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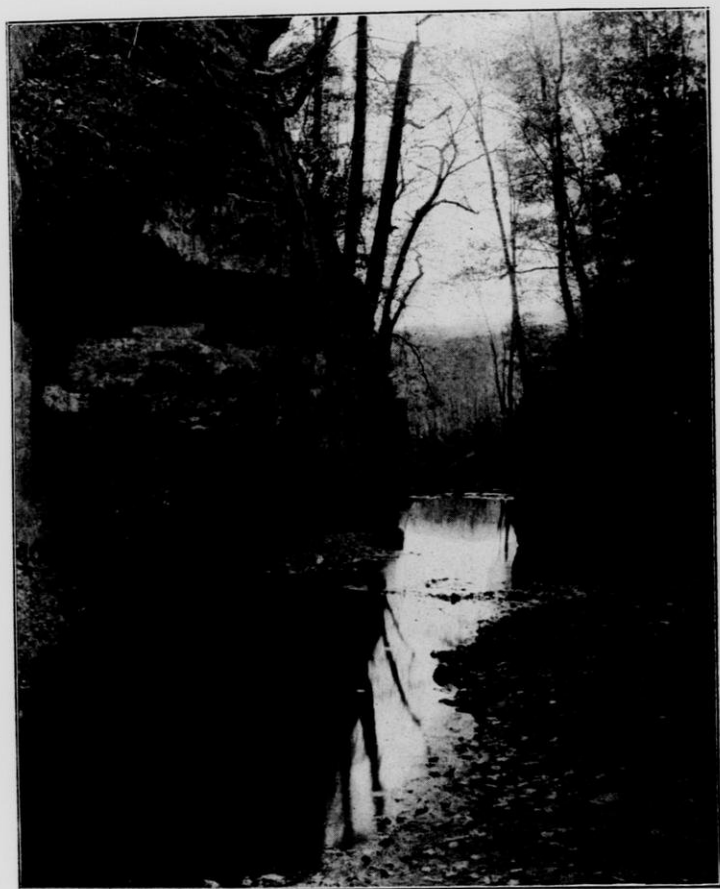
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SCENE NEAR BARABOO—DORWARD'S GORGE.



# The Wisconsin Horticulturist.

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VOL. V.

APRIL.

NO. 2

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## OFFICERS OF THE STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY FOR 1900.

President, Franklin Johnson, Baraboo.

Vice-president, Dr. T. E. Loope, Eureka.

Secretary, John L. Herbst, Sparta.

Treasurer, R. J. Coe, Fort Atkinson.

Corresponding Secretary, Samuel H. Marshall, Madison.

### WINDOW BOXES.

A charming arrangement was noticed last summer. The plants employed were nasturtiums only, and the entire cost could not have exceeded fifty cents. The box was of rough boards, evidently, strongly joined, and set upon a pair of iron brackets.

The box was covered with floor oilcloth, tacked on, and the design was such that it looked like tile work. The colors were cream and brown. A pine frame the width of the window, and six inches across, was nailed to the top of the window for attaching the strings on which the vines were supported. The nasturtiums were of both the dwarf and climbing sorts.

A drapery of trailing nasturtiums fell over the edge of the box, and dwarf nasturtiums filled the center, and all



were of the deepest, richest colors known to this flower. The nasturtiums that were trained up the supports were of lighter colors, lemon and orange, and cream. The middle strings had been loosened and the vines had been drawn back from the center to each side by strong strings; the whole appearance being a diamond-shaped aperture surrounded by a drapery of living green. The effect was equally charming from within and without.—From Vick's Magazine for April.



#### SOME FLORAL NOTES.

We notice that F. K. Phoenix & Son of Delavan, Wis., advertise Bechtel Double-flowering American Crab, and recommend it highly as a hardy ornamental tree for the West and Northwest.

*CENTAUREA IMPERIALIS* is one of the new annuals, easy to grow. One lady says it was "the handsomest thing in annuals she saw last summer." It resembles *CENTAUREA MARGUERITE*, but is a more vigorous plant and the flowers are larger.

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In a recent number of the Orange Judd Farmer, Eben E. Rexford speaks of some "desirable new flowers." Of the *Rudbeckia*, Golden Glow, he says: "Two years' trial has convinced me that it is entitled to a place in the very first rank of border plants. It stood 30 degrees below zero weather without any protection whatever, and did not receive the least injury from it. It increases rapidly, a small plant becoming a large clump the second season, from which scores of stalks seven and eight feet high will be sent up, each one branching freely, and each branch bearing a profuse crop of rich, golden-yellow flowers as large as those of the new dahlias, and so similar in shape that they are often mistaken for the latter flower."

He also speaks highly of the new bedding geranium, America, grown by Henry Eicholz: "Plants were sent the writer last year for trial, and the result was satisfactory in the highest degree. It is a lovely combination of pink, white and salmon. It is of bushy, compact habit, extremely free flowering, and has the merit of standing our hot sun well. Those who have grown tired of beds of scarlet Gen. Grant, and pink Mad Thibaud will be pleased to vary the program with this lovely variety, which does as well in the greenhouse in winter as it does in the garden in summer."

The SAVITZII ABUTILON Mr. Rexford considers a desirable variegated plant. "This new variety is of such compact habit that it makes a charming pot plant at all stages of its growth. Its foliage is much more heavily marked with white than De Bonn, and one familiar with the behavior of plants having leaves in which white predominates over green, would expect it to lose its foliage readily. But it does not do this. Plants procured last spring still retain the leaves that were on them when they came, and the white in them has not turned brown or taken on a sickly look. This is an excellent plant for use among other plants not in bloom, its lovely leaves being almost as ornamental as flowers."



#### A VISIT TO J. S. STICKNEY - SOME DESIRABLE ROSES.

Editor Horticulturist:—I never notice a tree of the Wisconsin Weeping Willow but what I feel grateful to Messrs. Stickney and Baumbach of Wauwatosa for having introduced it. It seems to be a strain of the old *Babylonica*, but has rather coarser growing branches and is hardier and perhaps more robust. Messrs. Stickney and Baumbach informed me recently, that they obtained it about 1865 from a nursery in Dodge county that had been abandoned. This

nursery had been planted a year, or a few years, previous by a man who came from Ohio. Nothing further was ever known about the origin of the willow.

Mr. Stickney is a great lover of trees. At his place I noticed the most beautiful blue spruce I ever saw. It seemed to shed a sheen of bluish mistiness, it was so beautiful. I want some too! and have ordered some to plant at my new home here. But I can only hope for so fine a one, as you know the blue ones are simply selected sports from the varying seedlings of this variety, *PICEA PUNGENS*.

And Mrs. Stickney loves the birds. Just before the window she had some pieces of meat—one on a post, one on a tree—where they could all see the blue jays and other birds come to peck at it. While I was there a woodpecker came for the meat and Mr. Chas. Stickney, who was present, playfully protested that it was a pity to thus degrade so good a bird as to feast him on meat and encourage his neglect of business duties.

From Mr. Baumbach, who loves roses, I learned of some good ones for out door culture, just what we all want to know. He says if you want a rose of the color of Gen. Jacqueminot—vivid crimson—the Camille de Rohan is better, more full and double. He also commended Marshall P. Wilder, Paul Neyron, Coquette des Alps, and Triumph de L'Eposition. Of course I would add to these Madam Plantier, Luxemburg moss, and Crimson Rambler. Now, if you care for these as you should, you will have as glorious roses as can be grown—that is, in their way.

But oh! the pickles! Mr. Stickney said they had put up only 23,000 bushels of cucumbers last season, as against 46,000 the previous year from the same acreage. All of the cucumbers were grown on contract for the factory; they grew none themselves. On their own land they grew cauliflower. These they had in brine—twenty-seven hundred barrels full—forty-five gallon barrels each—one hundred

twenty-one thousand five hundred gallons! And they were preparing land to plant more next season, seventy acres. Just think of that for a garden of cauliflower! They had seven or eight teams hauling manure from Milwaukee, and expect to put on forty tons to the acre over that whole field. I never saw such a large field so heavily fertilized. And what do you suppose they pay for cauliflower seed? Forty dollars a pound! In a little box holding about a peck, Mr. Stickney said there was three hundred dollars' worth. Prof. Goff said that the great seedsman, Peter Henderson, would place some seed in fire-proof safes, as it was more valuable than gold! And yet this seed is not grown in America, all imported. I wonder why it can't be grown in some place in the United States.

What ups and downs there are in the nursery business! Messrs. Stickney and Baumbach once had a million and a half of evergreen trees in their nurseries. Some of them got too large to sell in large quantities for distant shipments, so rather than "sacrifice them to Moloch," as Mr. Freeborn used to say, they conceived the idea of getting them planted somewhere in Wisconsin. So they gave them to the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul R. R., and one spring fifteen car loads were planted between Horicon and Ripon and the next spring five car loads. "Their works do live after them." Good works they are, too.

A. L. HATCH.

Door Co. Fruit Nurseries, Sturgeon Bay, Wis.

#### WHAT STRAWBERRIES SHALL WE PLANT?

At the last Round up Institute, Wood and Warfield were recommended for the farmer—"one row of Wood, three rows of Warfield." I have no objection to the two varieties, if any pistillate is planted; but I very strongly protest

against less than half perfects, two rows of each. What I consider better is plant no pistillates at all.

Two rows Wood.

Two rows Splendid.

Two rows Lovett.

Two rows Clyde.

With that quartette I have raised berries by the five acres, thick enough so a boy of fourteen picked in one day of ten hours, two hundred and thirty quarts of No. 1 fruit.

GEO. J. KELLOGG.



### SALSIFY, OR OYSTER PLANT.

Experiment Station, Manhattan, Kan., Feb. 13, 1900.

Vegetable Oyster, or Salsify, is a most valuable addition to the list of cultivated vegetables, but at present is little known and scarcely appreciated. It is not a native of America, so far as is known, but is indigenous to the south-eastern counties of England, where it grows in the meadows. Nothing from the ordinary sources of information can be found as to its introduction into this country, but it is not well enough known to indicate that it has been long in cultivation. Henderson, in his *Gardening for Profit*, says that although the consumption is limited, the prices are high and remunerative, and that the amount grown is increasing. Whether or not it should be grown extensively is a question that the demand for the vegetable will settle, but there is no question whatever that it is worthy of cultivation for family use in every vegetable garden.

Botanically it bears the name *Tragopogon porrifolius*, Linn., belonging to the *Compositæ*, and is a biennial plant. The varieties Long White and Sandwich Island have been tested by the Horticultural Department of the Kansas Experiment Station. There was little difference in



the total yield, Sandwich Island being ahead, but the roots of Sandwich Island had fewer laterals and were smoother. Where a good stand the yield was very nearly a pound to the foot of row.

Salsify is easily grown, may be cultivated without trouble, and is easily stored for winter use. The seeds are sometimes planted with a drill, but on account of being so sharply curved at the ends it is rather difficult to obtain an even distribution in this way, unless they are very thoroughly cleaned. They may be planted thickly, to be thinned later on, or the seeds may be dropped from four to six inches apart in the first place. The soil should be rich, but with well-rotted manure, worked deep and thoroughly. Upon the perfect condition of the soil depends the straightness and smoothness of the roots, there being a tendency to branch where fresh manure is applied. The plants should be cultivated as parsnips are. They are very hardy, are not affected by frost and may be left in the ground all winter without harm. But to have the roots ready for use they should be dug in the fall and stored away in soil or sand where the temperature is low. If exposed to the air the roots become shriveled and tasteless and are without value.

Salsify may be prepared for the table in many appetizing ways. When the flower stalks are used they should be prepared like asparagus. This part of the plant is, however, little used. The root is the portion for which it is usually cultivated. These are said to possess qualities which make this one of the most healthful of vegetables, ranking even above the dandelion root in the excellence of its medicinal qualities. The root is a rather difficult one to dress for cooking, as it is filled with a milky juice that is sticky and darkens the hand unless the utmost care is exercised in handling them. This milky juice, however, is the most valuable portion, and on account of its flavor and

medicinal qualities should not be lost. On this account where the roots are smooth and of good size they may be boiled without scraping and the skin removed afterwards. Their flavor quite strongly resembles that of oysters, and they will be found appetizing used in any way that oysters may be cooked, yet in no way can they be said to quite equal the oyster.



#### WHAT SHALL WE PLANT IN THE HOME VEGETABLE GARDEN?

Perhaps among our readers are some who are just "setting up housekeeping," and will feel bewildered among the multitude of varieties offered for sale. To such we give a few hints from our own experience. These varieties may not be "the best," but we have found them good and reliable.

For early lettuce plant Grand Rapids. It is tender and delicious. Sown at intervals of a week or two, it will give a succession all summer. But if you prefer a head lettuce later in the season, "The Deacon" and "Improved Hanson" are both good. If you wish lettuce for garnishing, during the summer, keep up a succession of Grand Rapids; it is a good garnishing lettuce, so is Boston Curled.

For early radishes "Salzer's Early Bird" is good, so is "Early Scarlet Globe." For a mid-summer radish "Chartier," a long, slender variety with white tips, is excellent. Sow the seed in the garden when you sow beet seed.

The "Eclipse" and "Crosby's Egyptian Turnip" are good for early beets; "Half-long Blood Red" is our favorite for winter use and for "greens."

We always have good Sweet-corn and lots of it. Our stand-bys are, Shaker's Early, Country Gentleman, and Stowell's Evergreen.

As for peas, if you make a good planting of Nott's Excelsior for early and at the same time plant some Horsford's

Market Garden; then in two weeks plant more Horsford's Market Garden and two weeks later make a third planting, you will have delicious peas and plenty of them, if your experience is like ours. In the meantime cautiously plant new varieties to see if you can find anything better. If you do not like to bother with successive plantings, sow some rows of "Juno" for a late pea, when you sow your second Market Garden. The above are all low-growing and need no brush.

If I were confined to one tomato, for HOME USE, it would be Dwarf Champion, because that is a reliable bearer whether the season be wet or dry. Besides this, we plant Early Michigan for early and New Stone for main crop and Golden Queen for yellow, and Yellow Plum for preserves.

Emerald Gem is a delicious musk melon; we have never tried Paul Rose.

Henderson's Bush Lima is the lima bean we plant because the other varieties are too late for our climate.

Wardwell's Kidney Wax is a very prolific snap-bean, but our seed did not prove strictly "stringless." We intend to try some other kind.

If you have not an asparagus bed, set one out this spring. Don't wait to raise one from seed. Get two-year old plants. One hundred plants will set a row 200 feet long.

Baraboo, Wis.



### SUCCESS IN FLOWER CULTURE.

Mr. C. Phillipson.

Editor Wisconsin Horticulturist:—The following paper read before the Algoma Horticultural Society was deemed of such interest that it was voted to send it to the Wisconsin Horticulturist for publication.

H. C. CHRISTENSEN, Sec'y.



The culture of flowers is one of the few pleasures that improves alike the mind and heart. It teaches industry, patience, faith and hope. We plant and sow in hope, and patiently wait, with faith in the rainbow promise that harvest shall never fail. There is great pleasure in success, while failure causes disappointment.

The selection of seeds is an important matter and on the wisdom of the choice success or failure may depend. Those who have little experience should invest money cautiously and in the more hardy and popular kinds, such as Asters, Balsam, Stock, Petunia, Zinnia, etc. Half a dozen flowering plants well cultivated will give pleasure, while a hundred, neglected or ill cultivated, will be a source of disappointment.

Always be careful to get seeds suited to the purposes for which they are designed. If a climber is desired to cover a fence or trellis, the morning glory, the climbing nasturtium and similar strong growing vines will answer the purpose and give good satisfaction, while some of the more tender climbers will not be likely to come up, if planted in such situation as this; and if they happen to grow, will not cover the place designed for them.

If the object is a brilliant showy bed on the lawn, or in the border, the petunia, phlox drummondii, verbenas, etc., will meet your wishes, while a bed of mignonette or any of the smaller and less showy flowers, will be entirely out of place. If flowers of taller growth are designed for a showy bed, more in the background, the zinnia, French marigold, gladioli, etc., are admirably adapted for the purpose, while some very beautiful, low, modest flower would be worthless. Grave errors are sometimes made and good flowers condemned, merely because they are out of their proper place.

The best soil for most flowers, and one almost absolutely necessary for seed beds is a rich, mellow loam, containing so much sand that it will not bake after hard show-

ers. It is also useless to try to grow good flowers on a poor or a hard, unbroken soil, or in a bed choked with weeds. In either case the plants become dwarfed, and flower and ripen their seeds before they have attained half their natural size.

Sowing the seed is a very important matter, and one in which the beginner is most likely to fail, for knowledge is not only necessary, but care and attention. Of course there are some kinds of seeds that are robust and will grow, no matter how they are treated, but others require kind and proper treatment. We must study their habits and treat them accordingly. If seed are planted too deep, they either rot in the damp, cold earth, for want of warmth necessary to their germination, or after their germination perish before the tender shoots can reach the sun and air. If the soil is a stiff clay, it is often too cold at the time of planting to effect their germination, for warmth and moisture are necessary to the germination of seeds. Neither of these will do alone. Seed may be kept in a warm, dry room, in dry sand or loam, and they will not grow; they may be kept at a low temperature in damp earth, and they will most likely rot; but put them in moist earth in a warm room, and they will commence growth at once.

Hotbeds and cold frames are a great help in raising plants. Being protected at the sides and ends with boards and covered with glass, they confine the moisture which arises from the earth, and the atmosphere is kept humid and the surface moist. The bottom heat of the hotbed warms the soil. Care, however, is required to prevent the scorching of the young plants in bright days; the heat inside the frame is intense, and unless air is freely given, or some course taken to obstruct the rays of the sun, most likely a great portion of the plants will be ruined. When the sun gets pretty warm, give the glass a thin coat of

whitewash. This gives a little shade, and with some air during the middle of bright days, will make all safe.

Seeds may be sown in the house in pots, etc., but the great difficulty is, that in pots the soil dries very rapidly and young plants are apt to suffer. A good plan is to cover the pots with glass, removing it occasionally for air. Where very fine seeds are sown in pots, the watering, unless carefully done, generally results in great injury. A wet paper placed over the top of the pot will afford moisture enough for the germination of fine seed.

When these conveniences are not to be had, make a bed of light, mellow soil, in a sheltered situation in the garden, and as soon as the weather becomes settled and the ground warm, sow the seeds, covering them with a little fine earth. Some one has given as a rule, that a seed should be covered twice the depth of its own diameter; perhaps that is as near correct as any general rule can be. If the weather should prove dry after sowing, it would be well to cover the beds of very small seeds with damp moss, boards, or something, that will afford partial protection from the sun and wind. Seed do not require light for their germination, and will grow quite as well in the dark as the light, until they are above ground. Light and air should be furnished as soon as the plants are above ground or they will become weak and pale.

After plants in seed-beds have obtained their second leaves and made an inch or two of growth, they should be removed to the garden beds or border. This should be done on a dull day if possible; if not they may require shading after removal until they become established.

Oshkosh, Wis.

“Tommy,” said a father to his precocious five-year-old son and heir, “your mother tells me she gives you pennies to be good. Do you think that is right?” “Of course it is,” replied Tommy. “You certainly don’t want me to grow up and be good for nothing, do you?”—Exchange.

## A COMMERCIAL NURSERY.

W. J. Moyle.

This afternoon I went up on the hill to the herbaceous grounds, to superintend the getting out of 350 *Boltonia latisquamae*, 500 *Platycodon* and 500 *Gaillardia grandiflora*. This order goes to Thomas Meehan & Sons of Pennsylvania.

The location is a warm, southern, sunny exposure, and all along the hedgerow I noticed the Snowdrops and yellow and blue Crocus were making a brilliant display as they thrust their faces up through the tangled break of ivy, honeysuckle and cat-briar. The latter vine is a native here and hated by the farmer in this region as badly as the Canada thistle is by the Wisconsin granger. I must confess however to a feeling of admiration for this thorny vine. The bright, glowing green of the bark during winter makes it very conspicuous, and bespangled as it is with blue berries the greater part of the time, it certainly is pleasing to the eye.

We are now running business with all hands on. The weather is a little cool, but otherwise excellent for our work.

Two hundred thousand cuttings of California privet—*ligustrum ovalifolium*—are being set out as rapidly as a gang of a dozen boys can stick them in the ground. And yesterday forty bushels of blackberry root cuttings were run in and covered,—this of one variety alone. The propagation of small fruits is a specialty with Mr. Lovett and the large quantities grown, combined with excellent facilities he has for growing them cheaply, make it possible for him to put them on the market at very low figures and still make a large profit.

As I walked through the acres and acres of cannas in bloom last summer I said to myself, "where will we find a market for them all?" For the past three weeks we have been shipping dry roots by the wagon load and to-day are

out of all the leading sorts, so have to refuse orders that are coming in.

The remarks made by the editor in a recent number of the Horticulturist concerning the Rudbeckia, Golden Glow, I thought very appropriate. We have found it a beautiful and profitable flower to grow and as hardy as any of the wild Rudbeckias of Wisconsin.

Rosa rugosa is a shrub that is not planted in Wisconsin as much as it ought to be. With us it is a standard, as it lives and thrives along the coast, where the salt sea spray kills most shrubs. During the autumn and early winter it is very attractive, as it stands out in bold relief covered with its bright red fruit.

Lovett Nurseries, Little Silver, N. J.



#### A PEST OF THE APPLE.

In a Massachusetts orchard last fall, we were surprised at the fine, large apples lying on the ground under the trees, apparently going to waste. We picked up one and another of the luscious-looking apples, but on biting into them found each one completely tunneled by an insect, which had entered the apple so mysteriously that no mark was left upon the skin. The pest was known as the railroad worm, and is thus described by the American Agriculturist:

“The apple maggot, or railroad worm, is a serious pest that is rapidly spreading from the east to the west. The mature insect is a fly, which cannot readily be poisoned, and it is supposed that the eggs which produce the maggots are deposited by the flies in the pulp of the apple beneath the skin, so that the young maggots are secure within the fruit, from the time the eggs are laid until they are mature and emerge from the apple to go into the ground. The maggot is very small, and honeycombs the fruit, doing little material injury to the skin or exterior appearance, but



causes streaks of rot in the flesh of the fruit, that are very repugnant to the consumer. The soil beneath infected trees was examined at the Rhode Island experiment station last fall (bulletin 37, L. F. Kinney), and the number of maggots that were secreted under different trees was estimated to be from 1,600 to 12,000. When hens were penned under the trees, they worked faithfully and seemed to get enough food from the ground to sustain them during three or four days. It appeared as if few of the maggots were likely to be overlooked by the hens. It is probable that the apple maggots remain in the pupa state in the soil beneath the trees in that latitude from the time they leave the apple in the fall until the following spring, so that confining poultry in the orchard in the fall is the most practical treatment for this pest that can now be suggested. It is important to ascertain the distribution of the pest, and all who observe it will please report to us. Carefully feeding all windfalls or refuse apples to hogs or to the stock is advised. Sheep, hogs and poultry should be kept in the orchard after haying, if not before. Clean culture is also advised. Spraying is no protection against this pest, because it does not affect the fly that lays the egg."



### WINDBREAKS.

A Nebraska farmer, writing for the Fruitman, recommends the Red Cedar as the best evergreen for windbreaks in that state and Iowa. He says:

"Lack of care and cultivation, I think, is the great cause of failure with many in getting a wind-break of evergreens started. A few days ago I noticed a farm house where a cedar hedge of rare good form and thrift was growing as a protection on the north of the fruit garden. In the yard near by grew a few straggling cedars.

I asked of the woman whom I met near by the cause

for this marked difference in growth. She replied that both lots of cedars had been planted at the same time, but the hedge had been cultivated, while the others were left to grow in the sod. She also gave some useful information as to the benefits from the cedar hedge. It had protected her fruit and vegetable garden to such an extent that hers yielded abundantly where those of her neighbors failed.

They are nature's great protection—better than brick walls or board fences. They are the wizards to fight blizzards with.

They protect not only our homes and domestic animals from the fierce blasts of winter, but the friendly birds come to stay through the winter with us when given the kindly shelter of the evergreens.

These windbreaks should be the forerunner of the orchard and fruit garden. They will solve the most difficult problems of success with fruit growing in our wind-swept prairies. I read recently that sections of Minnesota had started a boom for the red cedar."

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We are losing confidence in Norway spruce, and would only plant selected specimens. To grow a wall of living green, white and Austrian pine, hemlock and red cedar are all that could be desired.—Wesley Green in the Fruitman.

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In planting evergreens the earth must be firmed over the roots with a pounder. Then leave top soil loose, and cultivate thoroughly. Rocky Mountain trees are best and safest for the northwest.

M. J. WRAGG.

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Sixteen feet is too close to plant Scotch pine, for the limbs soon touch and then they lose leaf.

## GIRDLING.

By E. H. S. Dartt.

[We are glad to hear from our Minnesota friend on his favorite theme. But please bear in mind it is Mr. Dartt and not this magazine that recommends girdling.—Editor.]

I am very sorry to have my Wisconsin friends lose the great advantages that are to be gained by girdling. As a test of hardiness it beats hard winters more than 16 to 1, for it works right along every year, in warm climates as well as cold, and on all kinds of fruit trees.

Our extremely cold winters only come around once in fifteen or twenty years, and even then they cannot be depended upon to kill even tender varieties. Last winter was a remarkably cold one, yet our half hardy varieties escaped injury.

It will certainly cause early bearing by checking the downward flow of the elements of growth as taken in through the leaves and thus forcing wood buds to become fruit buds to be developed the next season.

This enables the experimenter to quickly find out the kind of fruit his new seedlings will bear and it suggests to the orchardist a way by which he can to some extent guard against the off year.

It will not permanently injure a hardy tree. Each season's growth entirely encases all former growth and in two or three years the wound will be completely grown over and the tree will be as if it had never been girdled. If some dead wood should be covered up it will do no harm for the heart of a tree is not so essential as the heart of a man. I well remember that in cutting saw-logs and railcuts in your state, fifty-six years ago, I found many a tree that was perfect in every respect except that it had a rotten heart. It may be disgraceful to be rotten-hearted, but the tree does not mind it—keeps right on growing and flourishing just like the wicked, or like the Green Bay Tree of Wisconsin.



I will make the following assertion, just to stir 'em up: Any fruitgrower that don't know enough to see, understand, and utilize the great advantages that can now be gained by girdling is a Horticultural Fool.

Owatonna, Minn.

### SAND (OR HAIRY) VETCH.

TRY IT.

If you are planning to throw out any strawberries after fruiting, just fit the ground nicely and sow broadcast Sand Vetch (*Vicia villosa*) at the rate of 25 pounds per acre. Drag in thoroughly—then pray for rain!

Let this grow until next spring at planting time, then turn under, fit thoroughly, and plant with anything you please and see what it does for your land. It is a nitrogen gatherer.

J. S. STICKNEY.

Wauwatosa, Wis.

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### AS A COVER CROP.

When the orchard comes into full bearing the Hairy Vetch is at present the best known cover crop. If sown about the middle of June it shades the soil well by the 20th of July, and late in fall it forms a heavy covering for winter protection.

Another special merit of this crop is the fact that it develops more nitrogen in the surface soil than the clovers, and more humus in the soil when turned under in the spring than young clover.—Prof. J. L. Budd, in "A Horticultural Handbook."

## WHAT CURRIE BROTHERS SAY OF IT.

This Vetch is beyond doubt one of the most valuable fodder plants for the West and North-Western states, owing to its adaptability to withstand severe drought, heat and cold. The vines are very similar to Pea vines, but are more slender and much more thickly clad with leaves and side stems, which furnish nice succulent feed. Individual plants will make a ten-foot growth before going to seed.

A sowing made in August or September covers the ground before winter sets in and prevents washing of the soil during the Winter and Spring, thus effecting a great saving of soluble mineral fertilizers contained in soil, which otherwise would wash or leach out. The Washington Department of Agriculture estimates the value of a plowed-under crop of this Vetch as equivalent to putting into the ground \$16 to \$45 worth of commercial fertilizers per acre.

This Vetch is without an equal. From sowings made in August an excellent late Fall pasturage for sheep or hogs can be had in 50 days, the plants being by that time 2 feet in height. After close eating it can be left to prevent soil washing during Winter and Spring. It is one of the first plants to start into growth in Spring and will be again ready to pasture by May, or it can be allowed to mature for green cutting or for a hay crop. Hogs, sheep and cattle eat it with great relish.

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This Vetch does not do well on low, wet soils, but seems especially adapted to light, sandy soil and exposed hills, being an excellent crop to prevent soil from washing in heavy rains.

The objection to growing it to cut for hay is that the long vines become so tangled they are hard to mow. This objection does not apply when sown in the fall to be plowed under in the spring.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION.

Secretary Herbst has sent out to this Committee the following list of questions:

1. In what condition did your apple, plum and cherry trees go into the winter?
2. In what condition did your small fruits go into winter quarters?
3. At the present time what is the outlook for the coming season's crop of tree and small fruits?
4. Name three best apples with you.
5. Name three best plums with you.
6. Name three best cherries with you.
7. Name three best strawberries with you.
8. Name two best blackberries.
9. Name two best redraspberries.
10. Name two best black raspberries.
11. Name two best currants.
12. Name two best gooseberries.
13. Name two best grapes.

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REPORT OF A. J. EDWARDS, FORT ATKINSON.

1. Owing to damage done by winter of '98-'99, none of the fruit trees were in what I would call good condition. In my opinion it will take another season to determine damage done. Grafts set last spring went into winter in good condition.

2. What we have went into winter quarters in good condition, strawberries especially.

3. I do not look for an average crop of tree fruits, for reason given above. Outlook for small fruits good but acreage only about half the usual amount.

4. Duchess, Wealthy, N. W. Greening. 5. DeSoto, Wolf, Hawkeye. 6. Early Richmond, Late Montmorency. 7. Warfield, Bederwood, Splendid. 8. Snyder, Ancient

Briton. 9. Loudon, Cuthbert—Columbian for purple. 10. For market, Kansas, Gregg. 11. White grape, Victoria. 12. Downing. 13. Concord, Worden. We ought not to confine all of these to two or three varieties.

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REPORT OF F. A. HARDIN, WEYAUWEGA.

1. They went into winter quarters in good shape. 2. Good. 3. All tree fruits, large crop. But a small acreage of small fruits, hence crop will not be large in quantity. 4. Duchess, Wealthy, Longfield. 6. Early Richmond. 7. Wilson, Crescent, Warfield. 8. Ancient Briton. 9. Cuthbert, Loudon. 10. Gregg, Older. 11. Victoria, Long Bunch Holland. 12. Downing. 13. Worden, Moore's Early.

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REPORT OF DR. HOLLIDAY, ELLSWORTH.

1. Good condition. Ground moist, and trees had made a good growth. 2. Good condition. 3. Good. 4. Duchess, N. W. Greening, Hibernial. 5. Surprise, Wyant, De Soto. 6. Not raised to any extent, but Early Richmond seems to do the best. 7. Wilson, Warfield, Bederwood. 8. Stone's Hardy is the only one I know anything about; it does well. Ancient Briton and Snyder are raised to some extent. 9. Columbian and Loudon. 10. Ohio. 11. Fay's Prolific, White Grape. 12. Red Jacket, Downing. 13. Delaware, Moore's Early.

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REPORT OF J. J. MENN, NORWALK.

1 and 2. O. K. 3. Good for tree fruits. Not much small fruit grown; good for what there is. 4. Fameuse, Wealthy, Plumb's Cider. 5. De Soto. 6. Early Richmond. 7. Warfield, Enhance, Bubach for home use. 8. Briton, Badger. 9. Loudon, the best all around. 10. Gregg. 11. Red Dutch. 13. Moore's Early.

## REPORT OF J. F. CASE, EAU CLAIRE.

1. The wood was well ripened and they were in the very best condition.
2. Good; never put my bushes down in better condition.
3. I notice the buds are green and nice, they must be all right. We have had a splendid winter for them; small fruits have been covered with snow all the time.
4. Duchess, Wealthy, N. W. Greening. 5. Hawkeye, Abundance, Adelia. 6. Dyehouse, Wragg, Ostheim. 7. Staples, Clyde, Lovett. 8. Ancient Briton, Erie. 9. Marlboro, Cuthbert. 10. Ohio, and an unnamed seedling which originated here. 11. Victoria, North Star. 12. Downing, Houghton. 13. Worden, Agawam.

## REPORT OF D. E. BINGHAM, STURGEON BAY.

1. Apples went into winter quarters in good condition, also cherries. Plums somewhat weak on account of loss of foliage, except Abundance, which was in good shape.
2. Everything looked well in the line of small fruits; quite dry, however, for such plants and vines.
3. Plenty of buds on plums. Everything looks favorable for small fruits now.
4. Wealthy, Windsor Chief, N. W. Greening. 5. Abundance, Yellow Egg, Burbank. 6. Early Richmond, Montmorency, Kentish. 7. Warfield, Bederwood, Clyde. 8. Ancient Briton, Bangor. 9. Loudon, Marlboro. 10. Older, Kansas. 11. Long Bunch Holland, Prince Albert. 12. Downing, and ANOTHER DOWNING. 13. Moore's Early, Worden.

## REPORT OF CHAS. H. RAMSDELL, MENOMONIE.

2. Laid down and covered with soil. Some also mulched with manure.



3. Good. A moderately cold winter, with an even temperature and little alternate freezing and thawing as yet.

4. Duchess of Oldenburg. 7. Bismarck, Marshall for home use. 8. Wilson. 9. Philadelphia. 10. Doolittle, Yellow Antwerpen. 11. North Star, White Holland. 12. Downing, Industry. 13. Concord, Delaware.

In regard to apple, plum and cherry trees, I will say that as they do not succeed here, they are not grown to any extent. The principal difficulty seems to be late frosts in spring. Only the most hardy crab apples are grown and those in small quantities. One will occasionally see a plum grafted on the wild stock, but most often one sees the common, wild native plum instead of the nursery varieties. I have not seen more than one or two cherry trees since I have been here.

There is little doubt but what with wind breaks, shelters, etc., after experimenting and the most careful attention, apples could be grown here, at least in limited quantities, in sheltered situations.

The small fruits named are known to be hardy with us and most desirable, but whether they are the best, I cannot say.

Most of the people around here do not take pains to mulch the small fruits at all and this will account for some of the failures in this line. There is, seven or eight miles west of the city, an orchard of Duchess of Oldenburg trees which are said to yield fairly well. I think that it is possible to raise here a part of the fruit for home consumption, but this region will not raise much for other markets. As yet fruit raising here is in its rudimentary stages and of the most simple character.

## NAMES OF COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION.

Frank Stark, Randolph; J. F. Case, Eau Claire; F. A. Hardin, Weyauwega; W. H. Hanchett, Sparta; A. J. Edwards, Fort Atkinson; John J. Menn, Norwalk; Daniel Williams, Summit Center; A. Clark Tuttle, Baraboo; D. E. Bingham, Sturgeon Bay; C. A. Abbott, Appleton; A. J. Philips, West Salem; E. R. Holliday, M. D., Ellsworth; L. F. Laiten, Omro; W. L. Osborne, La Crosse; Charles H. Ramsdell, Menomonie.



## WHAT SHALL WE PLANT?

Geo. J. Kellogg.

Editor Wisconsin Horticulturist:—This theme is old and yet it is always new. But at this season of the year it is the most important question that comes to the front with every planter, be he the owner of a thousand acres or a small village lot, be he farmer, gardener, or mechanic,—“the best thing to plant that will bring the best returns.” Every year we ought to improve on the last. A failure is often more important than a success, but not at all profitable, unless it will help us to avoid future failures. To the gardener who is always trying every new humbug in seeds, the balance is on the wrong side of the ledger. The American likes to be humbugged and the seedsmen, nurserymen and tree tramps are always ready with the humbug. If we exercise our good judgment and common sense we ought to see through the advertising lies that promise impossibilities. I would not discourage trying new things, but there is such a large majority of new things in the fruit and vegetable world that it is not safe to leave the old, tried varieties which have PAID.

APPLES.—Stick to the kinds that are doing best on your soil, those that have paid you for the last ten or

twenty years. Still I would not pass by the new varieties that have come to the front in the past ten years, those that are proven adapted, good and productive. There are several new kinds about which there is a variety of opinion as regards hardiness, productiveness and season.

We tried to bring out the facts just as they exist, about the Northwestern Greening, at our last annual meeting. Many seemed to think I was opposed to it. I am disappointed that it does not KEEP in Rock, Dane and Jefferson counties, but with all the objections I am fully persuaded it is the most profitable winter apple we have, unless it is Ben Davis! Now I presume I have struck a sensation! Well, the facts are that Ben Davis has paid better than any other winter apple in southern Wisconsin; in one large orchard one hundred miles north of Madison, it was THE apple that paid.

Twenty-five years ago I sold one hundred Ben Davis trees to a man in Jefferson county, and he tells me to-day that those trees have paid him better than any thing in his large orchard and he regrets that for every one that died he had not set out two more of the same kind. Now I would not raise a Ben Davis excepting to SELL. The Willow Twig has paid in my orchard in Janesville best for thirty years, but it is because I had more of them than of Ben Davis.

For the new beginner I would recommend Oldenburg, Patten's Greening, McMahan, Wolf River, Newell, Wealthy, Plumb's Cider, Fameuse, Longfield, Windsor, N. W. Greening, Malinda, Talman Sweet, Utter, Fall Orange, Flushing Spitzenberg, Custar's Golden Sweet, Dominion, Murphy's Blush and Ben Davis, twenty apples; Transcendent, Hyslop, Sweet Russet, Whitney, Martha, and Virginia crabs. And if I could not get every kind I would set a Virginia crab in its place, and if I could not get the crab



trees I would plant the root graft where the tree was to grow and graft it later on.

Our Wausau trial orchard, I am sure, will demonstrate that the healthiest tree on its own roots, can be grown from the root grafts planted and never dug. Set two or more in each place where a tree is wanted and later take up all but one. Next healthiest and probably the best tree of all will be the top-grafted Virginia crab. If I were planting an orchard of 500 or 5,000 trees I would plant all root grafts and half of them would be Virginia or Shield's crab to top-graft later on.

I have mentioned in my list only one Russian. There is Yellow Transparent that blights; there is little Repka that keeps; and perhaps there are some others of value. I have been fooling with the Russians for thirty years and last winter, a year ago, killed ten kinds of Russians, whole rows of them, just as bad as Ben Davis, Hibernial with the rest. Our State Society offered \$10 for a show of winter Russians and there were three kinds of the ten that made a show. Who has ever grown and put on the market in Wisconsin or Iowa ten barrels of winter Russians?

I suppose I have committed the unpardonable sin in mentioning the Russians. I have always admired our State Fair show of Russians, especially as shown by friend Tuttle, and when I was on committee of awards I recommended a \$20 premium as a special on the show of Russians; it was paid. I have always hoped we might get ten varieties of Russians that we might count a success.

I ought to apologize for mentioning 21 kinds of apples for a beginner. If I should come down to ten it would be Oldenburg, Patten's Greening, Wolf River, Wealthy, Plumb's Cider, Longfield, Windsor, N. W. Greening, Malinda, and Murphy's Blush.

Now is the time to decide what to plant.

Janesville, Wis.

[Editor's Note.—Of course a communication like the

above is merely an expression of the personal opinion of the writer whose signature it bears. Probably most Wisconsin orchardists would not fully indorse the list of apples which Mr. Kellogg recommends for a beginner.]

#### LETTER FROM COLORADO.

Littleton, Colorado, March 7.

The more I study and learn of all South-Western climates the more I think of our state of Wisconsin as a fruit state. Here they have spring and winter mixed for five months, which is much harder on trees and fruit plants than the cold of our state. One hundred and fifty freezes and thaws dry out twigs and kill more than the cold of our climate. The soil here is deep and rich, but the air, always dry and on the move, is so hungry or thirsty for water that all slender twigs are dried out by the long season of the mixed winter and spring.

Raspberry canes have to be covered six or eight inches deep to hold them back and keep them from drying out.

We had one week of zero weather this winter, the coldest morning 10 degrees below, but a hard frost or freeze every night and warm and sunny every day, as a rule. Last spring had a hard freeze after every thing was in bloom; all trees killed on south side and some clear to the ground, hence no fruit. They expect a big crop every seven years.—H. Floyd of Eureka, Wis.

#### ARBOR DAY—THOUGHTS ON ITS PRACTICAL SIDE.

We wish we had space for the suggestive article with the above title, published in the March number of that excellent journal "Park and Cemetery and Landscape Gardening." We give some extracts:

"Arbor Day is now observed in some forty-two states; in the majority of cases the day is appointed by proclama-

tion of the governor. In some states the Board of Education names the date, but in whatever manner the day is set apart, it is a fact that it is becoming one of the most universally observed days of any in the American calendar of public ceremonials."

"Arbor day has given immense impulse in this country to the forestry question; it is affording practical instruction in the variety, habits and usefulness of trees, both those of the forest and those particularly adapted to shade and ornamental purposes, and the study of such a subject for the young not only affords a knowledge, highly useful in later years, but refreshes and enlightens the mind, while at the same time that mind is refined by the softening influences of nature.

A more practical feature of Arbor Day exercises is the actual planting of trees and shrubs. This has been hitherto confined largely to the adjacent school-house grounds, though in isolated cases trees and shrubs have been planted in the public square, park and cemetery.

There is one important fact that must be borne in mind in relation to this indiscriminate planting, and that is, to be effective and fulfill its mission, it should be done under the supervision or guidance of one more or less familiar with landscape gardening operations. And each tree or shrub planted should be disposed of as a part of a thought out plan. By a proper consideration of this main fact, every tree and shrub planted this year may, under proper conditions, be supplemented by what the scholars do next year, until finally a beautiful school ground will result."

"Another practical object for the activities of Arbor Day should be the village park, or where no such area existed, the public square, or the blank, arid spots about the village hall or other public buildings. There is a lamentable number of our minor towns, villages and hamlets either

altogether lacking in the natural adornment to which plant life contributes, or are subject to so much neglect that they might as well be so. Here are the places for the local Improvement Association, and here is the great opportunity for joining hands with the Arbor Day of the schools, to take up the work of planting trees and shrubbery where needed. And as a rule the amount of material close at hand is for the present, generally so abundant, that it is not so much a question of expense to improve a vacant place, as one of time and energy. All the prominent landscape architects advise the use of local material for planting out purposes. What is needed most is intelligence in selection and arrangement, and if this is lacking, which in most cases it probably is, a moderate fee will secure a plan of improvement in the small town or village which will be the best paying investment, in more senses than one, that the community ever made.

But we can come nearer home with the influence of Arbor Day if we will. Our own dooryards, as the home lots are sometimes called, afford opportunities, the adornment of which would transform the appearance of nearly every town in the country."

#### HOUSECLEANING HINTS.

Clean mattings with salt and water.

Use a small, stiff flat paint-brush for cleaning the corners of the window sash.

Be sparing of ammonia in washing windows, as it injures the paint.

Hot sharp vinegar or a new half dollar will remove paint spatters, and turpentine will take off putty stains.

Printers' ink is the best polisher yet found for glass. Use a soft cloth for wiping, and polish with newspaper.

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IN MEMORIAM.

We are called upon to chronicle the death of another member of the State Horticultural Society, Mr. Cairns of Ellsworth, who died Feb. 22, 1900, aged 74 years, 10 days. G. W. Cairns was born at Wallkill, Orange county, N. Y., Feb. 12, 1826, and there grew to manhood. His early education was acquired at the country schools in the vicinity of his birth-place. In 1849 he came to Wisconsin, settling near Madison, where he remained for about five years, teaching school winters, and working at the carpenter trade summers. In 1854 he moved to River Falls, where he resided about four years, and during which period he built and owned the Greenwood House, the first hotel in that place. In 1859 he became Register of Deeds for Pierce county and removed to the city of Prescott, the then capital of the county. In 1861, upon the removal of the county seat from Prescott to Ellsworth, he removed there, where he has since resided. Mr. Cairns was married at River Falls, March 26, 1866, to Abbie S. Leavitt, who survives him with three children, William Cairns of Madison, Wis., and Rolla N. and Gertrude Cairns of Ellsworth.

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EDITOR'S NOTES.

You will be sure of good stock, true to name, if you buy your trees and plants of the men whose advertisements appear in this number of the Horticulturist. We are personally acquainted with these gentlemen and know them to be reliable.

Our readers will be glad to hear again from W. J. Moyle, who was for a time the business manager of the Horticulturist, but is now a landscape gardener, with J. T. Lovett of Little Silver, New Jersey. Mr. Moyle seems to be having a good time down on the Jersey shore. Besides



his horticultural work he is director of a church choir.

Prof. Budd, for twenty years Professor of Horticulture at the Iowa Agricultural College, has recently issued a little volume entitled "A Horticultural Handbook." The book is just what it purports to be, a "Handbook" of horticultural information. It is small enough to be carried in the pocket, contains brief instructions for laying out and planting the home grounds; for taking up and planting trees and shrubs; for pruning; for budding and grafting; for the care of orchards and small fruits; and also gives a well-considered list of "What to Plant." It is a very desirable book for the fruit-grower or the owner of a village lot. Published by Wallace Publishing Co., Des Moines, Iowa. Price, postpaid, 35 cts.

"A Guide to Pansy Culture," by William Toole of Baraboo, Wis., is a neat little catalogue, containing very explicit directions for growing pansies. There is quite an extensive select list of other seeds and plants besides pansies.

J. M. Smith's Sons, Green Bay, Wis., have sent us a neat and reliable catalogue of seed potatoes of many varieties. They also sell rhubarb plants and a few varieties of currants and strawberries.

Geo. J. Kellogg and Sons, Janesville, Wis., have issued their Annual Price List of all kinds of fruits and a long list of ornamentals. With the Price List is a circular containing careful instructions for setting out and caring for the different varieties of small fruits, also for planting an orchard,—information of much value, especially to beginners.

The Phoenix Nursery, Delavan, Wis., have an inviting price list for 1900, of almost everything desirable in the way of trees and plants and shrubs. F. K. Phoenix, the senior member of the firm, is to withdraw from business at the end of this year.

Hon. Chas. Hirschinger, though he has moved into the city, continues his nursery business and gives it his personal oversight.

W. D. Boynton, Shiocton, Wis., makes a specialty of

evergreens, although he also deals in fruit and other deciduous trees.

Charles L. Pearson of Baraboo, Wis., issues a dainty price list of select strawberry plants, embellished with a half-tone cut of Brookside Berry Farm.

Among the Agricultural students of the University of Wisconsin to whom prizes were awarded, we notice the name of Willard Abbott, son of C. A. Abbott of Appleton. Mr. Abbott's prize was a valuable silver medal, given by W. J. Gillett & Son of Rosendale, for judging Holstein cattle.

The Minnesota Horticulturist for March was an especially interesting number of a magazine always valuable. This number contained an article on "Luther Burbank and his Horticultural Creations," written by Prof. S. B. Green and illustrated with fine photogravures of Mr. Burbank, his home, some of his productions and experiment grounds.

Vick's Magazine, with its elegant colored frontispiece and its fine half-tone illustrations, is the most beautiful horticultural magazine that comes to our desk.

Another word regarding Sand Vetch. If it is sown in the spring to be cut in the fall for hay, some sustaining crop, either oats or rye, must be sown with it, otherwise it is extremely difficult to cut. Its long vines and peculiar twisted growth make the sustaining crop almost imperative.

When Mr. Henry Floyd wrote the letter which appears on a preceding page, he was in Colorado helping care for a son-in-law sick with consumption. He expected to return to his home in Eureka, Wis., in April.

John W. Meixner, Jr., of North Bristol, in a letter renewing his membership in the State Horticultural Society, writes that comparatively few of his trees died from the effects of the cold winter, and those were of the tender varieties. It is his habit to apply manure or rotted corn stalks around his trees after the ground is frozen in the fall, and he thinks this was a protection.

**READ THIS!** If you have not already renewed your subscription for 1900, please renew at once. This is to be the best year in the history of our little magazine and you do not want to miss it. Send 40 cents in stamps to

THE WISCONSIN HORTICULTURIST,  
Baraboo, Wis.

