

The French people in Maine, who have cultivated and raised these onions more than any others, have long been in the habit of preparing their lands and setting them out in the Fall. In this way they make sure of their seed, which might otherwise be lost by rot, for we never find an onion of this sort hurt by winter freezing in the ground, but we find them well started to grow when the snow goes off. How this would be where they do not have much snow and frozen ground, we cannot say, but this is the usual order. If they can have highly manured land, and the benefit of their first start in growth, they will grow to a good size. Another thing not generally understood is, that the smaller the seed the better the growth. They break the onions apart, pick out the largest to cook, and plant the smallest, and the French never eat them in two. This may seem an anomaly in scientific culture, but it is the case. In this one thing—that "weeds" make the largest onions.