

THE EVENING NEWS  
Monday, Jan. 12, 1874.

**A Profitable Potato.**  
The New York Weekly Tribune published the following premiums to the successful competitors in cultivating the wonderful potato called "Compton's Surprise," concerning which there was a short article published in the Tribune recently. The premiums were as follows: "First premium, \$100, to A. B. Robinson, Newmarket, Rockingham county, N.H., 51 1/2 pounds; second premium, \$75, to Pearson, Pittsford, St. Lawrence county, N.Y., 49 pounds; third premium, \$50, to S. C. S. S. Cloud, Stearns county, Minn., 38 1/2 pounds; fourth premium, \$25, to Franklin A. Smith, Stone Church, Northumberland county, Penn., 38 pounds." Each of the winners received 350 pounds were raised by the writer of this article from one pound of potatoes. The prize potatoes were justly entitled to be in the possession of every agriculturist in the Territory. It is true that we have in the Territory some very excellent potatoes—the Neshannock, Early Rose, Early Goodrich, Late Rose, and other kinds of excellent tubers; but the "Compton's Surprise" promises to be the most prolific of all that I have named. There is little doubt but it is the finest potato that this continent can boast of, both for flavor and productiveness. In describing the "Compton's Surprise," B. K. Bliss & Sons say: "Its shape is oval oblong, eyes sunken, broad, narrow, golden, smooth, color reddish purple, flesh white, grows to a large size, and is invariably sound to the center, a hollow eye having never yet been found. It retains its quality perfectly through the year, appearing on the table like a ball of flour. The high quality of this potato late in spring may, perhaps, be owing to its tardiness in sprouting, remaining plump and free from sprouts when kept until June, and never having that wilted appearance common to early sorts. It is believed to be much the most abundant in starch of any variety extant. It is as early as the Early Rose, that is, it is ready for use and quality may be dug as early as the Rose, although the vines continue to grow much longer. Its habit of growing is very peculiar, and peculiar culture is required, or much loss will ensue. In favorable weather the tops grow rampantly, and when they are eight or ten inches high the potatoes are ready runners or shoots, which protrude through the hills on all sides, and soon cover the entire surface with a rank growth of vines over three feet in length, leaving weeds and grass no chance whatever to grow. Under the mass of foliage is found the surface crop, which finds no room elsewhere.

From the knowledge I possess of this potato, I may say it cannot be too highly recommended. From this fine and wonderful potato, wonderful crops may be raised and also for its excellent quality and fine flavor, has been and can be raised at the rate of 3,000 bushels to ten bushels of seed, at the rate of one eye to a hill. There is one fact very plain to all thinking farmers, that as this potato comes into general use, those who have it in their possession can raise potatoes to better advantage than those without it.

"Progressive agriculturists will be wise enough to secure a start of this potato at their earliest convenience; or left in the rear in potato raising; therefore no farmer can afford to be without this excellent tuber. This "Compton's Surprise" has already found its way into twenty-eight States of the Union, and in a few years will become almost in general use, its excellent quality and productiveness will attract the interest of all progressive agriculturists.

It 400 bushels of Neshannock can be raised to the acre from twenty bushels of seed by first class cultivation, and 800 bushels can be raised from ten bushels of seed of the "Compton's Surprise." The reduction will be double, and at the rate of the "Compton's Surprise" yields there is no fiction about the subject.

This potato will supersede the raising of carrots and turnips for stock, as much labor is required for the successful raising of either.

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