

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.**OPINIONS ON THE POCKLINGTON GRAPE.**

"Lahrax," of Goderich, Ont., in a letter to the *Country Gentleman* on grapes in Ontario, admits the fine appearance of this new variety, but thinks it shells badly, and has a foxy taste. His opinions are based on bunches that were shown at the fall exhibitions. These were gathered before fully ripe, and subjected to considerable handling. We saw the Pocklington on an eighty-foot trellis, which was completely covered with young vines, and heavily laden with fruit, at date of Oct. 12th, in the nursery of Mr. John Charlton, Rochester, N.Y. It was then dead ripe, but there was no tendency to shell off the bunches, and the berries had the slightest possible flavour of foxiness. Mr. C. W. Campbell, originator of the Delaware grape, after comparing the Pocklington with all the other white grapes exhibited in Boston last fall, says of it:—"Much the largest and most attractive white grape of native origin yet introduced, throwing the Niagara which were exhibited beside it entirely in the shade." Mr. Samuel Miller, originator of the Martha, a white grape of superior quality, says:—"While the Martha has done nobly, and I have no need to be ashamed of having originated it, I now resign, and give the palm to Mr. Pocklington." The adaptation of this beautiful grape to the Province of Ontario remains to be proved, but as it is earlier than the Concord, and quite as hardy, there is every reason to believe that it will do well here. It is to be hoped that it will get a general and impartial trial in all parts of this country. If it makes itself as much at home among us as it does among the fruit-growers in the State of New York, it will prove a most valuable addition to our list of out-door grapes.

DRAPING FOREST TREES WITH VINES.

A writer in the *Gardener's Chronicle* (Eng.), suggests a very pleasing idea, which is capable of being carried out in the line of use as well as beauty. It is natural for grape vines to climb into trees, and we have noticed that the shoots entwined around branches endure the extreme cold of winter better than those entirely exposed. Trees growing on lawns might thus be utilized as living trellises for grape vines. The same use might be made of trees on the edges of partially cleared woods. In a variety of ways, the suggestion embodied in the following paragraph, may be put in practice:

"When we read descriptions of tropical forests we are always struck with the amount of climbers, creepers, lianas, growing on the trees and dropping fantastically from branch to branch. The nearest approach that I have seen to these fascinating descriptions was in the virgin forests of Sardinia. There the clematis, wild vine, blackberry, ivy, all but realize these descriptions of tropical scenery, and add much to the beauty of the forests. On my return home I determined to imitate this feature of the Sardinian forests, and planted a number of climbers at the roots of many of my trees, making soil for them, I

had, however, no success; the roots of the trees ate up the soil, and the creepers dwindled away. Eighteen months ago I hit upon a plan which promises to be a complete success. I had some casks, large and small, cut in two, and holes made at the bottom for drainage. Then I had holes as large as the half casks made at the foot of the trees, cutting away roots to make room. The trees no doubt suffer, but they soon recover themselves. The casks were filled with good soil, and the creepers planted therein—Virginian creepers, Bour-sault roses, vines and ivy. They are all doing very well, and are running up the trees vigorously. By the time the wood of the casks rots the plants will have established themselves, and will, I trust, be able to hold their own. I expect in two or three years to have my trees covered with garlands, festoons of creepers, imitating the lianas of the tropics. Many other creepers would no doubt do equally well, such as *Bignonia radicans*, *wistaria*, *jasmine*, etc. I mean to try them. The vigour of the creepers seems to depend on the size of the casks. I mean to try large sugar casks."

A FRUIT-LIST FOR THE NORTH-WEST.

At the annual meeting of the Minnesota Horticultural Society, just passed, much valuable information was elicited. In the revision of the fruit-list the following were recommended:—Apples for general planting: *Wealthy*, *Duchess of Oldenburg*. For planting in limited quantities in southern and eastern Minnesota: *Plumb's Cider*, *Fameuse*, *St. Lawrence*, *Wallbridge*. The *Wealthy* was kept on the list by a vote of nineteen to one. For a general planting in limited quantities: *Tetofsky*, *Plumb's Cider*.

The crab list, as completed, for general planting: *Beache's Sweet Orange*, *Early Strawberry*, *Whitney No. 20*, *Minnesota*, and *Power's Large Red*. After a motion to strike the *Transcendent* from the last list, on account of its liability to blight, the crab was retained and recommended to be separate from the main orchard. For planting in limited quantities: *Conical*, *Hesper Blush*, *Virginia*, *Hutchinson's Sweet*.

The grape list for general planting: *Concord*, *Delaware*, *Janesville*. For planting in limited quantities: *Worden*, *Rogers' 3*, *4*, *15*, *19*. Recommended for trial: *Moore's Early*, *Lady*. Struck from the list for tenderness: *Bryton* and *Lady*. The *Iona*, offered for trial, was rejected.

The raspberry list for general planting: *Blackcaps*—*Doolittle*, *Seneca*, *Mammoth Cluster*. *Red*—*Turner*, *Philadelphia*, *Purple Cane*. Recommended for trial: *Gregg*.

The currant was left as it stood in the *Transactions* of last year. *Stewart's Seedling* was put on the list for trial; also *Lee's Black Currant*.

The gooseberry list and the plum list were left unchanged.

The strawberry list for general planting, given in the order of their value: *Wilson's Albany*, *Charles Downing*, *Downer's Prolific*, *Crescent Seedling*. For general trial: *Seth Boyden*, *Sharpless*, *Cumberland Triumph*, *Miners*, *Pacific*, *Red Jacket*, *Pioneer*.

MAKE AN ASPARAGUS BED.

Asparagus is as easily raised as anything that grows in the garden, and yet it is comparatively rare to find it upon the farmer's table. The reason may be that much nonsense has been published about the difficulties of raising it, and that we have to wait two or three years for the full maturity of the plant. It is true that a full crop will not be given in less than three years, but when the bed is once made, the job is done for a dozen or twenty years. If made this spring, there will be one year the less to wait. Any good well-drained soil that will bear corn is suitable for asparagus. Put in a half-cord of manure for every four square rods of ground. Work it in thoroughly. Set out one-year-old plants, in rows four feet apart, and two feet in the row. They can be kept clean then with the harrow or cultivator. It should have cultivation once in two weeks, through the growing season. Cover the bed with manure in the fall, and fork it under in the spring. Cultivate thoroughly through the second season, and top-dress as before. The second season a few stalks may be cut in April and May, but there should be no close cutting until the third year, and this should not be continued later than the middle of June. The plants must have time to grow, and recuperate in midsummer, or the bed will soon fail. The secret of large fine asparagus is abundant manure, applied in the fall every season, thorough cultivation until the tops prevent, and stopping the cutting by the middle of June. The blanched asparagus that is so popular in some markets is secured by covering the beds with seaweed, straw, or other mulch. It is poor stuff in comparison with the long, green, tender shoots that have had the full benefit of the sunlight on a rich soil. The leading varieties are the "*Colossal*" and "*Defiance*," and are advertised by the seedsmen and other dealers each spring. —*American Agriculturist*.

LAWNS.

In response to the usual spring inquiry about the making of lawns, some one who is apparently competent to advise on the subject writes: "When a person has a piece of ground around his premises of half an acre or more near the city, it is rather expensive work to sod it down by the square yard, and hence information is wanted about the way to go to work to seed down an acre so that it will be a permanent lawn in the shortest space of time. The first work is to have it ploughed or dug all over, and worked till it is perfectly level, and with the top soil so perfected by the use of the harrow and the roller that it is equal to a good onion bed. And we would not be in a hurry to sow the seed, but let the surface lie for a time till the sun had warmed the soil and started all the seeds of weeds into life, so that it might be clean and free from these seeds first. Then the next subject for consideration is the seed. Of this we would make a mixture that would be equal to three bushels for an acre, of which the proportion would be as follows: A bushel and a half of Kentucky blue grass, half a bushel of timothy seed, half a bushel of red top, and half a bushel of white clover seed. The great defect in the sowing of a lawn is the