) it begins to bear at the age of four years.

*Why is it not already in general use?*—I know no reason except the one as stated by Mr. Downing in 1847;—"Its thorns stand at the point of each shoot of the old wood. Hence it is that a buckthorn hedge does not appear, and is not, really, well armed with thorns till it has attained its full shape and has had a couple of seasons' shearing. "After that," he adds, "the hedge being well furnished with the ends of the shoots, it presents thorns on every face."