Ratekinds' Seed House
(J. R. RATEKIN & SON)
Growers and Dealers in ALL FIELD SEEDS, & SHENANDOAH, IOWA

Read this Catalogue Through and if you are in the market for Seed Wheat we can be of value to you

If you are not in the Market you may be benefitted and derive some information that will profit you

1903-WINTER SEED WHEAT CATALOG-1903

View of one of Ratekin & Son's wheat fields in the Nishna Valley at harvest time—forty-seven bushels per acre.
Introducing the New "Malakoff" Imported Winter Seed Wheat, Grown in 1902, from Seed Imported from near the Black Sea, Crimea, in Russia, 1901.

This new, celebrated variety of winter wheat, "Malakoff," is now being introduced by us from the second crop ever before grown in this country, and from seed imported from Russia, by us in 1901. It is genuine and very pure stock, and is without doubt one of the hardest varieties of wheat there is in existence, and will withstand the rigorous climates as far north as Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, and from there south. This wheat shows a very compact, translucent grain, weighs 62 to 65 pounds per measured bushel, and was purchased from a reliable dealer near the Black Sea, who was recommended by the Imperial authorities at St. Petersburg as one likely to supply the true article desired. Our crop grown here in the Nishna Valley of Southwestern Iowa, this season and last, indicates without question the heaviest yielding and best flour producing wheat known to mankind, and is noted for its great productiveness, hardiness, vigor and freedom from disease. This new wheat is far superior to any spring wheat ever grown, and yields from one to two times larger crops. It is now the leading crop grown in the great wheat growing districts of Russia, which is the greatest wheat producing country in the world, and wherever it is grown the great Milling Kings use it for their highest grade of patent flours.

The "Malakoff" comes more nearly resembling the "Turkish Red" than any other variety, however, the heads are somewhat longer, larger and heavier, and the grain is a shade darker, a very rich amber color. The straw is also larger and somewhat stiffer, and we claim for it that it is unequalled in hardiness, stooling qualities, productiveness, rust proof, strength of straw, quality of grain, quality of flour, equal to the world famed Hungarian product and the best in all respects of any wheat grown. Our crop here this season has verified everything claimed, and the crop product we are offering made a better yield than any other sort grown in this locality under similar conditions.

In order to obtain the full strength of the wheat plant, as well as other plants, we must go to the natural home of the plant; the natural source of supply and secure the best seed with all the original strong, vigorous qualities, thus we have been led to devote unusual attention to the culture and importation of improved varieties of seed wheat, as well as other seeds, and as a result our Farm Seed trade has become second to no other in this country.

Don't sow the old, worn-out varieties when you can add 50 to 100 per cent to your crop by sowing genuine, pure stock, imported seed, the crop of which will be worth hundreds of dollars to you to sell to your neighbors for seed next season. Everyone will be highly pleased with it who gives it a trial. Therefore we recommend it in the highest terms.

PRICE:—$1.50 per bushel, 10 bushel or over $1.40, bags free aboard cars here.

Boyce City, Texas, July 10, 1902.

The season here has been very unfavorable, but the wheat I got from you last fall has done remarkably well, the yield being much better than any of our native sorts. I sowed some of the seed I got from you Nov. 26th and some of my native wheat at same time. The Turkish Red did well, but that sowed from my native wheat made nothing, thus proving it much better than ordinary sorts.

I. T. Calloway.

Pulaski County, Indiana.

I am well pleased with the Turkish Red seed wheat got from you last fall. The quality fine and yield fully ten bushels better per acre than other wheat.

Edgar Blaze.

Denton County, Texas.

I am well pleased with the results from the Turkish Red wheat I bought from you last fall, as the yield was more than twice as much as the best native sorts we have here.

W. L. Soms.
The "Turkish Red" hard wheat, like all the hardy varieties, is a bearded wheat; it is strictly iron clad, stiff straw and is absolutely free from rust, blight and other disease, and will stand more drought, cold dry freezes and other unfavorable conditions, and not winter kill in the most bare and exposed places. It has very much the appearance of winter rye when it first comes up, and sends its roots down deep in the ground, and will give a good crop wherever winter rye will grow.

It stools out the best of any variety known; heads are good size and a great many of them to each root. The grains are plump, handsome and quite hard; the hull is reasonably thin and it makes a most excellent grade of flour. There is no variety grown that has given as good and uniform satisfaction in every respect; that has produced as large crops and yields under ordinary conditions as has the "Turkish Red" during the past ten years. We sold thousands of bushels of seed all over the winter wheat growing districts last year, including quite a number of orders from Montana, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and New York and have now had reports from all of these states, and in no case have we a report where it failed, but it uniformly stood the winter well, coming out in the best of shape.

READ THE STATE AGRICULTURAL REPORTS.
The Iowa Experimental Station, one of the best in the United States, issued the following press bulletin for the information and benefit of the wheat growing farmers of Iowa, dated at Ames, Iowa, July 1, 1901. It says: "During the last ten years the Iowa Experimental Station has given considerable attention to the study and selection of varieties of winter wheat. The best results have been obtained from the "Turkish Red." The lowest yield during that time was 25 bushels, while the highest was 55 bushels per acre, the average yield for the time being 45 bushels per acre. The present crop, now within ten days of maturity, is fully up to the record. This wheat is wonderfully productive and very hardy, and it is thought by the station that the time has arrived when it should be distributed throughout the state in lots of from two to six bushels, and as it is the intention to introduce this variety and seed into every county in the state, the number of orders that can be filled will necessarily be limited."

At the Nebraska State Experiment Station in the fall of 1896 they sowed 37 varieties of winter wheat. It all winter killed except three; in 1898 over 100 varieties and only five varieties survived the winter in good condition. In 1899 they sowed 42 varieties. In all these tests the "Turkish Red" succeeded finely and is given first place on their list.

PRICE:—$1.10 per bushel, 10 bushels or over $1.00, bags free aboard cars here.

WHAT SOME OF OUR CUSTOMERS SAY OF "TURKISH RED."

J. R. Ratekin & Son:—This is a country where we irrigate but usually have fall rains. I sowed the four bushels of Turkish Red I sent to you for, but rains were so late it only got up when the ground froze up. It, however, stood the winter well and my crop will make 30 bushels per acre. It was sowed broadcast, but I wish I had sown it in drills; it would have made much more.

Yours truly,
E. C. Cook.

Buchanan County, Iowa.

I am pleased to say the Turkish Red seed wheat received from you last fall is all right. I sowed one-half bushel per acre and all came up nicely, but feed was scarce and I was compelled to pasture it all winter and did not take the stock off it until the 28th of April, six weeks before cutting time, but it was thick and heavy on the ground, twice as thick as another variety that I sowed a bushel per acre. I have not threshed it yet, but am confident that my 20 acres of Turkish Red will give a yield of 45 to 50 bushels per acre. It's all right.

Respectfully,
J. H. Manzel.

Daviess County, Missouri.

I bought 10 bushels of Turkish Red last fall but it did not sow all the piece of ground I had for wheat, so bought 3 bushels of another party to finish the piece. The Turkish Red did fine and made a fine crop, but the other froze out and had to plow it up. This is my experience.

Very respectfully,
J. W. Young.

McPherson County, Kansas.

I bought just two bushels of your Turkish Red last fall, sowed it on four acres of ground, one-half bushel per acre. This is an off year for wheat, but the crop from the wheat I got from you is the best I have seen in thousands of acres in Rice and McPherson counties. I shall sow all I have this coming fall. It's all right.

Yours truly,
D. P. Smyres.

Howard County, Missouri

I am well pleased with the Turkish Red I bought from you; sowed one bushel per acre, got 30 bushels per acre. It is the greatest stoker I have ever found; was thicker and gave much better yield than other sorts made ½ more per acre. It is much harder than anything I have tried.

Truly yours,
H. S. Niekirk.

Cedar County, Nebraska.

I am pleased to say the Turkish Red seed wheat I bought from you last fall has proven a great success for me this year. I am going to sow 25 acres of it this year. Inclosed find 90c for three pounds of your imported "Malikoff" wheat, by mail. Truly yours, Carl Anderson.

Vinland, Texas.
It is our intention and purpose to offer to the American farmer and wheat grower only such varieties of seed wheats as will be found to give the surest, most reliable and profitable results, and such as are best suited to a wide range of conditions, including climate and soil.

While there are thousands of acres of some varieties that winter kill from excessive freezing, cold and drouth, crinkle of the ground, wheat grower only such varieties of seed wheats as will be found to give the surest, most reliable and profitable results, and such as are best suited to a wide range of conditions, including climate and soil.

Our Terms are Strictly Cash With Order. We do not send C. O. D., as cost and inconvenience to you for collection and return charges is an unnecessary item of expense, besides it would require too much time and help and cause delay shipment while we obtained the standing of those who order that way. As to our responsibility see references elsewhere.

Read Carefully.

Rush Orders. If time is limited and you want to order seed of any kind by telegraph, go to your banker, express agent or postmaster and put up the money and have them wire us what you wish, and you may feel assured that your order will have immediate attention and seed will start by first train. We know how to move without a derrick and are in a position to give you prompt and active service.

BE SURE TO GIVE THE NAME OF YOUR FREIGHT STATION, AS COST AND INCONVENIENCE TO YOU FOR COLLECTION AND RETURN CHARGES IS AN UNNECESSARY ITEM OF EXPENSE, BECAUSE IT WOULD REQUIRE TOO MUCH TIME AND HELP AND CAUSE DELAY SHIPMENT WHILE WE OBTAINED THE STANDING OF THOSE WHO ORDER THAT WAY. AS TO OUR RESPONSIBILITY SEE REFERENCES ELSEWHERE.

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We have made the growing and handling of improved varieties of Seed, Field and Sweet Corn a leading specialty for the past twenty years, during which time we have grown, sold and sent out more seed than any other growers, and more than all the Garden Seed Houses in the United States Combined.

IT IS OUR INTENTION AND PURPOSE TO OFFER TO THE AMERICAN FARMER AND WHEAT GROWER ONLY SUCH VARIETIES OF SEED WHEATS AS WILL BE FOUND TO GIVE THE SUREST, MOST RELIABLE AND PROFITABLE RESULTS, AND SUCH AS ARE BEST SUITED TO A WIDE RANGE OF CONDITIONS, INCLUDING CLIMATE AND SOIL.

IT HAS BECOME A PRACTICAL AND WELL KNOWN FACT TO EVERY INTELLIGENT AND PROGRESSIVE FARMER, VERIFIED BY EVERY EXPERIMENTAL STATION IN THE UNITED STATES, THAT SEED WHEAT GROWN YEAR AFTER YEAR UNDER THE SAME CONDITIONS, ON SAME GROUND, IN SAME CLIMATE, AFTER A TIME DETERIORATES, DECLINES AND RUNS OUT. ONE OF THE SUREST METHODS OF COUNTERACTING DETERIORATION IS BY REPEATED IMPORTATIONS OF SEED FROM THE REGIONS WHERE NATURAL CONDITIONS PRODUCE THE CHARACTERISTICS DESIRED. THIS IS WHY WE FREQUENTLY IMPORT SEED WHEAT FROM INDIA, RUSSIA, AND TURKEY.

THE FARMER THAT THIS CIRCULAR REACHES WHO INTENDS TO SOW A FEW ACRES OF WHEAT, CANNOT AFFORD TO SOW THE OLD WHEAT FROM THE BIN THAT HAS BEEN SOWN ON THE SAME GROUND IN SAME LOCALITY FOR YEARS. CHANGE YOUR SEED. INCREASE YOUR YIELD AS WELL AS THE QUALITY OF YOUR WHEAT.

READ CAREFULLY.

Our terms are strictly cash. Money should accompany all orders to receive attention.

Send all remittances by P. O. Money Order, Express Order, Registered Letter or Bank Draft.

We deliver in good order, all seeds free aboard cars here. C. B.

TERMS AND PRICES.

Our Terms are Strictly Cash With Order. We do not send C. O. D., as cost and inconvenience to you for collection and return charges is an unnecessary item of expense, besides it would require too much time and help and cause delay shipment while we obtained the standing of those who order that way. As to our responsibility see references elsewhere.

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We advise our customers to order early and have their seed sent by freight always, as it costs four times as much by express as by freight. We have excellent railroad shipping facilities.

**PRICE LIST**

**SEED WHEAT**

These Prices Include Sacks Free on Board Cars Here.

"Malakoff"—imported stock, bu $1.50 10 bus. $1.40

"Turkish Red," bu .............. $1.10 10 bus. $1.00

"Mammoth White" Rye, bu ...... $0.90 10 bus. $0.80 c

Ask for prices on Timothy, Clover and all other Farm Seeds.
Ratekings's Iowa Grown Seed Corn

Is Worth Millions to the Corn Growing Farmer

Established 1884.

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Ia.

SELECTED FARM SEEDS

We grow many kinds of corn, and all under the same conditions as are met in the farmer's fields, so that we may secure the very best kind for the farmers. We have the very best of each variety, and will be glad to supply you with samples of any variety. Our corn is raised under careful supervision, and we guarantee that it will be the very best kind. We have the best of each variety, and will be glad to supply you with samples of any variety. Our corn is raised under careful supervision, and we guarantee that it will be the very best kind.

THE LARGEST SEED HOUSE OF ITS KIND IN AMERICA.

Seed Corn

Our selection of seed corn has been made with a view to the best possible results. We have selected the best and most productive varieties, and our seeds are carefully selected and inspected before being sent to the customer. We guarantee that our seeds are pure and will produce the best results. We also give you the best possible service in the handling and planting of the seeds.

Garden Seeds By Mail

Order Direct—Use the return blank and enclose with the order. When possible, samples of our corn are sent with the order. We will be glad to furnish you with samples of any variety.

Shipping Facilities—We are located on the C. B. & Q. Ry., the Omaha & St. Louis Line, and the Atlantic & Pacific Ry., and all highway and steam navigation facilities are within easy reach. The season of 1904 we have the Best Supply of Seed Corn that we have ever known, and will be glad to furnish you with samples of any variety.

Guarantee—In case you are not satisfied with our seeds, we will refund your money on a return of the unsold portion.

Ratekings's Price of Nishna

"RATEKINS' PRIDE OF NISHNA" Yellow Dent Corn is one of the most wonderful varieties of corn this country has ever produced, and will be grown in every state and territory in the Union; in the state that has grown a net balance of 370,000,000 Bushels Over the average corn of any other state in the Union during the period of the last past eleven years.

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A Book on Corn-Growing

During the many years experience in the seed trade we have had constant inquiry for a good practical book on corn and corn-growing, as well as on the planting, growing, and culture of other cereals, grasses, and forage crops. With this in view, the following book was prepared and compiled a book on corn-growing, which also covers every phase of the growing and culture of all food crops, including Wheat, Oats, Barley, Rice, South, Clover, Beans, Lima beans, peas, Millet, and other grasses; in short, everything grown on the farm.

This valuable and useful book is well printed and easily read, and contains 200 pages, 6 x 9, and will be sold in the United States, for 50 cents. (Copy streets accepted.)

Address,
Ratekine's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa

Ratekine's Iowa Silver Mine

Stands stouter better than any varieties in existence. At a fair ten of the largest ears; one for ten of the smallest, it would be a true picture of the com. It should not be planted north of the latitude of a line running east and west through the Nishna Valley of Southwestern Iowa for the past ten or twelve years with good results and uniform large yields.

Washington, D.C.

Its Prize Record.

Everywhere the "Iowa Silver Mine" expresses the price of over all other varieties. At a fair ten of the largest ears, one for ten of the smallest; one for every 100 ears, best number of ears, best straight rows, and so forth. It should be planted north of the latitude of a line running east and west through the Nishna Valley of Southwestern Iowa for the past ten or twelve years with good results and uniform large yields.

Washington, D.C.

Our Special Nursery Catalog

Ratekine's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa

Ratekine's Imperial

Great Favorite wherever Tried and Tested

This excellent and superior variety of corn has been grown by many farmers for the past few years, and has one of the most excellent of the many varieties of white corn grown. It is a pure white com with red cob; a sign in itself of great excellence. It is a com every farmer can plant with assurance always good land and good cultivation second to no other variety grown.

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Everywhere the "Iowa Silver Mine" expresses the price of over all other varieties. At a fair ten of the largest ears, one for ten of the smallest, it would be a true picture of the com. It should not be planted north of the latitude of a line running east and west through the Nishna Valley of Southwestern Iowa for the past ten or twelve years with good results and uniform large yields.

Washington, D.C.
$200 in Cash Premiums

**RATKEINS' QUEEN OF NISHNA.**

**THE EARLIEST DENT CORN IN EXISTENCE.**

**RATKEINS' QUEEN OF NISHNA** is without doubt the earliest Dent corn there is in existence, or that is grown, and is especially adapted to northern climes where the season is short and where short, early maturing crops are most needed. The growth is rapid and takes hold of the ground. It is ready for harvest on or before the 1st of July, 1904. When the frost is expected early; also to the South where corn is often planted late in the season, after the small grain harvest is in and out, and in the Corn Belt or Corn States. It is of a strong, robust character; grows to be 9 to 11 feet tall, with-16 to 22 rows of deep, solidly-set grains running from 9 to 11 inches long, with small cob and kernel; seventy pounds of shelled corn make sixty pounds of shelled. This variety is quite popular with some of our customers in Minnesota and the Corn Belt, as well as with many of the corn growers in the North, who want an extra early, early, early, extra early Dent corn. If your season is short, Purchase rate at once.

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Mississippi

Ruston Co., Aug. 1, 1903.

Mississippi Seed Co., Gentlemen:—I shall be glad if you will send me the Iowa Silver Mine next spring, and I will send the Seed Corn I bought from you last spring, did well, and I am well pleased with it, and bought of you.—P. Norman.

I never expect to plant any other variety. Its guarding the seed bought of you last was for mending your corn for the south, as it can to house, while our native corn is yet green, planted and cultivated in every respect as Seed Corn I bought from you last spring, and notwithstanding from you last season, will say we think it and Pride Nishna Seed Corn we purchased from you last have given perfect satisfaction, it ripens earlier than our native sorts, I like the and has proven to be the best ever planted in this section, and all who planted it are pleased. Very truly, N. H. Frederick.

Very truly, J. A. Harrison.

Very truly, J. M. Biggerstaff.

Texas

Newton Co., Aug. 20, 1903.

Gentlemen:—The Pride Nishna Seed Corn I purchased from you last spring did fine, and all you said they were. Very truly, I. B. Bassett.

Very truly, Fred Anderson.

Iowa

I have an order among my friends and neighbors for your Seed Corn and Nishna Seed Corn ordered from you a few days ago and are well pleased with it. Very truly, D. M. Smith.

DeKalb Co., Sept. 3, 1903.

Gentlemen:—The Pride Nishna Seed Corn purchased from you did well. I think it will pay every farmer who plants it by reason of it being early and of good quality. Very truly, T. H. Ballew.

McNairy Co., Sept. 14, '03.

Gentlemen:—The seeds purchased from you last were very nice quality. Very truly, W. W. Harken.

Hancock Co., Miss., Aug., 1903.

Gentlemen:—In regard to the Iowa Silver Mine Corn purchased from you last spring and is far ahead of native corn, the millet from you are the finest I ever saw and I am very pleased. Very truly, J. A. Harrison.

Very truly, Maj. Jones.

Lincoln Parish, La., Aug 25, 03.

Gentlemen:—The Seed Corn and Garden Seeds I purchased from you last have given me a perfect stand, and will make me a yield of almost twice as much per acre as that of my neighbors who planted the native corn. Very truly, C. F. Pike.

Missouri


Gentlemen:—I planted about 500 acres of the Iowa Silver Mine Corn we purchased from you last spring, and we are all highly pleased with the results from the seed bought from you. I think all the corn from your seed is better than corn was here before, and has proven a great success for me. There are many varieties of Iowa Silver Mine Corn purchased from you. I purchased from you, did fine. Very truly, Major Jones.

I am highly pleased with results from the Iowa Silver Mine Corn purchased from you. It ripened much earlier than our native sorts and has proven a great success for me. There are many varieties of Iowa Silver Mine Corn purchased from you I purchased from you last spring. Very truly, S. F. Collins.

J. F. Neal.

Very truly, T. H. Ballew.

Very truly, Fred Anderson.

Illinois

Niles Co., Ill., Aug., 8, 1903.

Gentlemen:—The Pride Nishna Seed Corn purchased from you did well and we are well pleased with it. We have all ordered from you and will order earlier next season, and will order earlier next season. Very truly, J. A. Bradley.

Very truly, W. F. Scott.

Michigan

Jackson Co., Ala., Aug., 8, 1903.

Gentlemen:—The Pride Nishna Seed Corn purchased from you did fine and I expect to order all the Pride Nishna Seed Corn I purchased of you last year if it cost $3.00 per bushel. We have given from seed bought from you. I think all the corn from your seed is better than corn was here before, and has proven a great success for me. Very truly, William Payre.

Very truly, J. H. Bubler.

Gentlemen:—I started my seed corn last spring and am very well pleased with results. Very truly, C. F. Pike.

Gentlemen:—The Iowa Silver Mine Seed Corn I purchased from you did fine. Very truly, E. C. Herring.

Very truly, Jacob Krumholz.

Very truly, Charley Kentzsch.

Very truly, J. A. Harrison.

Gentlemen:—The Silver Mine White Corn purchased from you did well. I think it will pay every farmer who plants it by reason of it being early and of good quality. Very truly, W. W. Harken.

Lincoln Parish, La., Aug. 15, 103.

Gentlemen:—I think that the Silver Corn is better than corn was here before, and has proven a great success for me. There are many varieties of Iowa Silver Mine Corn purchased from you I purchased from you last spring. Very truly, S. F. Collins.

J. F. Neal.

Very truly, T. H. Ballew.

Very truly, Fred Anderson.

Illinois

Niles Co., Ill., Aug., 8, 1903.

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