

QUESTION DRAWER.

Gnarly Duchess Pear.

1188. SIR,—I send you by this mail a sample of Duchess pear which is all gnarled and distorted by little hard spots which grow in it at the skin. This pear, as you see, is about one-quarter the size it should be, showing the dwarfing effect of the pest. Will you kindly state through your columns what it is and what remedy can be applied. My Seckels and Duchess are both badly affected every year, and it is probable that other readers of the Canadian Horticulturist are bothered by it also.

London.

W. E. SAUNDERS.

Without doubt this pear is affected with stings of the curculio, a very common fault with the Duchess. Where this pear is grown upon rich land, well fertilized and cultivated, it overgrows all such injuries and is large, smooth and beautiful; but where weakly and stunted in growth, the fruit is usually small, knotty and worthless.

Watermelon Vines Failing.

1189. SIR,—Can you give me any idea as to cause of my watermelon plants wilting and dying? They grew vigorously and appeared quite healthy until they would cover a space of two or three feet square and then very suddenly dry up and die. Also please give remedy for same and much oblige.—Yours truly,

Iroquois.

A. B. CARMAN.

It is very difficult to account for the dying of your correspondent's melon vines without knowing more of the particulars. The trouble might be due to drought; but it is more likely that the vines were killed by little borers working in the roots. The striped cucumber beetle (*Diabrotica vittata*) which devours the foliage of the young plants, is very often found quite as injurious in its larval stage, when it is a slender worm-like creature and bores into the roots and stems of the plants. This is one of the difficult insects to contend with in both the larval and adult stage. Probably the most satisfactory method is to cover the melon vines with netting supported on a light

wooden frame. After the plants have reached the second or third leaf the covering will be unnecessary.

O. A. C., Guelph.

H. L. HUTT.

Sample Apples.

1190. SIR,—I send you by express four kinds of apples, marked 1, 2, 3, 4. Please name them. Harriston.

I. LIVINGSTON.

No. 1 is McIntosh Red, No. 2 resembles Cranberry Pippin, No. 3 resembles Seek; the other one we do not recognize.—EDITOR.

White Bougere Rose.

1191. SIR,—Is this rose hardy enough to live out of doors during winter?

Annapolis, N. S.

E. D. ARNAUD.

The White Bougere is a tea rose, needing good heavy protection here at Hamilton, and would no doubt need the same in Nova Scotia. We would prefer taking up the plant and potting it.

Hamilton.

WEBSTER BROS.

Pruning Plum Trees.

1192. SIR,—I have some young plum trees which bore fruit for the first time this season. The trees were purchased for "Weaver," but turned out a large and very fine yellow plum, not ripening until about the 15th Sept. The trees have grown into a very straggling shape, and seem to me to require pruning. Will you kindly let me know through your columns the best season and manner in which to prune them.

Yours truly,

ARMON BURWASH.

All fruit trees need pruning, although the plum and the cherry need much less than the peach, pear and apple. The pruner has two objects in view, (1) the form of the tree, (2) the equal distribution of bearing wood. It is evidently unwise to allow branches to cross one another or to grow lop-sided. A little wise cutting will regulate this. Then a common fault with fast-growing varieties, especially with the Japans, is the rank growth of young wood, which soon make