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## **The Wisconsin horticulturist...issued monthly, under the management of the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society, for the purpose of disseminating horticultural information. Vol. II, No. 2 April 1897**

Wisconsin State Horticultural Society  
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VOL. II.

APRIL 1897.

NO. 2.

# The Wisconsin Horticulturist...

Issued Monthly,

Under the Management of the

Wisconsin

State Horticultural Society,

for the purpose of

Disseminating Horticultural  
Information.

✻ Subscription Price Fifty Cents Per Annum. ✻

# Wisconsin State Horticultural Society.



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## The Wisconsin Horticulturist.

This is a monthly magazine published under the management of the State Horticultural Society.

Its aim is the dissemination of horticultural information.

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All business communications should be addressed to the Business Manager,

W. J. MOYLE,

Madison, Wis.

All matter for publication should be sent to the Editor,

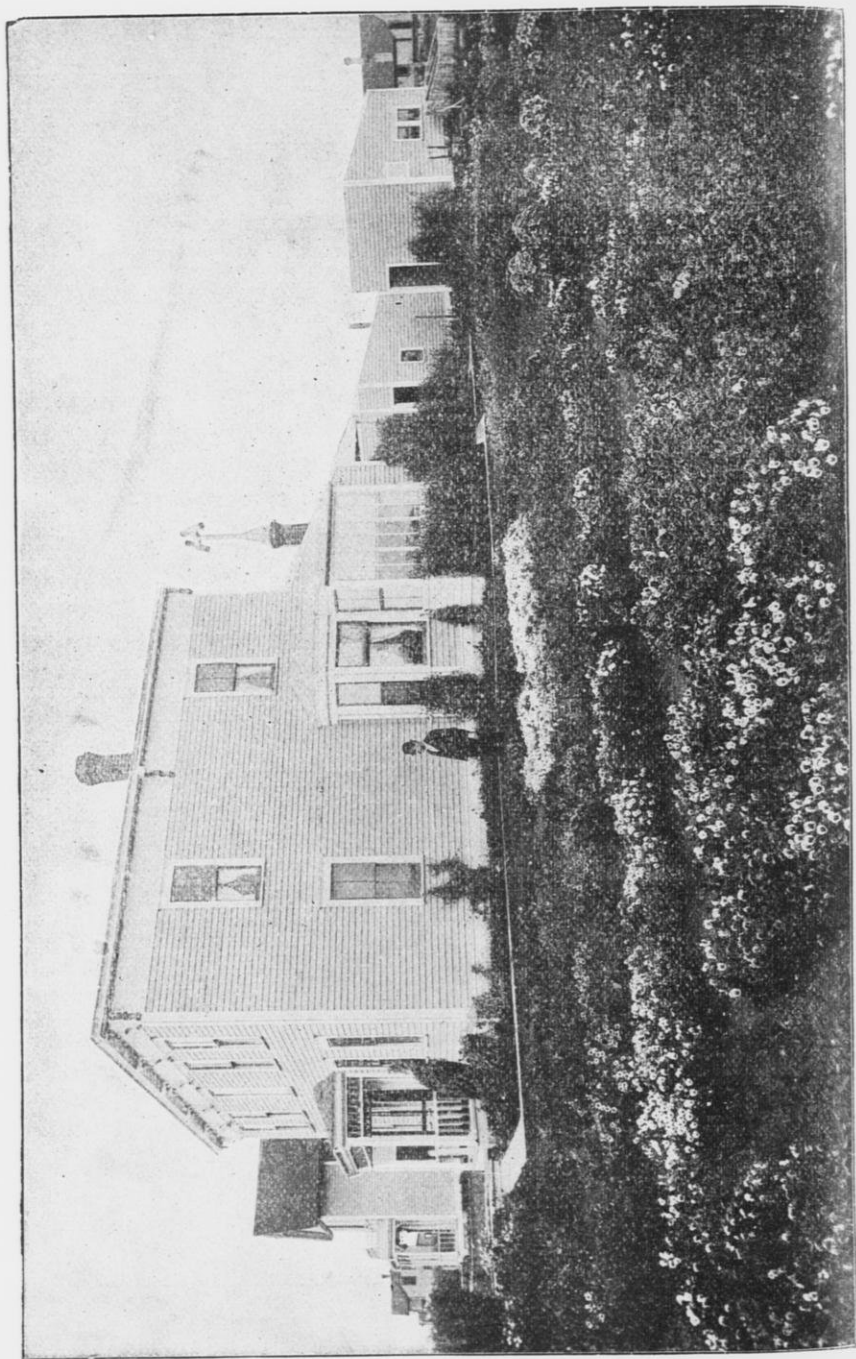
MRS. FRANKLIN JOHNSON,

Baraboo, Wis.

[Entered as second class matter in the Post Office at Baraboo, Wis.]







# The Wisconsin Horticulturist.

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VOL. II.

APRIL.

NO. 2.

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## RHUBARB OR PIE-PLANT.

By J. R. Bones.

I prefer the name pie-plant, as it is what "club" pies are made from, and is the plant which grows out of that horrible root called Rhubarb, the very name of which takes me back to BITTER experiences of my callow youth.

Pie-plant is the easiest of all the gardener's crops to grow ; will grow on all soils and in any climate.

For best results, however, the ground cannot be too rich. All the barnyard manure that can be plowed down or worked in is what is needed for big stalks and lots of them.

Plant in rows three feet apart and two feet apart in the row, in April. Old clumps cut to one bud, with a piece of root the size of a fist, is the proper set. Plant shallow, leaving the bud above ground.

Keep the ground well stirred with the cultivator until the leaves get too large, and again the next spring before they start.

Victoria is the kind for market. Victoria grown from seed will not do nor plants from the average nurseryman. The genuine Victoria was introduced in Cleveland and Chicago many years since by Dr. Kennicott, the naturalist,

and is the kind grown by most of the Chicago gardeners now. I have discarded five other varieties as lacking in yield and quality, and market here in Racine over twenty tons each season of the Victoria.

Do not commence to pull until nearly full size or you will delay the crop; stop the first of July or you will pull from next year's crop.

In this market it is sold by the pound, so all bunching is avoided. My price to the grocer is \$1.00 per cwt. for the season.

The plant is a very encouraging one; the rows will be green the last of April, when there is snow in the air, and you have on overcoat and mittens, and a northeaster is blowing.

Racine, Wis.



#### OUR FRONTISPIECE.

"Ten Thousand Pansy Blossoms."

To begin with, allow us to explain that this descriptive item should have appeared on the opening page of the magazine, opposite the picture. That it became misplaced was the fault (or misfortune) of the editor.

The view which our frontispiece represents was taken Sept. 7, 1895, and shows the residence and flower garden of Jarvis White, Superior, Douglas Co., Wis.

This garden, at that date, contained thousands of pansy blossoms, as well as sweet peas and other flowering plants of the most thrifty character. To many of our readers it will be a revelation that flowers can grow with such luxuriance so near the northern border of our State—a region we had pictured as "the frozen north."

For the cut we are indebted to Prof. Goff of the Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Wisconsin. It was taken from "Northern Wisconsin," a Hand Book for the Home Seeker, prepared under the direction of Prof. Henry, Dean of the College of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin.

## WHAT SHALL WE PLANT?

An important question that must soon be answered. In the matter of farm crops the wisdom of our answer will be verified in a single season, and mistakes can be corrected in the following season. But how about planting trees? Here mistakes are more lasting, and results not fully reached even in an average life-time.

In a matter of such importance how much shall we depend upon the evidence of the itinerant tree vender?

Discussing or recommending varieties of fruits is too broad a subject for me. Fortunately most of us have within our reach excellent object lessons, and those who have not, have in books and papers all the wisdom of all the experts, so in a multitude of counselors there is—A WORLD OF CONFUSION!

While this is also true of shade trees, the field is not so broad, and I will venture to mention a few of my favorites.

Among broad, generous shade, like elms and hard maples, within my observation, none pleases me so much as the Norway Maple. In twenty years' trial I have never seen a tree injured by climate, and for compact, shapely form, and broad, luxuriant foliage, it has few equals.

Why it is not more common is doubtless because it is very slow for the first few years. The first three or four years in nursery, which bring an elm or soft maple to selling size, will only get this fairly started. But after that, with good treatment, it may be safely counted on for a growth of two feet per year. It seeds freely and the seed germinate well. The seedlings should remain two years in the seed bed, being carefully mulched to guard against heaving by frost; then transplant into nursery rows and they will move right along. When ready to plant permanently they will not be as straight and smooth as elms or soft maples, but plant a few, even if small and crooked, for when planted singly they will improve, as we have seen an awkward boy do when he assumed the responsibilities of a

man, and their broad, dense shade will surely please you.

I have always admired the sturdy vigor and delicate pea-green color of the Box Elder—*Acer Negundo*—but like the rest of us, IT HAS A FAULT; it seeds very freely, and those seeds, dropped by the wind in waste places, like the fence corners on some farms, may become aggressive and troublesome.

Is that the fault of the seed or of the farmer?

Of smaller trees, for the lawns, Weeping Birch, American and Oak-leaf Mountain Ash are always satisfactory.

The tree dealer always urges European, instead of American Mountain Ash, because in nursery it makes a growth in three or four years for which the American requires five to seven years, but he fails to tell you that it reaches feeble old age at ten to fifteen years, while the American goes on improving from fifteen to forty years, always showing in foliage and fruit evidence of thrift and prosperity.

In Evergreens the American White Spruce and American Arbor Vitae will give you more lasting service and gratification than all others.

For a new and pleasing shrub try a Golden Leaf Elder. Give it generous treatment and you will have some bright, warm color that will please you the season through.

Near by it plant a *Hydrangea Paniculata Grandiflora* (don't let the name frighten you). This also requires generous treatment and slight winter protection, but it will respond with GENEROUS FLOWERS.

I disappoint you by naming so few. My object is more to set you thinking along this line than to direct your thoughts. There is abundant material to choose from, where you can hardly go amiss. The greatest mistake would be to let a Spring go by and plant nothing. A whole year wasted!

J. S. STICKNEY.

Wauwatosa, Wis.

## SEEDLING FLOWER PLANTS.

By Wm. Toole, the Pansy Specialist.

When the April number of the Wisconsin Horticulturist reaches its readers, they will mostly have purchased their flower seeds and be planning for the season's display of annuals.

Many will trust to the weather, and, planting the seeds in the garden, will have luck good or ill, according to the balancing of sunshine, rain and wind which nature may furnish.

With moist air, neither too hot nor too cold, seeds if not too deeply covered will surely come up. But with unfavorable conditions disappointment must follow.

After experimenting with various methods, we have found nothing so much to our liking for shading seed beds as cloth-covered frames. For each frame we take four full length laths and four pieces cut to three feet long. With these a double-thickness rectangular frame is made, the pieces lapping at the corners, and all held together with wire nails.

To this frame some cheap sheeting is tacked, and as many frames are used as the size of beds may require. Our beds should be made nearly four feet wide and some multiple of three feet in length, according to amount of planting intended. The bed should be enclosed with a frame of boards six inches high on the south side and about a foot on the north side, being closed at the ends.

The seed bed should be rich and thoroughly stirred, with some sand well mixed in, if soil is naturally stiff. We like to give our seed beds a thin covering of sifted woods earth after everything has been made smooth and level and firmly pressed down, but before seeds are sown.

Many kinds of seeds may be safely sown as soon as there is any growth out of doors. We would mention, as we think of them, alyssum, candytuft, petunia, poppy, the different kinds of dianthus, aster, mignonette, pansy, ver-



bona, snapdragon, phlox drummondi, and in fact any kinds which under favorable circumstances come up as self-sown.

Have a board just short enough to go across the bed and inside of the frame, to be used as a straight edge and to stand on when sowing. Make with two pieces of lath a letter T about six inches broad and the same in height. Sharpen the upper edge a little, and this turned upside down, with the standard for a handle, is just what you need to make furrows for the seeds. Make very shallow furrows, for seeds should have not more than three times their diameter for covering. Very small seeds like those of the petunia may well be only pressed into the soil without further covering.

Some small seeds, like English daisy, ageratum and snapdragon, germinate quite readily with but little extra care, while others, like petunia and Chinese primrose, need close watching and may in dry, windy weather need some extra shading in addition to the cloth-covered frames, which should be placed over the beds as soon as seeds are sown and watered.

It is better, if you have knowledge of the habits of different species, to sow near together such kinds as come up about the same time, for plants should be accustomed to sunshine as soon as can safely be done after they come up.

The shading may be taken off at night if the weather is not frosty, replacing the covering a little later and removing it a little earlier each day.

When just coming up is a critical period with seeds, and care must be used to prevent drying at this time. If weather is close and moist give air to guard against damping off, and be sure to keep the cover on during heavy rains.

If not too crowded in the seed rows, plants when large enough may be transferred from the nursery bed to the garden. But such kinds as are hard to transplant may be better replanted in the frames and kept there until they have made a new lot of white roots not long enough to be broken.

These frames are fine to use in hardening off plants



which have been started early in the house, and if plants which have come by mail or express receive a little nursing in these seed beds they will do much better for it.

Heat-loving plants may be started later after the hardier things have been transplanted, and perennials may be sown still later, or in August pansies for wintering over.

We would like to say more, but fear that already too much space has been used.

Baraboo, Wis.



### BRUANT GERANIUMS.

By Amy Wightman.

The Bruant geraniums are a great improvement both in size and color upon the older bedding varieties.

They were introduced some nine years ago from France from the originator of the race, M. Bruant, a prominent horticulturist of that country. He was the first to try experiments in hybridizing the "*gros bois*" type, of which there were but few varieties known. Aurore Boreale, still one of the finest Bruants, was one with which he did his earliest hybridizing. Such experiments require great patience, as the seedlings must reach the blooming size before it can be told whether they are of value or not. Even if fine new varieties, they must be cultivated long enough to give assurance that the type is fixed before they can be propagated by cuttings and offered for sale.

The novelties as imported usually cost florists from one dollar to one dollar and a half for young plants; and when the little leafless specimens arrive they must be grown till the second year before they can be propagated and sold.

The firm of E. G. Hill & Co., wholesale florists, of Richmond, Ind., was the first in this country to give them prominence, under the name of Bruant type or "Sun Proof" geraniums. Two years later, in 1890, M. Bruant paid the American wood-cut of "Bruanti" a compliment in selecting

it to illustrate his own trade list, which at that time contained forty-one well-marked varieties of this new race.

Bruanti, still the model of the Bruant type, was a product of his earlier hybridizing, being introduced in 1883.

The Bruants are fine bedders, the growth being sturdy, the foliage massive and beautifully zoned, with wide bands of purplish brown which grow darker and more clearly defined under a hot sun, while the hottest sun in a summer drouth will only curl the edges of the leaves a little. The blossoms also merit the title of "Sun Proof," and are at their finest in full sunshine.

GENERAL DODDS.—Semidouble, having five to eight petals. Vermilion of a soft shade, just tinged with cherry, with salmon reverse, and red floret stems—an excellent bedding variety. The abundant foliage is somewhat glossy, bright green and quite ruffled, with a zone three-fourths of an inch wide, not very plainly marked. The largest leaves are five to six inches across. It is a constant bloomer, and the footstalks are from nine to twelve inches long. One large bloom was four and three-fourths inches in diameter with forty florets, many of which were about two inches in diameter.

*Bruanti*, or "Bruant," as it is also called, is a fine glistening vermilion, upper petals veined slightly darker. The somewhat cupped blooms are semidouble by reason of abortive inner petals, giving it, as is said, "the perfect development and free blooming qualities of the singles with the fullness and beauty of the doubles." Many of the florets are two and one-half inches in diameter.

MRS. E. G. HILL—often called the finest single salmon. It grows in a way to delight the eye, so symmetrically and with such heavy foliage that scarce a stem is visible. The leaves average five to six inches across and rarely nearly eight inches. They are flat, dull green, with a very distinct dark zone; the finest leaf of any. The foot-stalks are seven inches long, the trusses three and one-half inches across, of twenty-one to thirty florets, each nearly two inches across. Color, light salmon, deeper at center, with

almost pure white reverse. The cupped petals show the white reverse a little, which accounts for its light effect when massed with others and seen at a little distance.

BEAUTE POITEVINE.—Like Bruanti this needs pinching back to make it bushy. Color, a clear deep salmon, no trace of pink, with very clear-edged petals. It has full trusses with green floret stems, and is less beautiful than some sorts because more artificial. The rather indistinctly zoned leaves are four or five inches across. It is a good pot plant.

M. POINSIGNON.—A single variety of peculiar beauty. The rosy pink blooms contrast finely with the red floret stems. The trusses contain from twenty-seven to fifty-two florets, each from two to two and one-half inches in diameter, and are peach-blossom pink, the upper petals slightly marked with white, the lower shading to nearly white, and all delicately penciled with darker pink veins, appearing as if lightly grazed with a darker tint. The plaited and cupped leaves are from four and one-half to five and one-half inches across. An especially fine variety.

FRANCOIS ARAGO.—This is a pure, deep salmon, with red floret stems—a rich combination. The petals, five in number, are narrow as compared with the round flowered section. It is very distinct and desirable. Its growth is thrifty, compact and symmetrical, with leaves four to six inches across. The florets are about two inches in diameter, from twenty-nine to thirty in a truss.

AUORE BOREALE.—One of the finest single reds, distinct from any other. The lower petals of the two-inch florets are full and round, the upper narrower and finely veined near the base with a darker shade. The floret stems are red. The footstalks are less than five inches long, and the variety seems adapted for a border rather than to mix with tall sorts.

BARBIZET.—This would be a favorite with those who like the old-fashioned single pink geranium—a clear pink without a trace of salmon, while the lower half of the upper petals is pure white. It is single, not a free bloomer,

lovely in itself, but not harmonizing with others. One truss measured five inches in diameter, with thirty-eight florets, two inches or over across. The plaited leaves are four to five inches across, the foot-stalks nine inches long.

—The Independent.



### ROUGH ON THE TRUSTEE.

One of the district school trustees was a crank on the subject of fire, and when he called around with the examining board he always confined his questions to the pupils as to what they would do in case the building should catch fire.

The teacher was acquainted with his hobby, so she prompted her scholars as to the answer they should give him.

When the board called, however, this particular trustee rose and said:—

“I wonder what you would do if I were to make you a little speech?”

Quick as thought a hundred voices piped in unison:—

“Form a line and march down stairs.”

—Exchange.



### SYMPATHY WITH NATURE.

Is it an idle dream that nature shares  
Our joys, our griefs, our pastimes and our cares?  
Is there no summons when, at morning's call,  
The sable vestments of the darkness fall?  
Does not meek evening's low voiced *Ave* blend  
With the soft vesper as its notes ascend?  
Does not the sunshine call us to rejoice?  
Is there no meaning in the storm-cloud's voice?  
No silent message when from midnight skies  
Heaven looks upon us with its myriad eyes?

—Oliver Wendell Holmes.

## IMPRESSIONS.

One of my daughters said, awhile ago, that she did not like evergreen trees,—they look so gloomy and cemetery-like. This was a revelation to me. We have been planting them for years in our graveyards, and our children have seen them there until they have come to associate evergreens with cemeteries and all the gloom and sorrow of death.

Is it not possible that this has been carried to such an extreme that the evergreen trees of the lawn fail to awaken pleasant impressions in the minds of our children?

Ought we not to brighten up our home plantings of ornamental trees by associating with the evergreens such cheerful contrasts as the white birch, elm and maple, lest we make our grounds so repulsive to the rising generation that they destroy the work of our hands when they come into control of our homes?

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## APRIL.

[For the Wisconsin Horticulturist.]

When the buds have burst, and the tender leaf  
Sends forth the fragrance of opening Spring;  
When the robin and bluebird, the peewee and dove,  
With rippling notes make the twilight ring;  
When the lapwings call in the distant fields,  
And the prairie chick's far-away boom is sweet;  
Then, then, is the time that the heart grows young;  
Then Nature seeks Spring, as a bride, to greet.

—Olivia.

"O God, please make things different!" prayed a sea-sick little girl on a tempest-tossed ship. Most farmers can respond "Amen!" to that prayer.



## A PAGE FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS.

With muffled drum and solemn tread the long procession was wending its way to the cemetery one Memorial Day when suddenly some little boys darted from the ranks and peered excitedly through a garden fence. Curious to know what had attracted them, I waited until the exercises were over, then I also peered.

There were the words, DON'T LOOK, growing in large, distinct letters of living green.

They were made with young lettuce plants. The letters had been evenly marked in the carefully prepared bed, then the young plants had been set out with care, at just such a distance apart that when well started they made full, even letters of green.



## A FLOWER CLOCK.

"That was a clever gardener who thought of making a timepiece out of a flower bed. He declared that the time is known at which more than fifty kinds of flowers open and shut. For instance, a bed of common dandelions would show it was 5:30 in the morning and 8:30 at night respectively, for these flowers open and shut at the times named. The common hawkweed opens at 8 in the morning, and may be depended upon to close within a few minutes of 2 in the afternoon. The yellow goat's-beard shuts at 12 o'clock noon, absolutely to the minute, sidereal time. The sow thistle opens at 5 A. M., and closes at 11:12 A. M. The white lily opens at 7 A. M. and closes at 5 P. M."

I find the above among my clippings. Whether it is a scientific fact or simply a fancy I do not know. I want some bright young eyes to find that out. Do not jump at conclusions after one or two observations, but take notice at intervals through the season, then report.

## BIRD MURDER.

In my experience the air-gun, given as a premium by publishers of boys' papers, kills more birds than do cats. Not long since I had a talk with a young son of my foreman, who said his record since last January was 470 song-birds, and that several of his boy friends had made larger kills. I asked what he did with the birds. He said he threw them away, and was only shooting for a record.—Exchange.

Shame! shame! shame! We are all glad that boy doesn't live in Wisconsin!



## THE BLUEBIRD.

By W. J. Moyle.

As the warm spring days of March approach, every lover of our native birds will begin to look and listen for his particular robin, hedge-sparrow, lark or bluebird. And what a thrill of pleasure we experience when for the first time on a spring morning we hear the familiar warble of one of our old, expected, feathered friends. For, peradventure no accident has overtaken them in their southern sojourn, they will return year after year to the same grove, hedgerow or tree, or, as with one friend, the bluebird, to the same identical rotten stump where he and Mrs. Bluebird have kept house for many a summer, in a deserted woodpecker's hole.

The writer has become greatly attached to the bluebird for several reasons, largely on account of its many good qualities and few faults.

It is an entirely insectivorous bird, subsisting largely upon insects that are injurious to the horticulturist. Prof. F. H. King tells us that out of the crops of twenty-seven birds taken for examination only one was found to have eaten fruit of any description, while the remaining twenty-six had eaten large numbers of grasshoppers and other harmful insects.



But even if this were not so we should be slow to remove the snug little habitations that have been erected in the garden and on the farm, for our friend the bluebird.

How well we remember a pair of these little yellow-breasted blue-jackets that nested in the decayed limb of an apple-tree year after year. One winter the tree was cut down for firewood by the "practical farmer," regardless of the sorrow which we knew would be experienced on the home-coming of the lawful owners, in the spring. They came back and hung around the locality for days, in fact until the writer took pity on them and out of an old fence-board made them a nesting-place. This house was not a thing of beauty, but it answered the purpose and was nailed to a post in the garden, and after a thorough examination by the birds and considerable discussion, was accepted.

The extreme cold of the winter of '94 killed a great many of our half-hardy birds, which winter in our south central States, the bluebirds suffering with the rest, as none returned the following spring, and but two specimens were observed by the writer in Racine county that year. However the mild winters which followed resulted in a rapid multiplication of the few which were left, so that last season a new generation had taken possession of the vacant homesteads.

If the ordinary horticulturist was aware of the amount of good a few pair of these modest, loving, quiet, little birds would do on his farm we are sure he would give more attention to the requirements necessary to establish them upon his farm. Get the boys interested, also the girls. We would caution them, however, not to place the bird-houses very high in the trees or on buildings; if this is done the crafty little sparrow will be sure to take possession and drive the bluebirds out. The writer placed all of his houses from four to seven feet from the ground, nailed to the side of a tree or a fence-post. Make the doorway just large enough for the birds to enter, thus keeping out cats and mischievous children's hands.

Madison, Wis.

## MULCHING.

We give two systems of mulching, one known as the Campbell or Dust-blanket system, the other as the Earth-litter system. Take your choice! One clipping is from Farmer's Home; the other from The Independent.

## THE CAMPBELL SYSTEM.

The Campbell system of soil culture consists of a complete rearrangement and pulverizing of the top seven or eight inches of soil, turning it as nearly bottom upward as is possible. The plant food is found at the end of each season very largely concentrated in the top four inches. This plant food must be plowed down into the bottom of a furrow seven or eight inches deep. From this depth it will be placed by the action of moisture just where the little feeders of the plant roots want it. Immediately after plowing, the lower four inches of the furrow slice must be packed as firm as possible.

After the deep plowing and subsurface packing the next step is to keep the upper two inches of the surface soil constantly dry. This forms a soft mulch or dust blanket, so as to cut off the moist earth below from the effects of the air. Water cannot pass through loose, dry soil by capillary attraction. Therefore the dust blanket protects the moisture in the root bed from evaporation and saves all the natural rainfall for the use of the plants. Strong capillary attraction is desired in the root beds, and therefore the root bed is packed. No capillary attraction is desired in the surface, and therefore the dust blanket is formed.

## EARTH-LITTER MULCH.

In place of applying coarse litter and manure to trees and plants, which cause roots to form too near the surface of the ground, only to be injured or killed in time of drouth or severe cold if the mulch gets thin, the Minnesota Experiment Station recommends an "earth-litter" mulch, which combines the value of the common mulch and of constant cultivation or dry-earth mulch. The latter causes improv-

erishment of the soil by constant exposure to the sun, and retards nitrification, which requires partial shade. In the new method short-fibered litter or manure is spread evenly over the surface of the ground, one or two inches deep. In a few days the ground is cultivated, thoroughly mixing the mulch with fine surface earth. After weeds begin to appear the cultivation is repeated. In this way moisture is more effectually conserved, the root system takes its proper place, the soil is better protected from undue heat of the sun, the supply of humus is kept intact, increasing the capacity for moisture, fertility is maintained, nitrification favored and labor saved. It would be well for farmers and cultivators of smaller places to experiment next season with this method, which seems to promise good results. To obtain this short-fibered litter it would be necessary to pass long straw, cornstalks, etc., through the cutter before using as bedding or to mix with manure.



#### THAYER'S BERRY BULLETIN.

The growing of a berry calls into action some of the most wonderful laws of nature.



In the growth of plants we find these laws in perfection. We also find in various forms, a complete supply of every element required for the full development of both plant and fruit.




Nature gives us all these products, without stint. She simply asks in return that we assist her in some of the smaller details of the work.




She asks that the soil be made rich and well prepared. That the plants be of good quality and carefully set out. That frequent hoeing and cultivation be given. That plants be protected from winter frosts and summer drouth. That no insect pest or fungus disease find an abiding place


with them. That you treat them as a friend and love them as a brother.




Nature furnishes almost every good with a prodigal hand, but she is a niggard to him who will not work in her ways. You can not cheat her in farm or garden. You can not get something for nothing. These are days of progress.




Every line of business must advance with the times, or drop to the rear. The farmer has been the laggard.




The safest, the surest, the most ancient and the most honorable business on earth should be in the most progressive ranks.



An army of best newspapers are stationed all along the agricultural highway, to guard us from error and direct us to success. We cannot afford to be without them. Read them! Study them. Experiment in a moderate way, give extra preparation and cultivation to certain tracts, and mark results, as compared with ordinary tillage. Observe results of similar experiments on your neighbor's farm. Compare notes with him and reason together.



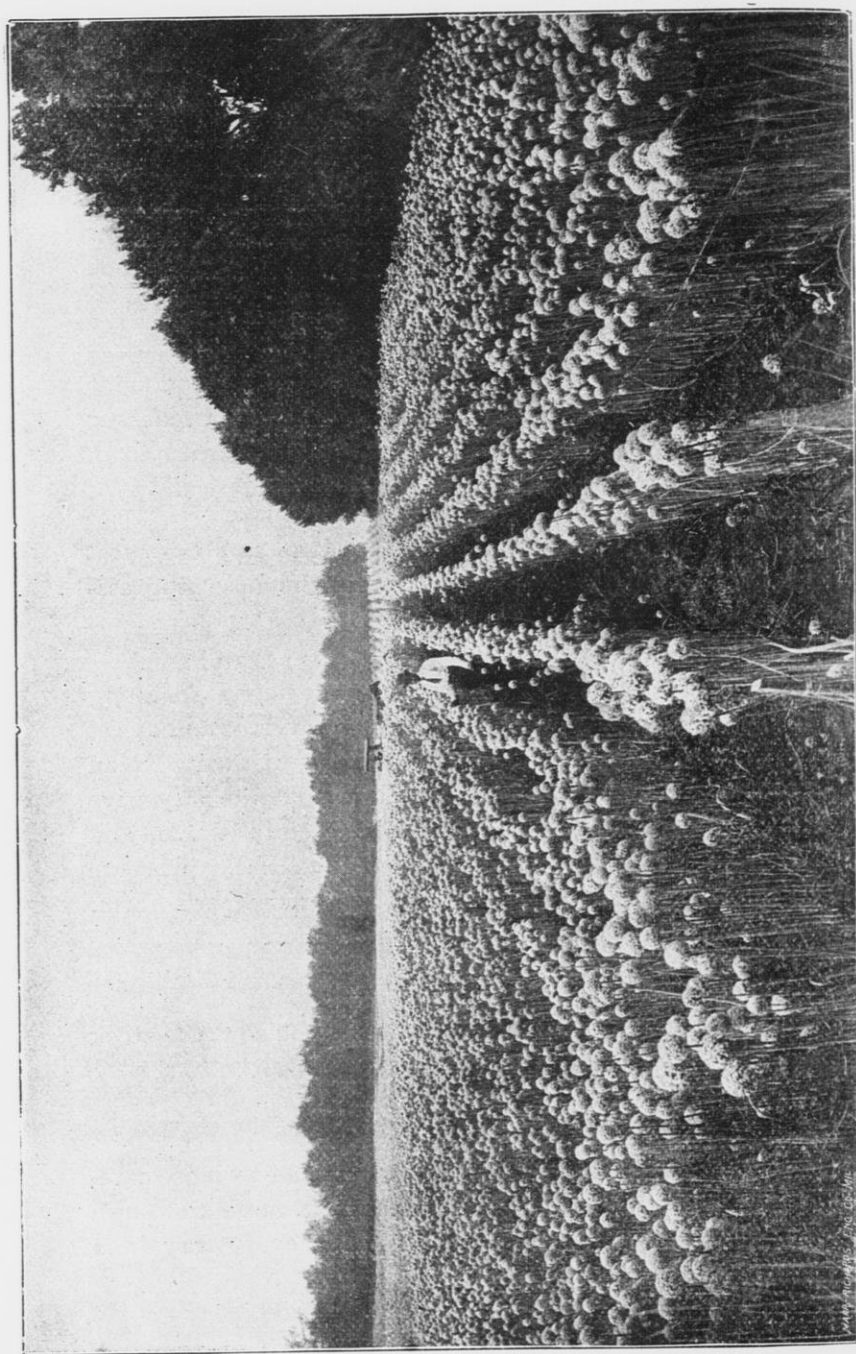
Extend like experiments to the seeds you sow, the stock you grow, and trees, plants and shrubs you set.



Such experiments are almost sure to lead to more careful selection of seed, stock and plants; to a more thorough cultivation of the soil and better results every way from farm, fruit and garden.

M. A. THAYER,

Sparta, Wisconsin.





## TEN ACRES OF ONIONS NEAR HUDSON.

This picture is copied by permission from "Northern Wisconsin,—A Hand Book for the Home Seeker," a book prepared by Prof. W. A. Henry, Dean of the College of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin.

The view represents ten acres of onions planted for the seed, in the gardens of Grant Bros., near Hudson, St. Croix county.

"The soil of this section is of fair to high fertility, and that in the nooks and protected spots gives a very early harvest of vegetables of high quality."



## ONION CULTURE.

By L. A. Carpenter.

A few years ago when the price of onions was up to one dollar a bushel, many were tempted to go into onion raising on a large scale; but, with the last year's crop selling at from 25 to 40 cents they are just as anxious to drop it. There has been and probably always will be a great many failures by the inexperienced grower. We can learn much from the writings of others, but there are some things which we can learn only by practice.

Onions do best and are most easily handled on a light soil, and the richer it is the better. It costs just as much to raise a crop of onions on poor soil as it does on good, so that the chance for profit depends largely upon having the soil in the best possible condition.

We use the same land year after year, putting on a good dressing of well rotted manure every fall, and plow it under from four to six inches deep. Turn the land up in beds from one to two rods wide so that it will dry off well in the spring. Never use manure that is not well rotted, for it will make soft bulbs, which are poor keepers. When we

have wood ashes we put on a dressing of them just before working up the land in the spring. Just as soon as the ground is dry enough to work in the spring go at it and work it until it is smooth and fine. (The Acme pulverizer is the best machine I know of for this purpose.) If this work is done thoroughly it will save a great deal of bother in seeding and cultivating.

The amount of seed to the acre depends largely upon the fertility of the soil; the richer the soil the more seed it will stand. If the soil is well fertilized and subdued I should sow four pounds to the acre, otherwise I should not use more than two and one-half or three pounds. On good soil the bulbs will stand lots of crowding and still grow to a good size. For pickle onions we sow from twenty-five to thirty pounds to the acre. It is important to have them of a uniformly small size not more than an inch in diameter. All that are larger, are too large for pickles and too small for market.

The earlier the seed is in the ground the better, for unless they get a good start in the spring while the weather is cool they never amount to much; and besides when the seed is sown late in the season it comes up at the same time as the weeds and it is more difficult to keep the beds clean. Sow in drills twelve or fourteen inches apart running the rows lengthwise of the beds for convenience in cultivating. The dead furrows are kept open during the summer as a means of surface drainage and are used as paths.

As soon as the rows can be seen, go through with the hand cultivator and stir up the ground as near the plants as possible. If care has been taken in sowing to have the rows straight and of uniform width the cultivator need not leave more than an inch. We aim to cultivate about once a week, and at least after every rain, to keep a crust from forming, continuing the cultivation until the onions are so large that the machine cannot be worked.

It is usually necessary to weed out the beds by hand two or three times during the season. In doing this we not only pull out the weeds, but break up the soil between



the plants. A case-knife is good for this work, and a Lang's weeder is better.

When the tops have nearly all fallen over, they are ready to pull. This we usually do by hand, rolling six or eight rows together in a windrow. We let them lie in this way, turning them occasionally with a wooden rake, until they are quite dry, when they are picked up, the tops pulled off, and taken to the shed. The bulbs should be handled as carefully as apples, for if they are bruised or injured in any way they will soon decay.

The variety to be planted depends largely upon the market and the length of time the crop is to be kept. The white varieties are invariably poor keepers, and are desirable only for fall and early winter use. Of this class I prefer the White Globe. The Globe Danver is the best yellow onion I know of for all purposes and is a good keeper. The Wethersfield is the old stand-by and still takes the lead with us among the reds. It keeps the best of any onion we have ever raised, often remaining in good condition, with ordinary care, until late in the Spring. The prejudice against the red onion is rapidly dying out, and there is now nearly as great a demand for them as for the yellows.

Fond du Lac, Wis.

“How are you getting along with your bicycle?” inquired a sympathetic neighbor. “Have you ridden into the country yet?”

“I guess so,” replied the beginner. “If the country has been coming my way I have; I’ve ridden into about everything else.”

—Chicago Tribune.

“Do the duty which lies nearest you. Every duty which is bidden to wait returns with seven fresh duties at its back.”

—C. Kingsley.

## SOME NEW FRUITS.



### THE MARSHALL STRAWBERRY.

"Who shall decide when doctors disagree?"

M. Crawford of Ohio says: "The greatest early strawberry is the Marshall. It is not the first to ripen, but when it comes it will eclipse all that are ahead of it."

J. H. Hale of Connecticut says: "The Marshall and Timbrell, in their general failure throughout the country by rust and blight, are instances of how strawberries may have remarkably strong points of value in favored localities and still be worthless for general culture. I cannot advise my customers to grow either of these when there are so many better and more reliable ones to be had."

E. P. Powell of New York says: "Marshall is an early berry—not the earliest; it has not borne heavily with me, and I am sorry to be somewhat suspicious of it."

C. E. Tobey of Sparta, Wis., says: "We have fruited the Marshall. It is a big, soft, ill-shaped, good-colored, good-flavored berry, but not a profitable berry for Wisconsin's light soils."




### THE FITZGERALD PEACH.

That which we have long sought is found, perhaps, at last—a hardy peach. "The Fitzgerald peach originated at Oakville, Ontario, on the north shore of Lake Ontario, where it has stood the winter perfectly and given crops regularly for the last five years. It is of the Crawford variety, a freestone of very attractive appearance and a heavy bearer."

## TWO NEW APPLES.


McINTOSH is of the Fameuse family; the same red skin, and white flesh,—a hardy tree.

DUDLEY'S WINTER is described by Eastern growers as almost the exact counterpart of the Duchess of Oldenburg, only the Oldenburg is a very early apple, and Dudley's is a late winter apple. The tree is said to be one of the hardiest in existence. Who will test its fitness for Wisconsin? Perhaps our Experiment Orchards are already trying it.



## THE PEARL GOOSEBERRY.

From Canada comes another claimant—the Pearl gooseberry. The editor of the Canadian Horticulturist says this is as good in quality as the Downing, larger in size, and more free from mildew. Another writer says that the Pearl is “hard to beat.” From some bushes that had only been planted one year he picked three quarts each.



## JAPAN PLUMS.

The writer, on making a careful examination of the fruit buds in his plum orchard in Racine county finds that for the fifth time the Japan plum “Abundance” is an “abundance” failure in Wisconsin.

Extreme cold weather has done the mischief, as every particle of vitality is destroyed and the buds have turned brown.

The sooner the Wisconsin planter makes up his mind to plant nothing but “*Prunus Americana*, our common wild plum,” the better off he will be.

I cannot advise the planting of Japan plums on a large scale under any circumstances, and am of the opinion that it is money thrown away to plant a few for pleasure.

Has any one ever succeeded in growing a crop in our State? If so let us hear from him.

The following varieties of the tame plum were also destroyed by cold weather: Lombard, Saratoga, Bradshaw, Green Gage, Damson, Shipper's Pride, Washington, Yellow Egg and Prunus Samoni. The latter fruited last season, with me, for the first time, but this winter has proved that it cannot be relied upon in our climate. In the writer's estimation the fruit is also inferior to our common thicket plum.

A little patch of a dozen trees, on the farm, planted thickly together, say eight feet each way, of the following varieties, Wyant, Wolf, Rollingstone, Rockford, Forest Garden, and other improved native sorts, will give the best satisfaction on the long run, as well as the most plums.

W. J. M.



#### KEWAUNEE COUNTY AND THE APPLE.

From the "Kewaunee County Enterprise" of March 5, 1897, we copy the following letter written by a member of our State Horticultural Society:  
Editor Enterprise:—

Your county is well adapted to growing the "King of Fruits," the apple. On account of your climate being modified by the lake, your apples will be later than ours and if properly handled will keep from one to two months longer than the same kind will, grown here. On account of the great crop grown last year a great deal of attention is now being given to the apple. No doubt many who have small orchards about their homes, and of many kinds that they could not sell, think there is no money in apple growing as a business. And yet I know a small orchard in your county that paid in money last season better than any other part of the farm, and my own experience here is the same. Although I am not well situated for shipping, my own crop of

twelve hundred barrels brought me several hundred dollars clear money. I never knew a farmer to be bankrupted by having a good crop of fruit. No matter what the prices are, after the orchard is once established about the only expense is harvest. Surely no other farm crop can be grown or handled for less than that.

For myself and neighbors I shipped last season eleven car loads to Minneapolis and Duluth. Your county can ship at just the same freight rate we pay and on a better route for time. Then you have the advantage of hundreds of towns and cities to the northwest that you could easily reach that we can not. Such low prices are not likely to prevail again in many years, and yet I had some apples that sold for \$4.50 per bbl. in Minneapolis last season. In one case ten bbls. sold for \$25.50 more than the finest Duchess apples did and made a ready sale of the carload of 170 bbls. I believe your county can do better than we can here in fruit culture.

My favorite fruit is the apple, because it is one of the surest and best paying of fruits when rightly managed. It is my faith in its value and the adaptation of the peninsula to its culture that led us to invest in and improve lands in Door county for the purpose of there making a business of fruit growing. I believe there is solid wealth in the apple on thousands of peninsular farms.

A. L. HATCH.

Ithaca, Wis., Feb. 26, 1897.



### MIXING METAPHORS.

A certain politician, lately condemning the Government for its policy concerning the income tax, is reported to have said: "They'll keep cutting the wool off the sheep that lays the golden eggs until they pump it dry."—Evening Sun.

This recalls the story of the member of a State legislature who said: "Mr. Speaker, There is a snake in this bill, I smell a rat, and see him flying through the air; but I will yet nip it in the bud."

—Exchange.



## EDITORIAL COMMENT.

Fruit-growers are predicting a big berry crop,—just as they did last spring and the preceding spring. Is this what Dr. Johnson would call “the triumph of hope over experience?”




SPRAYING will be a timely topic for our May magazine. We invite all our readers to send in brief accounts of their experience in spraying—Remember it is not theories we want, but EXPERIENCE. When did you spray? How did you spray? What for? What were the good results? What were the bad results? Please respond as early as possible.




At our winter meeting the query suggested itself, Does not our society depend upon a few individuals to be its new-variety tasters, just as Elspeth Macfadyen was “sermon taster” for the parish of Drumtochty?

Let us all test some of the new varieties this year,—Wm. Belt, Clyde, Margaret, Belle, and others among strawberries; Loudon, Kansas and Columbia among raspberries; Taylor's Prolific blackberry; the Rockford plum; the Pearl gooseberry; and what new kind of currant? Has any one tried the dwarf Juneberry? Who is finding out by trial whether Clematis paniculata is a desirable hardy climber for Wisconsin?


Noticing that the "Sparta" strawberry was recommended for trial last year, we sent out some notes of inquiry regarding it. Most of the responses were: "Have not tried it." The impression seems to prevail that it is a berry for sandy soils, hence not adapted to the heavy clay loam of southern Wisconsin. Mr. Crawford of Ohio and other Eastern growers speak well of the Sparta.




One enjoys one's dinner with greater zest when the delicacies which are served come as a surprise; hence we shall not tell you what good things we have in store for our May magazine.




Please see that all communications designed for the May issue reach the editor as early as May first.




It recalls pleasant memories of last winter's convention to be greeted by the friendly face of Hon. Chas. Hirschinger, when we turn over the pages of this magazine.



Kind reader, can you not get fifty cents worth of helpful hints from the Wisconsin Horticulturist in a year? If so, SUBSCRIBE FOR IT.



Please mention the Wisconsin Horticulturist when ordering from advertisers.



Don't miss reading our last page.



DOOR COUNTY FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION, STURGEON  
BAY, WISCONSIN.

The fruit growers of Door county have organized a fruit growers' association, modeled after the Ripon Fruit Growers' Association. The following officers have been elected:

President, Geo. M. Tong.

Vice-President, Frank Dresser.

Secretary, I. L. Buchan.

Treasurer, Melvin Haines.

Board of Directors :

Geo. M. Tong.

I. L. Buchan.

B. Halm.

Jos. Zivny.

John Falk.

The association will have about thirty acres of strawberries to handle the coming season. Strawberries have come through the winter in fine shape.

GEO. M. TONG.



Local florists say that for popularity in house decoration this year, the flowers which stand first are daffodils. Other years they have been in demand for a yellow room at receptions, but now for dinners and the most formal modes of entertainment they are called for. In several houses this season all the rooms, upstairs and down, have had decorations of daffodils and maidenhair, and that is all. This necessitates yellow candles and candle shades. The tendency of late in all house decoration is to the use of one flower in the scheme of arrangement, and even of one color, as is necessitated when the flowers are daffodils.

—Selected.

## SPRING FASHIONS.

Pneumonias are still worn by many of our ultra fashionables, and grippes are still stylish.

The favorite thing in underwear is the lung protector.

Linen collars and lace neckwear are now almost wholly superseded by white flannel neatly bound about the throat, medicated or not, as the fancy of the wearer dictates.

Coughs and colds are extremely fashionable, and sneezes are right in style.

It is the fashion for the gentlemen to turn up the bottom of their trousers' legs, and boots and shoes are usually ornamented with samples of real estate.

—Selected.



"The Garden Craft Series," by L. H. Bailey, of Cornell University, already contains "The Horticulturist's Rule-Book," "The Nursery-Book," "Plant Breeding," to which may now be added "The Forcing-Book," just announced and "The Pruning-Book" in preparation. They are published by the Macmillan Co.



"Every day is a little life, and our whole life is but a day repeated. Those, therefore, that dare lose a day are dangerously prodigal; those that dare misspend it, desperate."

—Bishop Hall.



If some people could realize that the world doesn't care a rap what size of shoes they wear, they would be a good deal more comfortable.

—Tit-Bits.

## CANADA ALARMED.

There is much alarm among the fruit-growers and nurserymen of Canada regarding the San Jose scale. That this dreaded pest exists in some New York nurseries appears to be fully authenticated. Wisconsin as well as Canada may well feel anxious.

The fruit-growers of the Niagara Peninsula, at a meeting held in St. Catharines, Ontario, passed resolutions requesting the Dominion Government not only to prohibit the importation of all fruit trees and currant bushes, but also to prohibit the importation of all fruits, of the kinds known to be infested, until an expert had examined them and pronounced them free from the scale.

The memorial suggests that the expert examiner be paid by the shipper and be authorized to return or destroy all stock found to be infected.



## ATTENTION!

With the subscription price of the Wisconsin Horticulturist reduced from \$1.00 to 50 cts. we ought to double our subscriptions during the year.

As an incentive to get our friends to do a little missionary work all new subscribers will be entitled to either one of the following premiums by mail: Three grapevines, 1 Worden, 1 Massasoit, 1 Diamond, or six extra large gladiolus bulbs; these are Wisconsin grown and are exceptionally fine; many choice named varieties are included in the mixture.

For every club of five the getter-up will be entitled to ten of these beautiful bulbs. Address

W. J. MOYLE,

Madison, Wis.

## DON'T MISS THIS!

We want every reader of the Horticulturist to awake to the fact that what Wisconsin needs, and what she must have, is a first-class, interesting, horticultural magazine, similar to the one you hold in your hand, only still better. This will be made possible only by an increased circulation.



Show the magazine to your neighbor and get him to subscribe. Tell him that the premiums which are offered are alone worth the price of the publication.



Every reader—"this means you"—should get in at least one new subscriber.



We want the names of 1000 fruit-growers, farmers and gardeners, or those who would in any way be liable to take an interest in our magazine. Will you kindly send in the addresses of your horticultural friends on a postal card, so that we can send them sample copies.

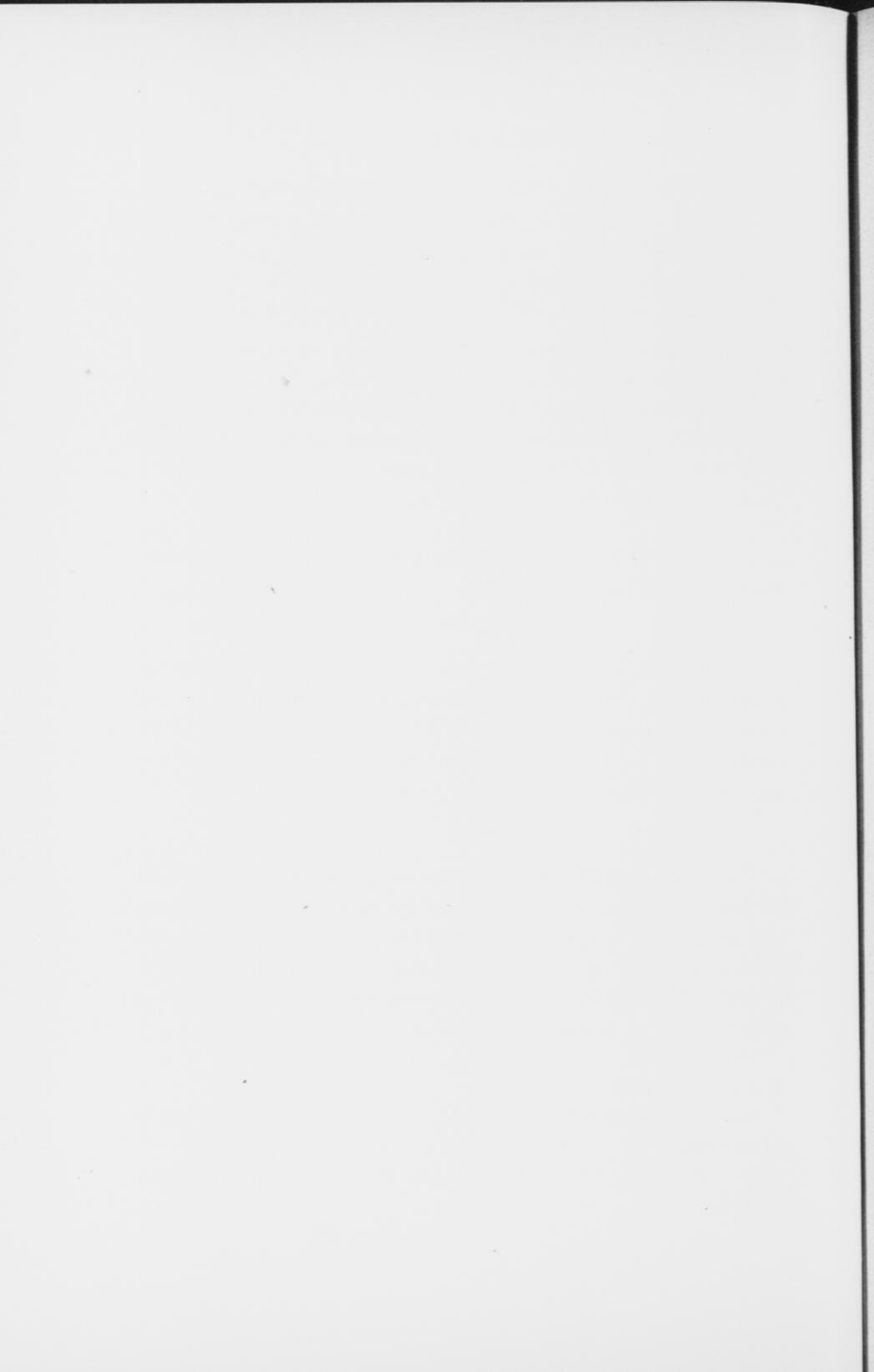


We call especial attention to our advertisements. The Evergreen Nursery Co. have in stock an extra fine lot of evergreens for hedges and wind-breaks at prices that will astonish you. Mr. Toole's pansies always take the premium. In fact all our advertisers this month, are personally known to us and are reliable.



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W. J. MOYLE, Madison, Wis.,  
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