

- Dear Sir

Martha? Aug. 9. 97.

I have sent you small parcels of the two different kinds of wheat, I shew'd you when I saw you last. -

No. 1. The many headed wheat, commonly called Egyptian. - the *triticum spica multiplici*, or Smyrna wheat of millar. - this wheat is liable to rust, & should be sown early, any time after the 15th Aug. - it requires strong ground or it will not produce more heads than the common sort of wheat. - it is mentioned as growing to great profit in S^o America, by Ulloa. -

No. 2. A great, white bearded Wheat. - this I was told was brought into America lately by a Priest, who gave it to a Mr. Tubman a Catholic on the Eastern Shore of Maryland & call'd it Sicilian Wheat. - This by repeated experiments by myself, must not be sown early - as it will joint & be lost by the winter frost, in a great measure. - if sown at all in the fall it should be about 15th or 15th October. - but from information I was led to sow a little in the beginning (ab. 10th) of March, & it came to perfection soon after that sown in the fall, so that it is certainly a spring wheat. -

Mercer John F. Aug. 9. 97. rec'd Aug 19

a little might be tried 10th Oct. & again 10th to 20th in February
as as early as the weather will admit of spring sowing. -

Will you be so good as to make my Compl^{ts} to
y^r. daughters as th^o of an old friend & receive the assurance
of the esteem & respect

of y^r. friend & br^r.

John F. Mercer