

from a greenish yellow and a yellowish green to a deep purple, depending upon the variety. Some varieties are striped, others are uniform in colour. The leaves are somewhat narrower, but otherwise resemble those of Indian corn. In Louisiana, the seed never ripens, in fact the flowers are never seen. In more southern latitudes where its growth is not interfered with by frost, it matures in about 18 months. It is a perennial. Its seeds are small and its flowers form an open panicle.

On the North American continent, Louisiana has ever held the position of the sugar manufacturing centre. The centennial of the first manufacture of sugar was celebrated at the sugar experimental station of Louisiana on June 30th, 1894. The southern half of the State is almost exclusively devoted to this industry, and but little cane is grown north of this. The sugar cane is propagated by a modified form of cuttings. The stalks, or sometimes portions of them, are laid in a horizontal position, generally two along side of each other, in furrows from four to eight inches deep and covered with finely pulverized earth. These stalks serve the same purpose as the planted potato. The buds develop into the new plants and the stalks serve to supply nutrition to them till they are able to draw food from the soil. The rows of cane are generally about five or six feet apart, formerly they were from three to five feet. In the rows the plants appear about every six to twelve inches; but, as the season advances, these multiply by stooling, tillering, or suckering, in direct proportion to the fertility of the soil. With favourable conditions an acre will produce upwards of 30 tons of cane, and each ton gives 175 to 200 lbs. of sugar.

In Louisiana, where frost that injures the cane, frequently occurs in the latter part of December, harvesting is generally begun about the middle of October, and continued for two or three months. The cane is cut by hand with very wide thin-bladed knives about 18 inches long. The leaves and top of the cane are removed at the same time and the stalks conveyed by carts, or on the larger plantations, by cars to the sheds of the factory. Here it must not be allowed to accumulate too much; for, like sorghum (and other plants from which sugar is occasionally made), cane deteriorates soon after it is cut. At present, the majority of planters have their own sugar houses. These are, however, gradually being replaced by central factories, and in the course