

## NURSERYMEN AND SEED MERCHANTS IN EARLY SOUTH CAROLINA

Whether planting their lands for necessity or pleasure, early South Carolina gardeners were initially bound to write back to England for gardening manuals and for many of the specific plants and seeds they were familiar with from their mother country. But soon commercial seed dealers and nurserymen began importing plants to sell directly to South Carolina gardeners.

Newspaper advertisements, broadsides, and estate inventories give an accurate reflection of the plants early South Carolina gardeners purchased in the marketplace before 1820. The South Carolina Gazette was Charleston's first newspaper commencing publication in January 1732. Most early seed dealers used this newspaper as a vehicle for marketing their wares.

The earliest seed dealer advertising there was Samuel Everleigh. His ads weren't very specific. In the December 23-30, 1732 issue, he offered for sale "diverse sorts of best Garden seeds," and three years later in the December 27-January 3, 1735/6 issue Everleigh again advertised, "Garden seeds fresh and good." On March 29-April 5, 1739 he offered "Grass and Garden Seeds."

When Charles Pickney opened his "new store on the Bay" he advertised "garden seeds just imported from London" in the February 24-March 3, 1733 issue of the South Carolina Gazette. His competitor, Robert Pringle, also "on the Bay" advertised garden seeds imported from London exactly a year later in the same paper.

In the September 15, 1745 issue of the South Carolina Gazette, Richard Lake advertised for sale at his plantation on the Ashely River, "Lemon Trees with Lemons on them, in boxes, Lime Trees and Orange Trees in Boxes, and several curious Plants in Pots, also variety of young Fruit Trees, particularly white Mulberry and Orange Trees."

In January 1749, Richard Lake advertised his plantation for sale in the South Carolina Gazette. He stated that it had a very large garden both for pleasure and profit. It contained all sorts of fruit trees consisting of many thousands, a great deal of fine asparagus, and all kinds of kitchen-garden stuff, a young nursery with a great number of grafted pear and apple trees, thousands of orange trees, and several lemon and lime trees in tubs and boxes, with fruit on them.

In the November 21-December 3, 1748 issue Frederick Merckley and Thomas Shute advertised for sale "sundry sorts of Garden Seeds" imported from Philadelphia rather than London. However, England remained the dominant source for plant stuffs. Samuel Carne first appeared in the February 12, 1753 issue of the South Carolina Gazette declaring that he had "Imported from London . . . an assortment of useful garden seed, some flower roots and seeds, Windsor and kidney beans, dwarf, marrow-fat and Ormond Hotspur Peas." Carne advertised again in the January 1754 issues that he had ". . . a choice assortment of Garden Seeds, flower roots, etc."

Martha Logan first advertised her gardening wares in November 1753 in the South Carolina Gazette. She offered for sale "seeds, flower roots, and fruit stones" at her house "on the Green, near Trotts Point." Martha Logan was the daughter of Robert Daniell, Landgrave and Deputy Governor of South Carolina. She was born December 29, 1704, and married George Logan, Jr. on July 30, 1719. By 1741 she was keeping a boarding school for children where they would be "carefully taught to read, write, dance and work several kinds of needle-work" in a "pleasant, airy situation" on the green near Mrs. Trotts' point. But her first love was gardening.

Martha Logan wrote a "Gardener's Kalender" that appeared until past the turn of the 19th century in various almanacs. She carried on a lively correspondence with Philadelphia botanist John Bartram.

Bartram wrote to his English mentor Peter Collinson in May 1761 that she was "an elderly widow lady who spares no pains on cost to oblige me: her garden is her delight and she has a fine one; I was with her about 4 minutes in her company yet we contracted such a mutual correspondence that one silk bag of seed hath repast several times."

In the March 14, 1768 issue of the South Carolina Gazette she advertised seed imported from London: "A Fresh assortment of very good garden seeds and flower roots . . . with flowering shrubs and box for edging beds, now growing in her garden." Her notice establishes that box was used for edging in pre-Revolutionary gardens. Martha Logan died in 1779.

Many South Carolina gardeners ordered their seeds directly from England. In the December 19, 1754 issue of the South Carolina Gazette, Captain Thomas Arnott noted that he brought a box of "Tulip, Narcissus, and other Flower Roots" from England "supposed to have been ordered by some person of this province" and that the "person that can properly claim them, may have them."

However, the domestic commercial sale of plants continued to grow in popularity. In January 1764, Thomas Young advertised in the South Carolina Gazette that he had imported, "A Great Variety of kitchen-garden and flower Seeds, which are very fresh, having had a short passage; which, with some flower roots, etc. he will sell reasonably, at his house at the west-end of Broad-street." In the December issue of the same year, Young was about to move from his house, and he advertised "a parcel of seeds to dispose of cheap; also some shrubs, trees, roots, etc. among which are a great number of Cork, walnut, with some chestnut and almond trees, with squill and other medical roots and seeds."

One of the most important gardeners and seedsmen of the last half of the eighteenth century in South Carolina was John Watson. He came to the province seeking work as a gardener from London in 1755. By December 10, 1763 he advertised in the South Carolina Gazette that he had imported from London, "a proper assortment of garden seed, flower roots, etc. which he will sell reasonably."

On September 21, 1765 Watson advertised an expanded line of garden wares in the South Carolina Gazette. Beside garden seeds and flower roots, he offered ". . . a great collection of fruit trees, of all kinds, which have been grafted and budded from the best fonts in the province, with a great variety of English grape vines."

On February 4, 1776 Watson added clover seeds to his offerings in the South Carolina Gazette and Country Journal. In the November 10 issue of the South Carolina Gazette for the same year he noted for sale "a great variety of Tulips, hyacinths, lilies, anemones, ranunculuses, double jonquills" as well as asparagus roots.

On January 12, 1769 he advertised in the South Carolina Gazette, "grafted and inoculated . . . apples, pears, plumbs, cherries, nectarines, apricots, English Walnuts, Mulberries, etc." On February 16, 1770 he added "Pease, Beans, Onions, Cabbage, Carrots . . ." to his list of flowers and trees. And in his South Carolina Gazette notice on July 22, 1774, he included ". . . savoy Colliflower, Lettuce, Turnips, Leeks, Mustard, Cresses, Endive, Parsnips, and Physical Herbs."

His wares became more exotic by his November 28, 1776 notice in the South Carolina Gazette. Watson offered for sale "Sweet Almonds, . . . Filberts, . . . English Quinces, Olives, China Oranges, double flowering Peaches, Almonds and Pomgranates."

On January 1, 1778 his ad in the South Carolina and American General Gazette offered "Hazel Nuts . . . Nutmeg, Myrtle flowering Trees . . . Magnolia or Laurels fit for Avenues, etc. any height from three feet to twenty, Artichoke."

John Watson's last notice appeared in the Daily Advertiser on February 13, 1789 when he offered "... seedling cassenas for hedges, tallow trees ... for exportation." In March 1789 John Watson died. His sons James Mark and John ran the nursery, until John left South Carolina in 1802 finally selling "Watson's Gardens."

One gardener who came from England to South Carolina seeking work was William Bennet. In his initial ad for public work in the South Carolina and American General Gazette on May 13, 1771, he also noted "Seed to be sold." In the October 1, 1778 issue of the same publication he was still offering unspecified garden seeds for sale.

John Edwards came to South Carolina from New York in 1764. He advertised in the March 3, 1764 South Carolina Gazette that he brought with him a "large collection of English garden and flower seed" which he had raised himself.

In the same paper in January 1765 Lloyd and Neyle advertised that they had just imported from London and Bristol "garden seeds and flower roots, amongst which are the best orange carrots . . . Turkey renunculas roots, Dutch tulips, fine anemonies, double poppies, double larkspur."

During the 1770's and 1780's grapes were becoming a popular item in both South Carolina and Georgia where a friendly competition was growing between the neighbors. The March 28, 1772 issue of the South Carolina Gazette announced, "Yesterday also arrived here, with Captain John Turner, in the ship Carolina Packet, from London . . . 30,000 plants of Vines producing true Champagne and Burgundy Grapes, procured by the Assiduity of Mr. Masnil de St. Pierre (from the French settlement at Longcanes called New-Bourdeaux) who has received great encouragement in London, to perfect his scheme of making wines in this province, and obtained from the Society of Arts a Gold Medal."

By the 1780's Benjamin Franklin had his hand in potential domestic wine production. The May 1, 1783 issue of the Gazette of the State of Georgia in Savannah noted, "sometime ago Dr. Franklin sent to South Carolina nine vine dressers from Burgundy, and 1,200,000 sets of plants of vines, to try whether those plants would thrive there. Our merchants do not wish they may."

On September 29, 1774 the South Carolina Gazette was carrying news of another experimental plant. Aaron Loocock was promoting and selling the dying root madder. "Those Gentlemen who chose to make Trial of this valuable and profitable article may depend on not being disappointed of Plants, if they order them in Time, either delivered at my Plantation at Goose Creek, or to any of their friends at Charles-Town, at Five Pounds a Thousand. Printed directions, from experiences in this Province, will be given."

Evidently Loocock's were successful, for almost twenty years later in the June 21, 1794 issue of the Augusta Chronicle and Gazette of the State of Georgia his "printed directions" appeared under this introduction, "As the soil and climate of this country is said to be well adapted to the cultivation of that valuable dying-root, Madder, and as the planting, mercantile, and manufacturing interest of the United States may be very much benefited by its cultivation; I make no doubt but that a publication of the following observations on it will be very acceptable . . . written twenty years ago, by a gentleman in South Carolina . . ."

Scandal in the seed world occurred in 1786 and 1787 when someone claiming to represent Peter Crouwels, a reportedly famous Philadelphia florist who had immigrated from Holland advertised in the South Carolina Gazette on December 11, 1786, "for sale, an extensive variety of the most rare and curious Bulbous Flowers, Roots & Seeds, Which have never appeared in this country before: they are just imported from Amsterdam . . . the most choice sorts of Hyacinths, double Jonquilles, Polyanthos, Narcissusses, Tarcetta, Tulps, double Tuberoses, Pasetouts, Carnations, with a great variety of Double

Ranunculas and Anemonies, a sort of Rose Bushes, etc." Ladies and gentlemen could get a catalogue giving the names and colors of all the Bulbous Flowers.

The "representative" advertised again in the Columbian Herald on January 8, 1787 that "he intends to leave this city in a few days." On July 12, 1787 in the Columbian Herald the following appeared: "A Caution. Having observed the advertisement . . . as well as divers hand - bills circulating in several of the United States . . . I hereby declare that I was never concerned with or employed any person whatever on the continent of America to sell any roots or seeds for my account . . . Peter Crouwels, Philadelphia."

In the South Carolina Gazette of February 1790, "John Chalvin & Co. Florists and Gardeners, from France" announced that they had brought "from France a great variety of Seed and Plants of flowering trees, lilly roots, jacinths, and crow feet of the scarcest and prettiest qualities; rose bushes of different colours; as also a great variety of pot herbs seeds' which they had for sale at a very moderate price at No. 6 Elliott-street. And in March 1791, Charles McDonald at 186 Meeting Street advertised "Fresh Garden Seed, a SMALL assortment of Flower and other GARDEN SEED, just imported from London."

John Bryant was an English gardener who arrived in South Carolina sometime before his 1794 marriage to Jane Thomson in St. Philip's Parish in Charleston. He first advertised in the City Gazette and The Daily Advertiser on June 6, 1795 as a gardener for hire, but also noted that, "He like wise imports, on commission, all kinds of trees, shrubs and seeds, either useful or ornamental, from England, Philadelphia and New York."

By his April 15, 1796 notice in the City Gazette and the Daily Advertiser, Bryant was importing seed for speculation rather than commission, "just imported, . . . a small assortment of seeds." Bryant gained confidence in his buying public as the years passed, and by the December 15, 1807 issue of the Charleston Courier, he was advertising,

"A QUANTITY of FRUIT TREES, FLOWERING SHRUBS and PLANTS, of the most esteemed for quality and beauty. The Fruit Trees consist of Peaches, Nectarines, Pears, Cherries, Plumbs and Quinces, of the largest size ever imported, for their age, into this state."

In 1807 Bryant was the Clerk of Market Hall, but in the fall of 1808 Bryant died. His wife Jane kept the garden operating into the spring of the next year. She advertised in the February 13 issue of the Charleston Times, "For sale at the late John Bryant's Garden, upper end of King Street - grafted Peach, Nectarine, Apricot, Plum and Apple Trees; Pride of India . . . Pine Apple plants . . . Geranium, and other Green House Plants." She did not advertise again.

Two years later according to an ad in the Charleston Times of January 16, 1811 a new seed store opened there on King Street. The proprietor advertised:

"New Seed and Plant Store, Wholesale and retail, at No. 220 KING-STREET. RECEIVED from London an extensive assortment of choice Garden, Field, Flower and Bird Seeds, the growth of 1810. Also, by the ship Minerva, from New York, a large supply of fresh American SEEDS, together with the former Stock of fresh Seeds on hand, making the most complete and extensive assortment of Seeds ever offered for sale in this city. On hand, a large assortment of inoculated FRUIT TREES, among which are all the most approved kinds of Peach, Pear, Apple, Cherry, Plum, soft shelled Almond, Dwarf Pear, Dwarf Apple; Fruit and Flowering Shrubs, Red and White Antwerp Raspberry, that gives remarkable large Fruit, Red and White Currant, English yellow Jasmine, Lilach, with a large assortment of Plants, Garden Tools, Flower Pots, Hyacinth Glasses, Bulbous Roots, Split Pease, Oat Meal, Flour or Mustard, &c."

On January 9, 1798 in the City Gazette and The Daily Advertiser Robert Day offered for sale "To Lovers of Improvement Five to Six Hundred LOMBARDY POPLAR TREES, one year old, from ten to sixteen feet high they are the first in America of their age or kind. Also, Two Hundred PLANTS of the large purple sweet WATER GRAPE. One Box, containing Two or Three Hundred PLANTS of the large Cork ASPARAGUS, two years old.

Robert Squibb -- South Carolina's famous botanist, nurseryman, gardener, and writer -- advertised seeds for sale in the August 19, 1795 issue of the City Gazette and The Daily Advertiser. "THE Subscriber, after many years practice in this state, is fully convinced that garden seeds saved here are much better than those imported and does hereby forewarn his friends and customers against depending on foreign seeds, in particular such as onion, leek, carrot, parsnip, parsley, celery, lettuce, endive and spinage."

In 1801 Squibb advertised using much the same technique in the Augusta Chronicle and Gazette of the State of Georgia of March 14:

"GARDEN SEEDS.

THE Subscriber having taken up his residence in Augusta, as Market Gardner, and the saving of Seeds being a branch of his profession, intends from time to time, both to import and save seeds of the very best kinds.

He considers it a duty he owes to himself and fellow citizens, to remind them of the numberless impositions that for some years past have taken place in this city, by sale of garden seeds, which from their age or the inexperience of the collectors, have either not vegetated or else produced a degenerated offspring, by which the public have been much discouraged in the cultivation of gardens. To remedy this evil he offers for sale a small assortment of SEEDS, collected from his own plants."

However, in 1802 Squibb was back in Charleston at his old garden. Squibb called his garden and nursery, "The Botanic Garden." In the June 8, 1802 issue of the Charleston Times, he advertised, "that he has imported from London, a small assortment of GARDEN SEEDS, in excellent order. Also a few kinds of Seeds on his own saving, equal to any ever saved in this state. Market Gardeners may be supplied with London Salmon Redish Seed, at one dollar per pound.

Robert Squibb died on April 22, 1806 at Silk Hope Plantation near Savannah, Georgia and was buried there. However, an ad for the "Botanic Garden" appeared in the Charleston Courier on November 2, 1812,

"At the Botanic Garden. A variety of Elegant PLANTS, Such as Ligustrinums, Geraniums, Cleroaurdroms, Rosa Multifloras, double and white Oleanders, Flowering Heaths, Laurustinus"

Charles Gross was a gardener on King Street in the 1790 Charleston City Directory who bought a lot in Hampstead in 1792. From there he continued work as a gardener and sold seeds until his death in 1802. Edward Otter was another gardener and seedsman from England who brought garden seeds, peach trees, and lombardy poplars with him when he came to Charleston in 1803.

In the November 18, 1803 issue of the Charleston Courier Tait, Wilson & Co. advertised:

Early Charlton Peas  
Dwarf Marrowfat do.  
Early Frame do.  
Crown, Transparent, and

London Cauliflower  
Early Cabbage Lettuce  
Coss Cabbage of all sorts  
White and Black Mustard



Tall Sugar do.	Solid Celery
Dwarf White Kidney Beans	Curled Parsley
Canary and Rape Seeds	Green Curled Endive
Early and Imperial York	Long Prickley Cucumber
Cabbage	Red Beet
Early Sugar-loaf do.	Large Norfolk Turnip
Drumhead do.	Round Spinnage
Green Glazed do.	Portugal Onion
Balterssea do.	Garden Cress
Comish York do.	Salmon Raddish
Early Penton Cabbage	Scarlet Salmon Raddish
Red Pickling do.	Short Top do.
Early Purple Brocoll	Turnips do.
Late do.	Naples do.
Siberian do.	London Leek
White do.	Choux de Milan
Large Green Savoy	Brussels Sprouts
Dwarf do.	White Scarlet Runners
Yellow do.	

In the next year, Simmons and Sweeny, at the corner of East Bay and Broad Streets, advertised in the January 4, 1804 issue of the Charleston Courier,

"JUST received and for sale by the subscribers a few bundles FRUIT TREES, of the best quality; each containing twenty-four TREES, viz:

- 1 Honey CHERRY.
- 1 Amber do.
- 1 Early White Nutmeg Peach
- 1 Green do.
- 1 Early red, or rare ripe do.
- 2 large yellow Lemon clingstone do.
- 1 White Blossom do.
- 1 English Swaleh, (or Nectarine)
- 1 Green Catherine do.
- 1 Late October Clingstone do.
- 1 Red Pine Apple do.
- 1 Early black Damask Plumbs
- 1 Magnum Bonum, or Yellow Egg Apple
- 1 large Early Harvest do.
- 1 large Red Spitzenburgh do.
- 1 Fall Pippin do.
- 1 Newton do.
- 1 Early Sugar Pear
- 1 Jergonet, or large flavored Summer do.
- 1 Vergaline or fine Melting Fall do.
- 1 Almond
- 1 Nectarine
- 1 Apricot"

J.F. Gennerick at 150 King Street advertised in the Charleston Courier on June 18, 1807,

# "ELEGANT FLOWER ROOTS

## RANUNCULUS

Anemonias  
Imperial Martagen  
Blue umbellated Crechum  
The Striped Lilly  
Scarlet Caledonian do.  
Double Scarlet do.  
Dotted Arcadian do.  
The Two Stage Martagon  
Variegated Colechicums  
Double do.  
Broad leafed Poncratium  
Purple Hemanthus  
Guernsey Lilly"

John Foy's Seed Store at 184 Meeting Street was especially active in 1810. In the November 14, 1810 issue of the Charleston Times, he placed this notice.

"A General Assortment of Choice Garden, Flower, and Bird SEEDS, FLOWER POTS, and  
some excellent APPLE TREES: ASPARAGUS-Gravesend; BEANS-Long Pod,  
Mazagan, Windsor; BEET-Green, Blood Red; BROCOLI-Purple, White; BURNET;  
CABBAGE-Early York, Heart Shaped, Sugar Loaf, early and later Battersea, Drum  
Head, Red Dutch, Green Glazed, Bergin, Green Savoy; CARROT-Early Morn, Orange,  
Yellow; CAULIFLOWER-Early and Late; CELERY-Solid, Italian, Chardoon, Chervil;  
CUCUMBER-Early Frame, Short Prickly, Long Green Roman; ENDIVE-Green Curled,  
White Curled, Broad Leaf or Batavian; BEANS-Bush, China, Liver, Yellow, Refugee,  
RUNNERS-Scarlet, White; LETTUCE-Imperial, Grand Admirable, Tennis Ball; ONIONS-  
Silver Skin, Large White, Red; LEEKS; PARSLEY-Double and Single; PARSNIPS;  
PEASE-Early Frame, Golden Hopsur, Early Charlton, Dwarf Marrowfat, Pearl and  
Prusian; RADISH-Early Frame Salmon, White and Red do., White and Red Turnip,  
Salsafy, Scorzonara, Sorrel; SPINACH-assorted; TURNIP-assorted; BIRD SEEDS-  
Canary, Hepp, Maw, Rape; HERB SEEDS--assorted; FLOWER SEEDS-assorted; a  
few TULIPS and HYACINTHS; Assortment of most approved PEAR and APPLE  
TREES.

JOHN FOY expects some PEACH and PEAR TREES, and also some APPLE TREES from the  
Botanic Garden, New-York.

By his December 24, 1810 ad in the same paper he added, "A HANDSOME assortment of FRUIT  
TREES, put up handsomely in bundles, each bundle containing an assortment of Apple, Peach and  
Cherry trees with some Raspberries, English red; early flowering Honey Suckle.

John Fraser and his son James were gardeners, botanists, and seedsmen active in Charleston from  
the 1780s until James' death in 1819. James stayed in South Carolina between his father's various  
returns to England.

In the Columbian Herald of December 17, 1795 James placed the following advertisement,

"GARDEN Seeds.  
JAMES FRAISER,  
UP THE PATH.

Has received of John Fraiser, Nursery and Seedsman of Sloan Square, Chelsea, near London, per the ship Roebuck,  
A GENERAL ASSORTMENT OF  
CULINARY SEEDS.

In the December 6, 1808 edition of the Charleston Times, the following notice appeared,

"FRASER & SON  
HAVE received by the schooner Blazing-Star from New-York, several hundred handsome  
PEACH, NECTARINE and APRICOT TREES  
a few handsome FLOWERS, SHRUBS, AND PLANTS."

The June 1, 1809 issue of the Times carried a notice that, "Fraser & Son, Have imported from London,  
A GENERAL assortment of GARDEN and FLOWER SEEDS, which will be warranted as genuine, and  
all of the crop of 1808.

In the Charleston Courier on February 6, 1810 they advertised,

"A variety of English Garden & Flower Seeds; Flowers; Flower Pots; and a few rare Plants, the  
property of Mr. John Fraser, Botanist, who is about to embark for Europe, having finished his  
collection of American plants. The seeds will be put up in convenient lots, for the  
accommodation of purchasers.

Any Ladies or Gentlemen who wish to be supplied annually with warranted Garden, Agricultural  
or Flower Seeds, and Roots, or choice Fruit Trees, will please send their orders to the said  
office, or address them to Messrs. FRASERS & SONS Sloane Square, Chelsea, London.

William Dobbs operated a Seed and Plant Store at 315 King Street. He advertised in the  
December 2, 1811 edition of the Charleston Times:

"for sale at wholesale and retail, an extensive assortment of Choice Garden Flowers and Bird  
Seeds, the growth of 1811. Also, a great variety of Double Flowering Hyacinths; double, single,  
parrot, and sweet scented Tulips; Renunculus's; Ixia Crocata; Persian Iris, white and yellow  
Narcissus; Glad olius, Garden Tools, Flower Pots, Hyacinth Glasses.

Upwards of 4000 Inoculated Fruit Trees, among which are all the most approved kinds of  
Apple, Pear, Cherry, Plum, Peach, Apricot, Nectarine, Hughe's Crab, Chinese, and Syberian  
Apple, soft shelled Almond, Quince, Gooseberry, red white and black Currant, Filbert Nut,  
Antwerp Raspberry. Ornamental Trees and Shrubs - double flowering Peach, Cherry, and  
Almond, Spired Fruitrix, Mountain Ash, English yellow Jessamine, dwarf variegated Althed,  
Venetian Shumach, Guilder Rose, Burgundy and Moss do. Balm of Gilead Fir.

Unfortunately, Dobbs died in the fall of 1812. His inventory of December 23, 1812 gives a  
glimpse of the property owned by the seeds:

"Rose Apple Trees  
Rosemary, Squills  
Double Tube Roses  
Amaryths  
Peach Trees  
40 Canary Birde  
Seeds



Bird Seed, shovels, spades, bird cages, crockery,  
 peas, beans,  
 2 green Houses & glasses, garden tools  
 Glasses for Roots, Shelves of Jars with Seed in them  
 Double Seeds Box."

In October 1812, Dobbs property was put up at auction through ads in the October 13 and 22 editions of the Charleston Courier.

"All the Personal Estate and Stock in Trade of WM. DOBBS, late of Charleston, Seedsman, deceased; consisting of a variety of elegant and choice Plants and Shrubs, in boxes and pots; various kinds of Seeds and Roots; Gardening Utensils; a variety of empty Flower Pots; an assorting of Crockery Ware; together with his elegant collection of Singing Birds; consisting of Canary and Mocking Birds; a Glass Case, containing stuffed Birds; empty Bird Cages; a few Botanical Books; Also, his two Green Houses, with eashes, complete.

ALSO,

Several hundred choice Fruit Trees, now in the ground.

Another gardener and seedsman active in Charleston in the same period was Philip S. Noisette. He was especially interested in the production of sugar cane and ran this ad in the November 14, 1814 edition of the Courier.

P.S. NOISETTE begs leave to inform the Planters of South Carolina that he has successfully cultivated, for some years past, in his garden at Romney Village, opposite Mr. Turpin's farm, the Sugar Cane; and that he has at this moment canes from which Sugar may be extracted. In consequence of the great advantages likely to be derived to this state, from this valuable plant, he offers cuttings for sale, to such as wish to increase their wealth, and that of their country, at the rate of Five Dollars for a hundred buds, or eyes.

He has also in his garden, a great quantity of FRUIT TREES, grafted by himself, of the best kinds from Europe; such as different kinds of Peaches, Nectarines, Apricots, Plumbs, Pears, Apples, Figs and Grapes; as well as many foreign, Ornamental Trees, Shrubs and Plants.

also for sale, a collection of garden SEEDS, FLOWER SEEDS & FLOWER ROOTS.

The pattern established by the growing South Carolina seed and nursery trade is similar to that of the Chesapeake, but there are some significant differences. In the Chesapeake, merchants dedicated to selling plants found their most secure footing after the Revolution. South Carolina seed merchants successfully began selling both useful and ornamental plants decades before their northern counterparts. In South Carolina, much seed and plant material was imported from England both before and after the Revolution. In the Chesapeake, the earliest seed merchants and nurserymen after the Revolution were from France and Germany. After the war, Dutch bulbs and roots found their way into South Carolina as well, and French seed merchants also peddled their wares in Charleston; but English nurserymen continued to dominate these Carolina businesses. In both regions, English gardeners and nurserymen came to dominate the local seed and nursery trade by the turn of the century. Both Chesapeake and Carolina garden entrepreneurs offered a full range of stock from greenhouse plants to seeds for field crops, from traditional medicinal herbs to fragrant shrubs in the beginning of the nineteenth century.

Seed merchants and nurserymen in both areas aggressively advertised their services and stock (at both retail and wholesale prices) in regional newspapers and sometimes offered free printed catalogues to prospective clients. Gardeners in both regions sold their seeds and plants at their nurseries and

stores, at local farmers' markets, and through agents at various locations throughout their regions. Gardeners from both regions sold seeds and plants imported from Philadelphia and New York as well as their local territories. A new nationwide network of capitalistic nursery and seed business was nipping at the heels of traditional garden barter exchanges in both the Chesapeake and South Carolina as the nineteenth century dawned over the horizon.

## ENDNOTES

1. South Carolina Gazette Charleston, S.C. March 6, 1742.
2. Ibid, August 1, 1754.
3. Mary Barbot Prior, "Letters of Martha Logan to John Bartram", South Carolina Historical Magazine, Volume 59, pp. 38-46.
4. Ibid, 39.
5. Times, Charleston, S. C., April 30, 1802.
6. D. E. Huger Smith and A. S. Salley, Jr., ed. Register of St. Philip's Parish, CharlesTown, or Charleston S.C. 1754-1801. Columbia, S. C. University of South Carolina Press. 1971. p. 158.
7. Charleston Courier, Charleston S. C. December 23, 1807.
8. Letters of Administration, Volume T. T. 1808-1815 Charleston, S. C. p. 31 November 11, 1808.
9. Charleston Courier, Charleston S. C. April 30, 1806.
10. Land Records, Misc., Pt. 82, Book 16, 1791-93 pp 378-380, October 4, 1792.
11. Columbian Herald, Charleston, S. C. August 12, 1796.
12. Letters of Administration, Vol. RR 1797-1803, p. 442, December 10, 1802.
13. Charleston Courier, Charleston S. C. December 28, 1803.
14. Barbara Wells Sarudy "Nurserymen and Seed Dealers in the Eighteenth Century Chesapeake" in Journal of Garden History Volume 9, Number 3, July-September 1989. 111-117.