apple when about time for it to ripen. In many instances nearly the entire crop was destroyed by this disease.

THE CULTURE OF AMERICAN GINSENG.

Some Accurate Information Regarding This Valuable Plant.

Harlan P. Kelsey.

The subject of growing Ginseng has recently received so much attention from the agricultural press of the country and from circulars and pamphlets sent broadcast throughout the country by dealers, that hundreds of people are being induced to try its culture.

Many of the articles are written by people who have no personal knowledge of the best way to grow it or of the profits to be derived thereby. Others are written by dealers who have seeds and plants to sell, and in both instances as a rule the information is second hand and unreliable. The most extravagant figures are given showing enormous yields produced on a given acreage and Monte Cristo fortunes to be made out of a paltry investment while one loafs in the back yard watching the gold dollars sprouting.

Certain dealers have sent out figures informing the public that $5 invested in their seeds and plants will show a value of $44,340 the fifteenth year.

A million dollar bed in twelve years from a $1000 investment is advertised on another page. A value which cannot be obtained except perhaps in small quantities is placed on the seeds and young plants and the ratio of increase and loss is given very accurately and more extravagantly on paper. Can any of these versatile writers please inform us how many turnips can be grown on a $5 investment in twelve years, the price the roots and seeds will
bring each year and how rich a man will be at the end of that period? Certainly not and information pretending to figure it out would be absolute nonsense.

An article on Ginseng entitled "Valuable Farm Land" appeared in the St. Louis Republic a short time ago and was extensively copied by other papers in the South and Southwest. Among other wild statements the writer said that seeds bring five cents each (another writer says there is unlimited demand at twenty-five cents each) and yearling roots twenty cents each; that the eighth year an acre should produce 3,120,000 seeds which sell at five cents each giving an annual income to the fortunate grower of $100,000 from the seeds alone. He further states: "Say that a full crop of seed from one acre is available for planting. That will be 3,120,000 seed. Allow for the loss and failure to generate or 1,120,000 seed. This will leave 2,000,000 seed that are practically sure to generate and create 2,000,000 roots. In eighteen months these roots will be ready for the market and can be sold direct to consumers, the present price being 20 cents each or a total of $400,000 from the Ginseng crop in eighteen months. This crop of 2,000,000 roots would require a space of approximately forty acres. One acre should produce 52,000 roots, which at the market price of 20 cents each, should, after eighteen months, bring a return of $10,400."

Could anything be more baldly ridiculous. Let us suppose that only 1000 gardeners had the above success as to yield. This would mean over three billion seeds put on the market each year, which at five cents each would require $150,000,000 annually to pay for them, not to mention the value of the roots.

Suppose further that the ratio of increase both in yield of crops and number of growers continued the same for twenty-five years there would not be money enough in the world to buy a single year's crop. China, the source of de-
mand for Ginseng, would have used all her wealth in its pur-
chase long before the period of twenty-five years had elapsed. Notwithstanding these air castles there is an enor-
mous profit in growing the plant, but it depends on the in-
dividual grower as in any other crop. The right conditions
for its culture must be supplied, either naturally or artifi-
cially, and intelligent cultivation given. There will prob-
ably always be a good demand for the root at high prices,
and it is an article commanding cash at all times.

These conditions for growing are readily found in near-
ly all the States of the Union or can be produced at reason-
able cost of labor and material. They may be stated in a
few words: A rich, deep, well-drained, and moist soil, con-
taining abundant decayed vegetable matter and not too
heavy or clayey. Humus or vegetable mold, obtained by
using decayed forest leaves, is extremely beneficial, as is al-
so thoroughly rotted compost. Shade sufficient to keep off
the direct rays of the sun is almost necessary, particularly
in sections where the heat is excessive. Add to this care-
ful cultivation and you have the secret, if there really be
any, of growing Ginseng successfully. Lath covers are
perhaps the best artificial shade and apple trees have been
found good to keep the ground protected from the sun. At
maturity the roots must be carefully and properly prepared
for market, and the extra care taken to produce a fine arti-
cle, clean, well graded and perfectly dry is more than re-
paid by the much higher price such roots will bring.

The writer who has had many years of experience
growing this root will be glad to give fuller information as
to the best modes to be used in its cultivation, but would
warn the reader against the wildly extravagant articles that
appear from time to time and which will damage rather
than help an industry that really does promise most unus-
ual returns for the labor and expense necessary to cultivate
it successfully.

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