

Country Living

April 2013

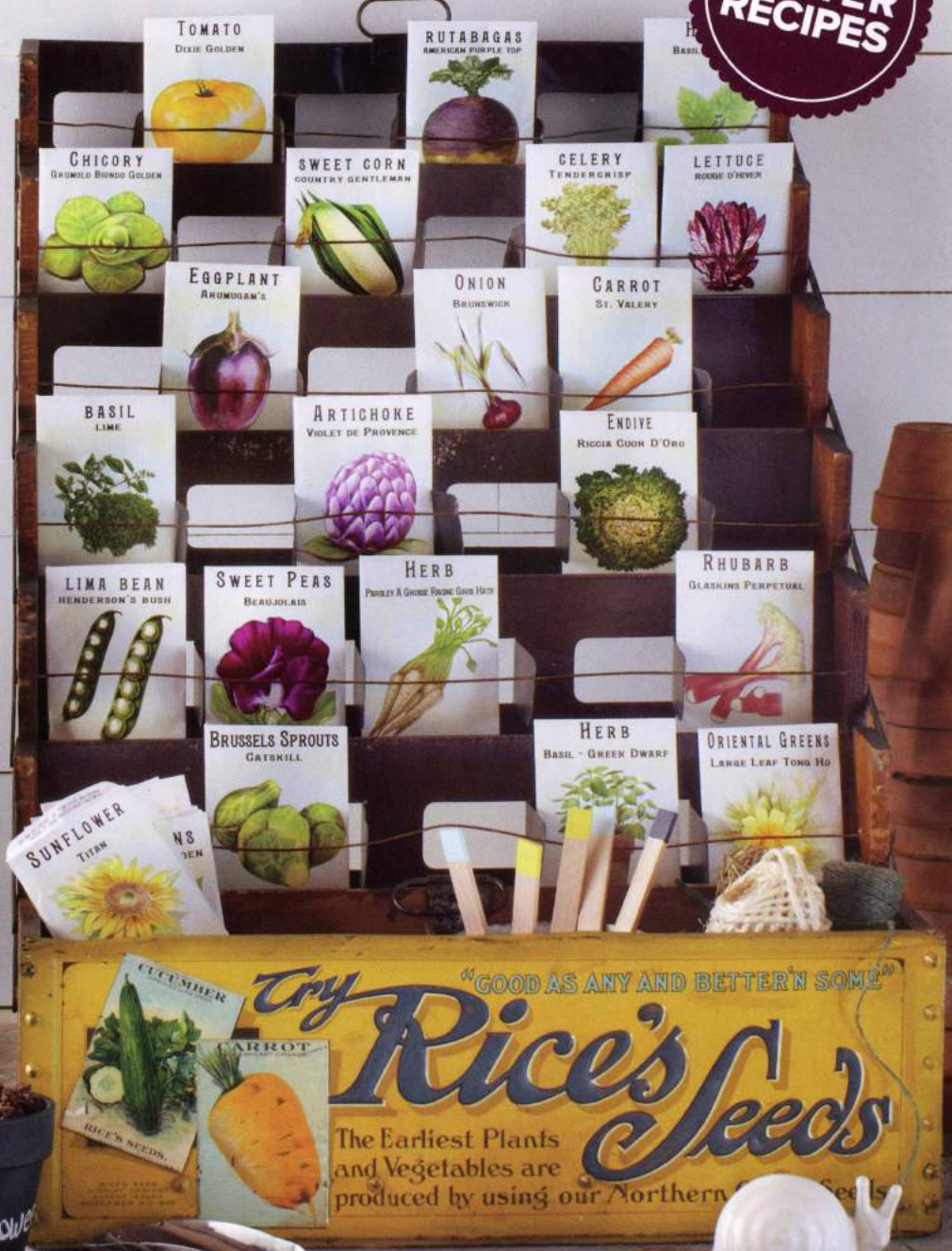
Spring starts here!

35 pages of garden inspiration

FRESH WAYS TO get organized

Pretty pick-me-ups for every room

AMAZING EASTER RECIPES



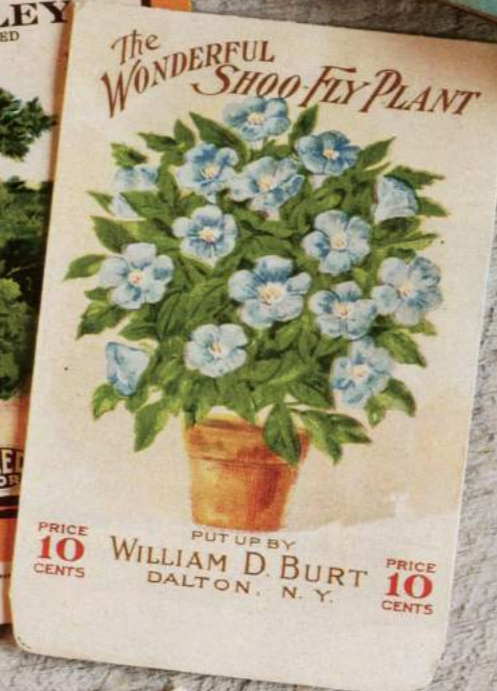
Cute pots and planters

Fun little finds from \$8

COUNTRYLIVING.COM \$4.50
04 >
08350
0 279681 9

Gardeners rip seed packets open and throw them away. Perhaps that's why these survivors, dating from between 1900 and 1920, seem especially precious, their hand-lithographed beauty spared. Alas, the companies that issued the envelopes proved less hardy: All five were defunct by the 1960s—leaving behind dead stock waiting to be discovered. "Pristine packets tend to be warehouse finds that were never used," explains Dwayne Rogers of thelabelman.com, who provided these examples. Originally sold for a nickel or dime, they remain relatively inexpensive, ranging from \$5 to \$45 apiece.

► **RICE'S SEEDS** Most seed outfits mail-ordered packets from printers, then had their name inked over a stock image. But Rice's commissioned distinctive art for its envelopes. Thus, this circa-1910 trio commands the highest figures: between \$25 and \$45 a pop.



◀ **BURT SEED CO.** The early-1900s letterhead of this Dalton, New York, firm boasted that the company could fill 300,000 seed packets a day. Printed between 1915 and 1920, this parsley version goes for \$15; Burt's shoo-fly envelope from the same period is valued at \$30.

▼ **CARD SEED CO.** Some two decades ago, nearly a million artifacts from Card Seed Co., of Fredonia, New York, were discovered in a building that had been abandoned for 50 years. Still in wide circulation, these early-20th-century packets earn the ultra-affordable appraisal of \$5 each.



▼ **EVERITT'S SEED STORE** Two years ago, the contents of J.A. Everitt's Indianapolis warehouse—opened in 1886 and long since shuttered—were auctioned off. Among them? These \$15 packets, which date from 1905 to 1918.



▲ **HUTH SEED CO.** German immigrant Ferdinand Louis Huth founded his San Antonio business in 1863 to trade in hardware, farm implements, and seeds suited to Texas's warm, dry climate. Huth's 1905 chile-pepper packet now fetches \$10; the 1915 catchfly and 1918 tobacco each bring \$15.

