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What Farmers want to Know

The "Pure Seed Man's" New Book is certainly different from the many other seed books that come to our desk. When a book or letter is written by a man who has a thorough personal knowledge of his business and adds to that knowledge his best painstaking effort, the result is interesting reading. In this particular seed book one reads living, breathing pages. Not the usual stereotyped technical terms of the seed trade, but the heart to heart talk of a man who talks and writes of his seed business, his long experience and his life in general, in a way that makes you at once feel and see that profit in business is not the only consideration a man may have for living. There are many things in the seed business that are important for every farmer to know. Many of these things do not show on the outside and neither is it easily possible to learn them. Many of these very important things are put into understandable English in the Pure Seed Man's new book. To get a free copy of it write the Shenandoah Pure Seed Co., 303 Lowell Ave., Shenandoah, Iowa, and mention this paper when writing.

Grows From Seed FOUR MONTHS FROM PLANTING. A few Ground Almonds (Chufa) growing in your garden this year will give you a great deal of pleasure. Plant in Spring and you will get a crop in about four months. The nuts are of fine flavor, resembling the pecan or almond; meat is snow white; shell thin, and great producer. One nut planted will produce from 100 to 200 nuts. Will grow in any soil or location. To get new customers to test our seeds we will mail 50 Ground Almond nuts and 1911 Seed Catalogue with 10c. Due Bill, all for 10 cents. Send today and have something in your garden to surprise your neighbors. MILLS SEED CO., Box 600, Washington, Iowa.

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ing, two good eyes are sufficient. When the furrow is opened, before you drop in the potato, put a good sprinkling of well-rotted manure along the bottom of the trench. The tubers will like it. Remember it is the early potato that brings the good price.

In order to multiply your stock, it is well to prepare cuttings of currant, grape, gooseberry, several kinds of plums, some varieties of quince, most of shrubs, willows, poplars, and hedge plants; these will root readily if put into the soil as early as it can be worked, taking the cuttings before buds begin to grow. They should be set about six inches apart, and the soil well firmed about them, set deep enough so that only the uppermost bud shows. They must be cultivated and hoed all summer.

Onion seeds may be sown as soon as the frost is out of the ground. Peas should be in the ground among the first things, and should be planted fairly deep. Beets, spinach, and all half-hardy vegetables may be the first things, and should be among the first things, and as soon as the plants get good size, transplant to six inches apart, cultivate carefully in rich ground, and see it grow.

Start asparagus beds, either from seeds or plants. Almost any seedsmen's catalogue will tell you how it is done. Asparagus is not grown enough by the home gardener. Set out a bed this spring.

The Strawberry Bed

If you have never had a strawberry bed, you have missed a great deal, and if you have one, and let it "run down," you are very culpable. Get the ground ready as quickly as possible, and reset for a new bed, if the old is failing. Some contend that it is better that this should be done the previous autumn; but no matter; if you neglected it then, do not add to your neglect now. Set the plants early and give them good culture. They won't (or should not be allowed to) bear very much of a crop this season, but they will give you plenty of fruit next spring. Then, this autumn, try to make up for last year's neglect, and have plenty of strawberries. There is no better fruit. If you have no knowledge of the strawberry plant, get your nurseryman to choose for you, and to advise you as to what varieties to get and how to care for them. There are scrubs among plants, just as among animals, and they are just as worthless. Novelties are not advised, except in small numbers as experiments. Stick to the recognized standards, but be sure to plant something worth while.

Hardy Ornamental Vines

Nothing is more beautiful about the home than the hardy ornamental vines or climbers. The fruit-bearing vines have a place of their own; but nothing can supply the place reserved for beauty except the flower-bearing kind. For the porch or trellis, there is nothing better than the ampelopsis quinquefolia, the different clematises, and the Japanese evergreen honeysuckle. The clematis may be made into a pillar climber, while the Bignonio radicans or (trumpet-flower vine) can be trained into a tree form. These are all hardy, and fine plants of each, singly or in quantities, can be had of the nurserymen at reasonable prices. Once established, they can be multiplied by division of roots, or layering, or cuttings, and some of them by seeds. For clinging on brick or stonewalls, and less securely on wooden walls, there is nothing better than the ampelopsis Veitchii, and there is nothing more beautiful, though there is no bloom.

Old prejudices die hard, and the mistaken notion that a dense growth

of vines makes the walls of a house damp prevents the use of wall climbers, many times. The trellis climbers are mostly roses, and there are now so very many beautiful, ever-blooming hardy roses, as well as the old tried June bloomers, that there is no excuse for neglect of them. They come in many colors, perfectly hardy, and of lovely foliage. The price of good rose plants, whether the mailing size, or those to come by express, is now so reasonable that they should be largely planted. Once getting them started, they may be multiplied by cuttings or layerings. One having the "rose in the heart" will succeed with any of them. Cover all the old, unsightly buildings with these beautiful climbers, and make screens of them to shut off unpleasant sights. You will never be sorry.

Ornamental Hedges

Few things in nature surpass the California privet for hedges where a low-grading effect is wanted. It is excellent for a back-ground, or a dividing line in small gardens or yards. It grows readily from cuttings, and these can be bought by the hundreds cheaply; very few of these fall to grow; yet the florists sell the rooted plants at a very reasonable price, and time is gained by using the rooted plants instead of the cuttings. The growth is rapid, and the plant is very hardy; the foliage is a nice shade of green, and the plant branches thickly; the flowers are borne in panicles of pure white, and cover the well-grown plant in May and June where it is left to get any size.

Short-Stops

Don't neglect to plant a paper of chrysanthemum seeds for the autumn blooming. Asters, though annuals, are most beautiful, and are of many colors, easy to germinate and repay care all summer.

One of the glory-spots of the lawn or garden is the bed of tea-roses. A great many of the tea roses are hardy, with a little care, and they can be had, well rooted, for a small price.

There are many hardy, ever-blooming roses to be had now, and there is nothing prettier than the ever-blooming pillar roses. Put the grape vine at the back of the house, for utility, but fill the front and side spaces with climbing, flowering vines. A trellis should be built a few inches from the house wall, and the vines trained on that.

Give the boy a garden spot of his own; give him time and tools to keep it cultivated, and let him sell his produce, either to your own self or the market. Treat him fairly, and let him have what is justly his. Let him have a few flower seeds, too, but insist that he realizes the responsibility of caring for them.

Peas will stand frosts, and even light snows. Sown early enough they should begin to bear by the first of May.

Grass plats need attention; all the old, dead grass should be well raked off, the little holes and hollows filled in with soil, and the naked places re-sown with seeds. If the growth of grass is scant, sow the best seeds you can get, and sow early.

A dressing of wood ashes is a good thing for a lawn. Newly seeded lawns should not be trampled upon.

If you are going to have sweet peas, you must plant them just as soon as you can get them into the soil. Plant in trenches, cover lightly,

and draw the soil to them as they grow.

One of the easiest grown palms is the fillifera, or weeping palm. The seeds germinate readily, and the plant grows rapidly, with little care.

TREES

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