

Barley.

SIR,—Enclosed you will find a few grains of black barley. It may be something new to you. It will yield as many bushels by measure per acre as the six-rowed white barley, and it weighs 63 lbs. per bushel.

Hillsburg, March 8th, 1875.

[The sample is very good. It is not new to us; we do not find it generally appreciated, although we consider it very valuable for feed for stock. There appears to be no demand for it for shipping purposes, as brewers prefer the common barley. We should be pleased to have information regarding it from those who may have raised it for profit, showing its utility and superiority over other grains. Then it might be introduced generally.—Ed.]

Accommodation for Hogs.

SIR,—I wish you could give us, through your valuable paper, a description of a suitable house to accommodate from 10 to 15 hogs, which would be convenient and profitable to the owner, and comfortable for the animals, and you would oblige yours truly,

E. WALKER.

Onondaga, April 8th, 1875.

[We will feel obliged to any of our readers who will send us a plan and description, or a description unaccompanied by a plan, of such a piggery as Mr. Walker is desirous of having constructed.—Ed.]

J. G. Littlejohn, Leeds Co., would criticize some parts of our last number, but does not know that Eastern criticism would satisfy our Western farmers. Is highly pleased with the paper on the whole, some articles especially. We would like to have Mr. L. criticize our paper. There is nothing would please us more than discussions on various topics of agriculture. Such criticisms and discussions must be of service. Observe, think, judge and act, every man, for yourselves.—S.

Horticultural Department.**May.**

By Alexander Pontey, Horticultural Editor of the Farmer's Advocate.

For all gardening operations this is the busiest month of the year; if we are to reap a bounteous harvest of flowers, this month and the previous one must lay the foundation for it. If we are to have our tables furnished with the various varieties of vegetables all through their seasons, this month must be well used. The gardener who will succeed in all his multitudinous duties must adopt the motto—"Constant and unwavering watchfulness is the price of success." The fickleness of our climate is well illustrated by the contrast of the bright sunny weather of the early part of April with the severe cold and gloomy days of the middle of the month, and it must convince the greatest novice in gardening of the truth of the motto. One single omission to protect a hot-bed on one of those cold nights, or a too rash confidence in the weather of the present month, and injudiciously planting out some tender flower or vegetable without the means of protection at hand, may result in the greatest disaster.

Scotch gardeners taking situations in England, as a rule, are more successful than their English brethren, and for no other reason than that the severity of their climate at the season when all forcing, &c., has to be done, compels them to a watchfulness exceeding in its closeness that required in the more genial climate of England.

All gardening operations, with the exception of planting out half hardy and tender plants (which should be deferred until after the June frosts have passed) should be completed this month, and by the middle of it, if possible. If the vegetable garden has not already been fully stocked with seeds, no time must be lost in doing it now. Put in the plow or spade, and, instead of going to the trouble of forming beds (now that the necessity of getting rid of extra moisture does not exist), which

seems to be a kind of stereotyped passion in most gardeners, level the ground off, rake it well, and put everything in parallel rows, varying according to what you are sowing or planting, from 12 inches to 2½ feet apart, thereby giving yourself an opportunity of going through them readily with a hoe, and, if necessary, even just as the seeds are breaking the ground.

Ground should be planted or sown just as soon as it has been prepared, thereby giving the crop an equal chance with the weeds, which are always ready to take their part in furnishing the garden with a crop. On this ground, also, we prefer waiting to put in a great many of the smaller seeds until the earth has attained a degree of warmth sufficient to cause the immediate vegetation of the seeds; otherwise the weed seeds, which are hardier and excited to growth under less favorable circumstances, will get the start, and are correspondingly more troublesome to get rid of. Above all things, bear in mind that you cannot grow two crops (a crop of weeds and a crop of vegetables) properly on the same ground at the same time.

As in our last issue we gave a list of some varieties of seeds best suited for hot-bed culture, we now give a list of some things for immediate sowing in the garden, which, in our opinion, are the best of their kinds:

PEAS.—First Early.—Laxton's Alpha, Carter's First Crop, Daniel O'Rourke, Kentish Invicta, McLean's Advancer.

These varieties grow from 2 to 2½ feet high, and may be grown without sticking, yet we think the extra yield, if supported by sticks, pays for the trouble.

Later varieties, which can be sown at intervals of a week to ensure succession of crop: Laxton's Prolific, Dwarf Blue Imperial, Champion of England, McLean's Premier.

For those who are anxious to secure new varieties another year, we see advertised in the *Gardener's Chronicle*, published in London, England, Sutton's Emerald Gem, Sutton's Giant Emerald Marrow, Sutton's Duchess of Edinburgh—all highly spoken of, and sold at the modest sum of from 2s. 6d. to 5s. sterling per quart.

BEETS.—Early Blood Turnip and Long Blood Red.

CARROTS.—Early Scarlet Horn and the Intermediate.

CORN.—Crosby's Early Sweet, and Stowell's Evergreen for late.

CABBAGE.—Early York, Early Jersey Wakefield, Winningstadt, Flat Dutch, St. Denis, Stonemason; and for use in spring in preference to all others, the Drumhead Savoy; invariably comes sound out of the pits.

CAULIFLOWER.—Extra Early Paris and Deuri Dur.

MELONS.—Musk.—Improved Nutmeg, Skillman's Fine Netted, and for larger variety, the Yellow Cantelope.

ONIONS.—Danver's Yellow and Weathersfield Large Red.

TOMATOES.—Canada Victor, Trophy and General Grant.

TURNIPS.—Flat Dutch, Improved Early Six Weeks.

HERBS.—Sage—Sweet Majoram, Summer Savory, Thyme and Sweet Basil are the varieties most used by the housekeeper.

Before the termination of the month all tree and shrub planting should be finished. Nurserymen have extended the season when trees can be safely planted by the digging up of large quantities early in spring and heeling them in again, thereby checking and retarding the growth which would take place much sooner if they were not disturbed. It seems almost superfluous now, in this age of activity among nursery agents, to give a list of things desirable for a well ordered homestead in the several departments, but as there may yet be some to whom the information will be news, we append a list of some of the leading varieties of ornamental trees and shrubs which can be depended upon to give satisfaction to the planter, with ordinary care and attention; the list could be enlarged considerably, but it would be by the addition of kinds that would entail upon the planter extra trouble in their protection.

All our native maples are well known, and for the beauty of their varied foliage in the fall can hardly be surpassed. The Silver-Leaved, Norway and Ash-Leaved, though not so generally known, are handsome varieties, the Silver-Leaved being especially desirable where an early effect is wished for, on account of its rapid growth.

The Horse Chestnut, European Mountain Ash, Oak-Leaved Mountain Ash, European Linden, Cut

Leaved Linden, Tulip Tree, Kentucky Coffee Tree, European Larch, American Elms, Scotch or Wych Elm, Purple-Leaved Elm, Silver-Striped Elm, European Alder, Golden and Rosemary-Leaved Willow, with all the varieties of Poplar, viz., Lombardy, Balsam and Silver-Leaved, are well known, and are many of them useful among evergreens for wind screens, rapidity of growth and large foliage being desirable qualities possessed by many of them.

WEeping TREES.—Weeping Mountain Ash, Weeping English Ash, Kilmarnock and New American Weeping Willows, Weeping Scotch Elm, Cut-Leaved Weeping Birch.

The following list of hardy flowering shrubs will make a desirable collection:

Almond—Dwarf double-flowered and pink white; Berberry—European red-fruited and purple-leaved; Currants—Yellow and crimson flowering; Fringe—Purple and white; Lilacs—Persian white and purple, Siberian, purple, white and crimson flowering; Daphne Mazerron—Pink, 1st early, in flower almost before the snow is away; Honeysuckles—Tree or Tartarian, two or three varieties; Spirea, six varieties, all with white and creamy-white flowers, none of them growing more than 3 to 4 ft. high; Syringa or Mock Orange—Sweet scented and pretty.

Among climbing shrubs, useful for covering up unsightly objects near the house, the following cannot be dispensed with:

Ampelopsis quinquefolia or Virginia Creeper—leaves turning to a brilliant scarlet in the fall; Veitchii—a miniature variety of the above; Sweet scented Honeysuckle—too well known to need description; several varieties.

ROSES.—Queen of Prairies, Baltimore Belle, President, Mrs. Hovey, Queen of Belgians, Madam Caradora Allan—varying from pure white to rosy blush. The above are all climbing varieties, and require protection in winter to prevent the wood being injured.

Space will not admit of going into a list of the constantly increasing varieties of fruit trees and small fruits. We would only say to those planting—Confine yourselves to kinds of known merit where extensive planting is contemplated, and be satisfied to plant sparingly of new varieties until you have had an opportunity of testing or seeing them tested by others. Many things succeed well in one locality which will not do well in others. Above all, in planting fruit trees, be particular to cut back severely all of the previous year's growth—say to within four buds of the base, and mulch the surface of the ground immediately about the tree to a depth of five or six inches with some material which will prevent the ground from drying up. Tie securely to stakes driven firmly in the ground, and look out closely for caterpillars and other insects through the summer.

Ornamenting a Road.

Before you dismiss the subject of "Public Roads," please allow me to say a word in regard to ornamenting a road. If my judgment does not deceive me, I think farmers are very indifferent about ornamenting their homes, and as to beautifying the road in their front, well! how many do it?

Now, in my judgment, here is one place where farmers miss it. There is nothing that will give a road so graceful a look as to see a row of beautiful trees along the side of it, and the farm will also partake of the beauty. There need not be a great expense about it. Take the most common forest trees; set them out carefully, and they will do. Oaks, maples, ashes, elms, chestnuts and pines will do the thing well, and there are not many places in New England where these trees cannot be procured. I would urge every farmer to keep our idea in mind and to try it.

If the roads were more generally ornamented, it would add a greater pleasure to the travel upon them. If an interest could be awakened in one department the interest would soon extend to others. We think farmers would be the gainers by looking into these matters more than they do. Do not wait for the town to move, but move yourself. The more beautiful we make the country the more attractive it will be both to ourselves and to others.

A farmer should neglect no opportunity to add value to his property, and this is one place where he can invest a few days' work to great advantage. No subject comes nearer to a farmer's interest than the public road, and therefore farmers should study it deeper than they do.—J. N. A. in *Massachusetts Plowman*.

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