

PLUMS.

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THE planting and growing of plums seems to be in the minds of a great many fruit growers at the present time, all anxious to know the best kinds to plant for profit, the best mode of cultivation and manures to use. I will try and give you this in as few words as possible.

THE SOIL, best adapted for plums is a clay loam or an alluvial soil, but plums will do fairly well on a heavy clay by first-class cultivation. On a sandy soil they are not likely to do well without a clay subsoil quite near the top; besides the curculio is very much worse in a sandy soil because it is much easier for them to burrow in it and hide themselves. A plum orchard should have the best of cultivation, especially as soon as the trees commence to bear crops, because this is very exhausting on the soil of moisture, while cultivation and manure help to bring the fruit to perfection. Of course all soils should be well drained, either naturally or by tile drains before planting, as the plum tree will not stand and thrive in wet ground. The manures best adapted to the plum are those with a great amount of potash and phosphoric acid, together with an occasional light coating of barnyard manure and a light dressing of salt. I have also found that sulphate of iron is a good manure, giving the leaves a very dark and glossy appearance and the fruit a very high color. Cultivation is very necessary in preserving the crop in time of drought as the plum tree at that time is very

apt to drop its leaves, and the crop to wither and come to nothing. Cultivation will also help to drive away the curculio, as the little Turk does not like to be disturbed as he burrows in the ground in the day time, but it should not be forgotten that cultivation should not be deep, indeed all cultivation in our orchards and vineyards should be shallow, not over three inches deep. As to

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for planting the list may be long or short, just as the planter likes. The varieties are numerous that are profitable for this section, but the following list is long enough and good enough for anyone, and the trees can be easily and cheaply purchased, viz:—For *Early*: Imperial Gage, Smith's Orleans, Washington, Niagara and Bradshaw. *Medium*: Lombard, Gen. Hand, Pond's Seedling, and Yellow Egg. *Late*: Quackenbos, German Prune, Reine Claude de Bavay, and Coe's Golden Drop. There are others I would add but they are not so easily got, such as Victoria, Columbia, Lawson's Golden Gage, Duane's Purple, Glass' Seedling, Munroe, and several others, but we have here plenty from which to select and it is very doubtful if we ever will get any addition to these that will be any more productive or any more profitable for the grower.

In spraying, I watch very closely for the curculios about the time the blossom drops, and have found that it does not always pay to wait to