

Agricultural Department.

R. W. FURNAS, EDITOR.

ANNUAL ELECTION

Notice of the Nebraska County Agricultural and Mechanical Association.

Hardy Apples and Pears.

Many are the enquiries as to the hardy varieties of apples, especially such as will stand our climate.

1. What kind of apples would you recommend?

2. Is there any kind of crab apples that would pay to raise?

3. What kind of pears will answer, and whether dwarf or standard are the best?

4. How old trees would you say was best to set out?

5. What distance would you plant them apart each way?

6. What kind of trees best to set out first, and what breaks such as will grow rapidly?

7. Is there any kind of evergreen that will answer for protection, growing rapidly?

To these enquiries Mr. Fairbanks replies through the Rural New Yorker of February 20th, and from which we extract the following important points:

"The Duchess of Oldenburg, for hardiness, leads the apple list. The Tetofsky is reported equally hardy; but with it I have had no acquaintance. I place next to the above two varieties, the Talman Orange, Red Astrachan, Farnesse, St. Lawrence, and the Golden Russet, for its long keeping qualities, though not quite so hardy."

"The Transcendent Crab, I think will pay to raise. The Large Red and Large Yellow Siberians are said to be the best flavored for preserving; and I can only speak of varieties selected from those I am acquainted with."

"For hardiness, the Flemish Beauty leads the pear. Next to it we regard the Ananas d'Orléans, the Orange, and the Beurre and Winter Nellis; and yet I have seen many trees of the same varieties winter kill, and the above varieties are said to be the best for the climate of this State."

"The site and exposure of the orchard plot would have its influence in the distance apart that I would set fruit trees. With a northeastern face or slope, I would set them further apart than with any other facing. While engaged in the sale of fruit trees, my general directions were to set apple trees only twenty feet apart; but I have seen them doing so well set much closer that I have been almost tempted to recommend much closer planting. It must be borne in mind that with us fruit trees generally fall their bodies first, and when set closely the tops of one shade the body of their neighbor. However, in close setting, I would set those varieties in which I had the greatest confidence in alternate rows each way, and the others I would set in the intervening spaces."

"For the purpose of growing wind breaks I have thought it would be advisable to set the locust and the basswood or Linden, as I am of the mind that a fruit grower might advantageously pursue both courses, in which case wind breaks would prove a source of profit to him through his bees. I think the Fir, Balsam and Norway Spruce would be good evergreens to set for wind breaks, and the Balsam grows the fastest."

"We heartily endorse all Mr. Fairbanks says, except as to the age of trees to be planted. Our experience is in favor of planting young trees. They always have larger roots in proportion to the top, and having these, you can make the tops just what you please. They suffer less in transplanting, and at the end of three years will be far ahead of those six times their size at the time of planting. Making most of their growth where they are to remain, they soon become stocky and sturdy, and perfectly adapted to their soil and climate. They cost less at the nursery, less for freight, and less to haul and plant. We believe the majority of fruit planters and growers think as we do in this respect."

"TRANSACTIONS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY for the year 1885. To the Secretary, Mr. E. W. Bushnell, of Boston, we are indebted for a copy of this valuable work of one hundred and sixteen pages. It contains all the transactions of the society for the year, including reports of committees on fruits, flowers, vegetables, gardens, library and gratinities, together with the address of the President, J. F. C. Hyde, Esq., a collection of very valuable notes."

"L. E. DAKA, Rochester, New York, makes a specialty of small fruits, and offers inducements to those who wish to purchase."

Communicated.

LYONS, IOWA, Feb. 18, 1886.

Dear Sir: Have just finished reading your article on European Larch.

While I think the general tenor of the article true, yet it may lead parties to err in the planting and culture of this noble tree. European Larch is not easily raised from the seed. We find it the most difficult of any of the deciduous or coniferous tree to raise in the seed bed—and our experience is confirmed by the testimony of all planters with whom we have conversed. We have obtained the best seed possible—planted it with great care—and yet in every instance have failed to see them germinate and grow in paying quantities. Norway Spruce, White Pine, Balsam Fir, and in fact all the coniferous trees hardy enough for this latitude, planted on same ground and treated alike, grew finely, and have done well. It is probable that this seed is damaged from exposure to air or light in the interval of time it is taken from the cone in Europe and planted here the following spring. In order to satisfy ourselves of this, we shall import next season the cones of this tree, and not remove them until they drop out, or just before wanted to plant. The first year this tree makes a very slow growth. If transplanted at the end of the year, it will grow very fast. We have seen specimens transplanted in one year that were three feet high at the end of the third year. From this time on the growth is rapid. The seed can be obtained for two dollars per bushel in small quantities, and at lower rates for larger amounts."

"We desire, however, to warn parties from planting too large a quantity on the first trial. It would be better for farmers to purchase good, stout trees, two years transplanted from seed bed, averaging ten to twelve inches in height, than to grow seedlings or purchase smaller plants. It is our desire to see a tree-planting fever take hold of the farmers, and spread through the entire west; but we, who have tried these experiments, must state the facts, and not lead to failures which will dampen the ardor and enthusiasm evidently at work."

"Now, we have no interest in this matter beyond giving our own experience, in the hope that others may be benefited, and not rush into an expensive seed planting until our experiment has satisfied them they know how to do it."

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
Dr. JNO. E. ENNIS.

P. S.—Since writing the above we have conversed with an English gardener, who informs us he brought over some cones from Europe, and that the seed all came up finely, thus substantiating our opinion that this plan would be successful. J. E. E.

"We have written and published a short article on the subject above referred to, and were governed by the best lights before us. We are glad to hear from the Doctor, and publish his article entire."

"We are promised an article on the subject of growing European Larch in this country, from the pen of E. W. FURNAS, Esq., of Richmond, Indiana. In a private letter he says: 'I have visited Europe mainly to investigate the Larch question.'"

"THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL INTELLIGENCER is the name of a new agricultural journal before us. It hails from Buio, Richardson county, Nebraska, and edited by S. W. Brooke; J. W. Burns associate editor, and J. P. Hampton publisher. The Intelligence is published in pamphlet form, of twenty-four pages, monthly, at \$1.50 per annum. We welcome this new paper to our list of exchanges. The establishment of this periodical in Southern Nebraska indicates more than may at first be imagined. It is an evidence of an agricultural taste and determination which speaks volumes for this section of our State. Whatever may be its success financially, its efforts and labors will bring about good results. Success to the Intelligence!"

"BLISS' CATALOGUE FOR 1886.—We are indebted to B. K. Bliss & Son, 41 Park Row, New York, for a copy of their gorgeously illustrated 'Spring Catalogue and Amateur's Guide to the Flower and Kitchen Garden for 1886.' It contains a large amount of valuable instruction touching the cultivation of vegetables and flowers, and a large colored plate of the new Japan Lily—Lilium Auratum."

"THE BEE KEEPER'S JOURNAL, is a valuable monthly newspaper, published at Nevada, Ohio, by H. A. King & Co., and edited by H. A. King and Ellen S. Tupper, at one dollar a year. We find it an able journal in its line. The publishers of the Journal have issued a very valuable little book, called 'Hints to Beekeepers,' which they send by mail to any address for ten cents."

"FINE FLOWER SEEDS.—To the house of Wm. H. Lyman, Leverett, Mass., we are indebted for a very fine collection of Flower Seeds; embracing everything desirable. The seed are fresh and pure, and are set up in good order and plainly marked with both the botanical and common names. Mr. Lyman's seeds cannot fail to please."

"FERRIS & CATWOOD, of Foughkeeps, New York, are the desiminator of the renowned Walter Grape, of which we have heretofore spoken. See their advertisement in the spoken column. They can also furnish anything in the nursery line."

"HENRY A. DREER, Seedman and Florist, Philadelphia, offers a rare priced list of seeds. Look it over carefully. Mr. Dreer's reputation is No. 1."

"SEE the advertisement of Pinney & Weed, who offer evergreens at remarkably low prices by the quantity. Smaller lots at reasonable rates."

"THOMPSON, MYERS & Co., Brookfield, Mo., are offering nursery stock and premiums for subscriptions to the 'Journal of Horticulture,' published by Tilton & Co., Boston, Mass."

"L. E. DAKA, Rochester, New York, makes a specialty of small fruits, and offers inducements to those who wish to purchase."

Dreer's Garden Seeds!

ALWAYS RELIABLE.

Fresh and Genuine.

FARMERS, GARDENERS, and all others in want of seeds, will find it to their advantage to send their orders to the Seed Merchant.

The following are a few of the leading varieties:

Best Swiss Extra Early 10 1/2

Early Blood Red 10 1/2

Early Dutch 10 1/2

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DO YOU WANT TREES FOR

THE PRAIRIES?

THE PRAIRIES.—If you do, look at the following prices. These trees are all nursery grown, and are guaranteed to be true to name.

White Elm, one year old, 50 per 1000

Am. Arbor-Vitae, 4 to 12 inches, 10 per 100

Norway Spruce, 6 to 12 inches, 10 per 100

Am. Larch, 6 to 12 inches, 10 per 100

European Larch, 6 to 12 inches, 10 per 100

Send orders at once for your trees, that you may not be disappointed.

THOMPSON, MYERS & Co., Brookfield, Mo.

EVERGREEN & FOREST TREE SEEDLINGS.

For the Prairies of Nebraska.

On our Western Prairies, every struggling farmer is fully aware. The following from the Gardeners' Guide, we will send you free of charge.

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PREMIER GRAPE VINE SEEDLING.

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NURSERIES.

400 Acres of Open ROLLING PRAIRIE.

Deciduous & Ornamental TREES AND SHRUBS.

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