

we find a district almost free from curculio, where large quantities of plums are grown and shipped to other parts of the Province, and to the United States; but the black-knot, which prevails almost everywhere, is interfering with successful plum growing there as elsewhere. Plums may be grown with success in all the districts where the apple and the pear succeed, provided the trees are regularly jarred in the proper season for the curculio, and this pernicious insect destroyed.

#### CHERRIES.

The common red or Kentish cherry is grown in abundance throughout the greater part of Ontario; frequently bears good crops, and is a most useful and valuable fruit. The Early Richmond is also cultivated with much success. In the neighbourhood of the lakes the finer and sweeter varieties are produced, but the crop is less certain than that of most other fruits, and the cherries when ripening are much subject to rot.

#### PEACHES.

Peaches cannot be cultivated with profit over a very extended area. They are, however, grown in considerable quantities along the shores of Lakes Erie and Huron, and especially in the Niagara peninsula. A large proportion of those found in our markets are from the Niagara district.

#### GRAPES.

Most of the varieties of grapes in general cultivation may be grown in all the milder parts of Ontario, and in favourable localities as far east and north as Ottawa; but in short seasons in the less favoured localities they are sometimes cut by the frosts before fully ripe. Along the Lake Erie shore, and in the Niagara peninsula, they are produced in large quantities, and are a much more certain crop. As earlier ripening varieties are introduced the area of grape culture will become more extended, since the canes may be easily protected in the severest climates by covering them. Among the earlier sorts of promise Moore's Early is among the best, ripening about ten days earlier than the Concord. So many new seedlings are now being raised by experimenters every year that we may hope soon to have good varieties earlier than this.

#### SMALL FRUITS.

The smaller fruits such as raspberries, strawberries, currants, and the hardier varieties of gooseberries succeed almost everywhere, the snow being sufficient in most places to form a protective covering for such as need shelter in winter. Where snow is abundant and continues with little or no break throughout the season, as in the Ottawa valley, many of the tenderer raspberries can be grown; varieties which cannot be successfully cultivated in the warmer parts of the Province where there is less snow. I shall not attempt to pronounce on the relative merits of the many new candidates for favour among the strawberries; their name is legion, and so much depends on suitability of soil and the care with which they are cultivated that evidence will necessarily be conflicting. Among the newer raspberries the Cuthbert, or Queen of the Market, stands in the front rank. The fruit is large, of a handsome bright colour, and has an excellent flavour; the canes bear heavily and have thus far proved very hardy. There is also a new red currant to which I should like to call special attention. I refer to Fay's Prolific. The individual berries are very large, the bunch is long and the bushes are very prolific. As far as it has been tested this new red currant is generally regarded as a great acquisition.

#### EXTENDING THE AREA.

The acreage under fruit in this province might be greatly increased without danger of over-production, and efforts should be continued to extend the area of successful fruit culture until the inhabitants of our most northern districts shall be abundantly supplied