

the roots of a single bunch or cluster of each plant are to be taken, eight quarts of water added, and the whole boiled down to six. This is cooled, the seed corn added and left for an hour or so, after which it is drained, placed in a basket while still moist, and left until it sprouts a little. In olden times, according to David Jack, some one would bring a quantity of the root to the longhouse and each person who intended to plant anything would be given a piece. The directions of the latter informant were to take a whole plant of the bottle-brush grass¹ (Ca., gu'sdista') and about 4 inches of the rootstock of the phragmites (usa'ge'enda'); these are crushed and added to about five quarts of warm water.

At Tonawanda, N.Y., wild rye (*Elymus canadensis*) was given instead of bottle-brush grass², one having possibly been confused with or substituted for the other. Seneca names for phragmites, given by Barber Black, were gasa'ge'äda' and yen'wε'da'gwa' one'q'.³ Mrs. Peter Sundown, who comes from Alleghany, gave disdi'sdan' for one ingredient.

Quite different materials from those named are used in some localities. Peter John, Onondaga, employed the leaves of the mandrake (*Podophyllum peltatum*). These were simply placed in the water, the flowers of the elder (*Sambucus canadensis*) being also sometimes added.

None of the medicines described are poisonous, although Kalm records the use of the wild hellebore (*Veratrum album*) by the Swedes and other colonists of the eastern states,⁴ possibly in imitation of the Indians.

Sagard observed that the Hurons soaked their seed-grain in warm water, although no herbal ingredients are mentioned.⁵

¹ The same informant later showed a sample of nodding fescue grass, *Festuca nutans*, as the proper material, showing that some uncertainty exists regarding this ingredient, or that different grasses are used.

² Informant, Barber Black.

³ The latter is simply a general name meaning "medicine for putting corn in." A Cayuga equivalent to this, given by David Jack, was enä'häwε' 'da'kwa' onq'gwatra.

⁴ Kalm, *Travels*, vol. II, pp. 91, 92.

⁵ Sagard, *Grand Voyage*, Tross ed., pt. I, p. 93.