

## FOR FARMERS AND GARDENERS.

**DEGENERATION OF VEGETATION.**—We commend to the perusal of all our readers the interesting article on this subject, by Mr. E. Sayers. His extensive experience as a practical and scientific horticulturist, in the Eastern States as well as in this Territory, are sufficient guaranty to give such weight to the suggestions here offered as their importance demands. The evils of deterioration are plainly manifesting themselves in the worthless character, especially of many of our earlier esculent plants—to correct and thoroughly remedy which, all are interested. The vital importance of perpetuating pure and unadulterated seeds cannot be too strongly urged, and we trust that the community at large—farmers, gardeners and all who apply themselves, whether little or much, to the cultivation of any portion of the soil, will find their interest in looking into this subject and add their influence and energies to the improvement of all the vegetables and fruits cultivated among us; and this will be most effectually accomplished by preserving inviolate the distinction of varieties and, from year to year propagating pure seed from the choicest plants. Such a course will not only prevent deterioration, but will secure a gradual and, if judiciously persevered in, a constant improvement in the size, flavor and yield of those substantial comforts which should essentially constitute "our daily bread."

**HUNGARIAN MILLET, OR MOHA DE HONGRIE.**—We have already printed one or two articles relative to this species of grass, the seed of which was imported by the U. S. Patent Office from France, in 1854, is distinguished for its endurance of drouth. A French farmer says, "In the middle of a calcareous plain, where everything else had perished, the Moha remained unchanged." The seed is highly recommended as feed for horses, cattle and poultry. D. B. Dixon, of Iowa, says, "its destiny is to change the agricultural products of this portion of the Union and substitute cows, horses, mules, and sheep in place of hogs. We have raised hogs, heretofore, from necessity, simply because our only reliable crop was corn, and other domestic animals required hay, or its equivalent, which we could not produce with cheapness and certainty." When it is desired to perfect the seed, the Moha should be sown as early as the season will permit; for green forage, sow in June or July; in the first case sowing about twelve pounds, in the latter sixteen pounds of seed to the acre.

An average crop is about three tons of hay and thirty bushels of seed to the acre. After threshing, it is said to be equal to timothy.

If designed for fodder, without threshing, it should be cut before the seed is fully ripe and cured as other hay. If for threshing, it should be cut when the plant has attained a fine yellow color; if cut too late, the seed will shell out in curing and the stalks will be too woody for good feed.

The attention of our readers is directed to the communication of Mr. A. P. Rockwood, who has grown the Hungarian grass in this Territory.

**EARLY VEGETABLES.**—Those who have no hot beds and who wish early tomatoes or cabbages can have them by planting good seed of early variety, in two or three pots or small boxes, in some mellow, rich soil, watering occasionally and allowing them to stand in the sun, during the middle portion of warm, sunny days. Transplant when they are sufficiently large, and the weather and soil are suitable.

Cucumbers and other varieties that will not bear transplanting are obtained earliest in open air—having a rich bed for the seed—by marking across each hill at right angles and planting one quarter each successive week, so that if one planting fails, another immediately follows.

Cucumber, as well as melon and squash seeds are considered best when two or three years old. It is said the plants from such seed run less to vines, bear earlier and more abundantly.

**CURRENTS.**—The currant, by careful cultivation, has thrived in this Territory. They repay the necessary extra care in the increased size of the fruit. They yield and flourish best in a rich, deep, well-manured soil. It is profitable to cut out some of the shoots where they are very thick and to moderately shorten the tops of those left. The red and white Dutch and cherry currants are most popular in the east. The black is said to be the best variety grown in this Territory, especially for making wine.

As soon as the frost is out of the ground, shoots may be set out and, as there is no scarcity of them, all who wish will have opportunity of growing currants for themselves.

**EVERLASTING RASPBERRIES** are attracting some attention among horticulturists at the east. Two varieties are spoken of; the *Ohio* and the *Catawissa*. They are represented as of large size, dark red color, "very good" flavor and bearing throughout September, October and until frost in November. It is said that fifty canes would supply a small family with a daily dish till the appearance of hard frost.

**APPLYING MANURE.**—It is now generally believed that, to secure to the land the greatest possible benefit from stable and barn-yard manures, it should be hauled out and either spread at once or deposited in small heaps, so that no putrefactive fermentation will take place. One writer, who had spread some of his manure in the winter and some just before planting in May, says, "Where the manure was applied in the winter, the corn started earlier and continued ahead through the season; it also yielded the heaviest growth and the largest, soundest ears." This, doubtless, would be the best plan with short manure, but, in this dry climate, where long manure does not so readily rot in the soil, it would seem more profitable to rot the latter kind under cover before applying it.

## Hungarian Grass.

We publish the following from *Life Illustrated*, in relation to the Hungarian grass. In addition to what we have already published, the matter on the subject of its cultivation in this week's issue will, we trust, give some knowledge of its nature, the manner of cultivation and securing, and call the attention of our enterprising farmer's thereto:—

I, as a farmer, think that the cultivation of this grass is a thing of great importance to them. I have spent much labor and used much exertion to introduce this seed into the different States of our country for the purpose of testing its culture, and I find it gives generally good satisfaction. I have sent a great many specimens gratuitously, and will continue so to do, for the benefit of agriculture. I think the introduction of rare seeds and the exchange of common ones between farmers of remote sections a matter of great importance to them, and would be glad to see this practice more generally adopted.

The Hungarian grass to most of your readers is something new, having never been heard of, or, if known at all, not enough to become acquainted with its great value for stock-feeding.

As a primary product of agriculture, it possesses great merit, combining all the nutritious qualities of other grasses, and at the same time yielding a seed as nutritious as rye or wheat, and generally double in quantity.

Secondarily considered, it also possesses equal merit. If from a dry spring the common grasses give promise of being light, and oats also from the same cause, or if corn should have the appearance of a bad prospect from any cause whatever, this grass not requiring to be sown until late or very late—corn planting time—it would seem to be the very thing; the only forage crop to supply the places of those already lost. Herein it possesses great advantages, and the only salvation to a section of country possessing many animals that must have subsistence during winter.

It is an annual grass, and requires to be sown every spring; and the cultivation of the soil without doubt is one great cause of its being a more certain crop than perennial grasses.

The cultivation of the soil puts the ground in a much better condition to resist the section of dry weather upon the growing crops. It also enables heavy rains to pass more freely beneath the roots of plants, and the soil being loose from cultivation renders it more susceptible of holding moisture, and the heavy dews that fall in dry weather.

These causes, I think, explain the reasons why this grass so far outyields the common perennial grasses. It has been raised side by side with them for five years in this section of the country, and outyields them one and two hundred per cent. every season.

I am certain this grass will grow on any soil that will grow Indian corn, and it requires about sixty to seventy days to perfect itself in, although it may be cut and make excellent hay in fifty days. I have now many letters from persons in different States to whom I sent specimens of seed last spring, stating its great yield with them, which I dare not mention here for fear of being discredited; but I will say in general terms, that in a fair season and fair cultivation in this country, it yields four, five, six, and seven tons of first quality of dry hay to the acre, and in extra seasons it has gone over eight tons.

Now I say that this grass ought to be cultivated in every section of our country, and if there are any that are not disposed to buy seed, I for one am willing to give them a start of it free of charge, and will do so upon application by letter cheerfully.

I am a farmer, and have raised this grass since its introduction into our country by the Hungarians, and I will vouch for the truth that it is the best forage crop we raise, making the richest, sweetest, and best hay ever used; and I am now feeding it to my stock; and they eat it in preference to any other kind of grass, and will eat it before oats or corn.

Hence I feel it a duty and matter of importance to the agricultural interests that they should be made acquainted with it that it may be cultivated everywhere.—[W. G. CLARK, Albia, Monroe county, Iowa.]

[For the Deseret News.]

## A Treatise on the present State of Horticulture in Utah.

BY E. SAYERS, HORTICULTURIST.  
NO. I.

## ON THE EFFECTS OF GROWING TOO MANY VARIETIES OF VEGETABLES.

Many of our esculent vegetables are fast degenerating into a weak, meager state, by growing too many varieties of the same species or family in close proximity one to another; the result of which is a hybrid or mongrel of inferior quality.

## Degeneration of the Radish.

For instance: grow the true variety of red turnip root radish by the side of the long scarlet radish, and the seed will produce inferior radishes, having neither the shape or quality of the turnip root or long scarlet; grow the seed produced from this stock near the white Spanish or summer radish, and the seed will produce a mongrel root, small, hard and tough, with large tops, of little use.

Now, all the three above named varieties are excellent in their true character, but, by bad management, in two years they are carried to a weak, meager habit, and almost to the wild or primitive state.

## Of the Lettuce, Onion, Cabbage, Carrot, &amp;c.

The lettuce, the onion, the cabbage, carrot and, indeed, every species, or true variety of vegetable, will deteriorate in the same manner by growing several varieties near to one another.

## Degeneration of Varieties of the same Species.

The introduction of an innumerable variety of one species of vegetable has also a tendency to deteriorate and produce a weak, meager stock.

## Of the Pea Varieties.

For example, the pea has an endless number of varieties and sub-varieties, all introduced, of course, as something extra.

Ten years ago I introduced "Landreth Extra Early Pea," which is nothing more than the old early frame a little improved in earliness; this pea I dubbed with the name of the Early Pine, to distinguish it from other varieties. I have since grown the Early Emperor, Queen Victoria, Morning Star, and several other sub-varieties of the same class, all of which I have discarded as inferior to the Early Pine.

The Marrowfat, Blue Imperial, Grey Pea and all the true varieties of Pea have their numberless sub-varieties and then again the entire group is doubled by the skinless or eat pod in every variety.

## Of the Cabbage.

The cabbage family has also an innumerable variety. I have now before me a list of thirty varieties sent from the Patent Office, Washington, a few years ago, to be grown for experiment. I have here the Early York, Adams' Early London, Nonpareil, Atkins' Matchless and Enfield Market—all early good varieties and, most probably, the Early York is the parent stock of all, and the best and only variety worth growing as an early cabbage. The Ox Heart proved to be an excellent variety for summer use, the Drumhead Savoy for fall and the Green Curled Savoy, and Dwarf Drumhead are also good varieties for winter use.

## Selection of the Best Varieties.

It would be a great public benefit if the Agricultural Society would select a proper person to investigate the qualities of the different vegetables, as they come in season for the table, and give a description list of a few of the best standard varieties. If one half of the vegetables now growing was reduced in this way, the result would be a greater produce of good quality and, instead of every species being almost run out, every true variety would retain its pristine quality unimpaired by admixture of inferior varieties. We should by this method have the Early York, Savoy and Drumhead cabbage in their true character; the good old varieties of short top scarlet radish and salmon radish would also assume their true character of handsome roots and short tops, instead of long, coarse tops and short, ill-proportioned roots of no true form, color or flavor; our carrots and parsnips would be long, handsome, tapering roots, instead of a mass of sprangling roots without shape or form; the onion would be a handsome, well-shaped bulb, instead of a stiff-necked root, all top and little or no bottom. Indeed, every variety of vegetable, by such a method, might be brought into its true character, so that every person might know what to cultivate to the best advantage, to the greatest certainty.

## How to Secure the Best Seed.

It would also be of a great benefit if seed growing was confined to large quantities of a good, select stock, particularly such as agricultural roots, the ruta-baga, the white sugar beet, carrot, parsnip, and more especially the sugar cane, which is already much mixed with the broom corn and other varieties of the same natural family.

## Exchanging Seeds.

A great benefit might also result if a system of exchange in seeds was entered into by cultivators in new settlements and villages, by those who grow their own seeds, by one person growing one good variety separate, and exchanging with his neighbors, who grow other varieties; for instance, suppose one person has a good true variety of onion; let him grow a quantity of seed from selected roots and change with his neighbor who has a good variety of carrot or any other vegetables, peas, beans and every other variety of seed may be grown on the same principle.

## Advantage Gained.

By carrying out this method, much ground would be gained that is now often occupied in growing several varieties of one species of vegetable.

tables in the same proximity or neighborhood, which must naturally deteriorate and mix the whole into inferior varieties.

[To be Continued.]

## HUNGARIAN GRASS.

G. S. L. CITY, March 29, 1859.

## EDITOR DESERET NEWS:—

SIR—I noticed in No. 3, current volume, an extract from the *Valley Farmer* and one from *Emery's Journal on Hungarian Grasses*. Having some knowledge of the growth and utility of this grass or grain, I feel it my duty to communicate it to the public.

In March, 1857, I purchased 4 qts. of Moha millet seed, which I believe is the more proper name for what is termed the Hungarian Grass, as it is a species of millet. This seed I sowed on high bench land about the first of May. The land being very dry, it came up quite uneven, so much so that it was not thought worth any attention, consequently it was left to take care of itself, without irrigation, and was more or less overrun by sunflowers. Nevertheless it withstood the drouth remarkably well, and so far overcame as to produce a light crop, about two tons per acre, which I carefully gathered. Part of the seed I thrashed out and stacked the straw for fodder, the feeding of which satisfied me that it was the best fodder I ever fed to stock and proved to me that it was worthy of my attention in future cropping.

Before the time of seeding again arrived, we were on the move south. I took most of the seed on hand and had it sowed on the Provo bottom where it grew very luxuriantly and produced, by estimate, five tons per acre.

A specimen was presented to the awarding committee on Agricultural produce of the D. A. & M. Society at the annual fair in Oct., 1858. The first prize was awarded by said committee, as the best specimen of Moha Millet. A sub-committee made a report to the President and Directors, in which they set forth its utility and recommended it to the public. I have never noticed any portion of that report in your columns, I therefore feel it my duty to bear a testimony in its favor and fully indorse the recommendation given in your columns of the 23d inst.

A. P. ROCKWOOD.

## Letter from Manti.

## EDITOR DESERET NEWS:—

Thinking perhaps that a few items relative to matters and things in this part of the Territory might be acceptable I submit the following for your consideration.

The weather here, during the winter, has been very cold, tho' there has not been much snow and cattle have wintered well on the range, with little or no loss to their owners.

As spring is now near at hand, our farmers are engaged in manuring their lands, and getting them ready for the plow, and very extensive preparations are being made for grain raising the coming season.

Two new settlements have been commenced in this county, one on Pleasant Creek, the other on the San Pich river on the road to Salt Creek, 18 miles north of this place, and 25 miles south east of Nephi. This is an excellent place for a settlement, as the land is good for farming or grazing purposes, with plenty of water, fine wood and timber and stone coal in abundance.

Coal mining will be carried on hereafter, more extensively than heretofore, and a sufficient amount will be kept on hand to supply the demand, which is yearly increasing; price \$5 per ton. Persons wishing to engage in farming cannot do better than to locate at this point.

The spirit of enterprise and improvement is on the increase throughout the county. Three new saw mills and one flouring mill, are under contract for erection. Our streets and roads are not forgotten. Two substantial arched stone bridges are in progress of erection, and will soon be finished, the first I have seen in the Territory.

Tintic the notorious Ute chief died on the morning of the 15th inst. The Indians had a big pow-wow on the occasion, and killed eight horses to accompany him to the world of spirits. The citizens of this Territory who have been acquainted with his history will not much deplore his death.

Arapene, Peteetnefe and Sandpich with a large number of Indians are encamped four miles south of this place, they are a heavy tax upon the people as they are destitute of food, and have to be fed by the citizens; they are waiting for the superintendent, Dr. Forney, to visit them, but hope that his coming will not be prolonged, and that he will do something to relieve their necessities.

The United States troops that have been quartered at Ephraim have been ordered to other points.

It is a general time of health, peace and prosperity in this and the other settlements in this county.

G. P.

**VEGETABLE ZONES.**—The eight divisions of the earth recognized by naturalists as vegetable zones are—the equatorial, the tropical, the sub-tropical, the warm temperate, the cold temperate, the sub-arctic, the arctic, and the polar; the first being remarkable for palms and bananas, the second for figs and ferns, the third for laurels and myrtles, the fourth for evergreens, the fifth for various European trees, the sixth for conifers, the seventh for rhododendrons, and the eighth for the various forms of Alpine plants.

**APOCRYPHA.**—The following is the list of Apocryphal books attached to the Old Testament Scriptures:—First Book of Esdras, Second Book of Esdras, Tobit, Judith, Esther, Wisdom of Solomon, Wisdom of Jesus the Son of Sirach, or Ecclesiasticus, Baruch, with the Epistle of Jeremy, Song of the Three Holy Children, History of Susanna, Bel and the Dragon, Prayer of Manasseh, First Book of the Maccabees, Second Book of the Maccabees.