

crop the last two years when strawberries have been so poor a crop in many places. Small fruits are very successful in this part of the country if properly cultivated, and prices are excellent for all that are offered for sale. I have found the HORTICULTURIST a great benefit, and would not like to be without it. What kind of pears would be suitable for this climate? Wishing you every success in the furtherance of the interests of horticulture.—JESSIE PARKER, *Gravenhurst*.

[We would recommend a trial of Clapp's Favorite and Flemish Beauty.—EDITOR.]

SIZING FOR HOT-BED SASH.

52. SIR.—Would you please give me a recipe for painting muslin covers for hot-bed sash, to be used instead of glass.—A SUBSCRIBER.

In reply we cannot do better than quote from *Popular Gardening* the following answer:—For three sashes of usual size, get one quart of linseed oil, one pint of water, yolks of fourteen eggs, and the whites of four eggs. Then boil oil and lime water together, remove from the fire, and after a few minutes stirring, add the beaten eggs, stirring again until all is thoroughly mixed. The muslin being tacked on the frames, is painted over with two coats of this mixture, and when dry will be ready for use.

FLEMISH BEAUTY PEAR.

53. SIR.—(1) Is it good flavor? (2) Is the tree vigorous? (3) Is it hardy? (4) Does it meet a good market? X. Y., *Charlottetown, P.E.I.*

To all these enquiries we may reply in one word, Yes. The quality of the Flemish Beauty is very good, indeed many prefer it for eating to any other variety, especially when gathered on the green side, and ripened indoors. The tree is a vigorous grower, hardy, and an early and abundant bearer. When the fruit is well grown, it commands a good price in our markets, for it is a large and very handsome, and sometimes takes on a fine reddish-brown color on one side, otherwise becoming pale yellow at maturity.

The difficulty in our way, in growing this pear in the Niagara district, is its tendency to crack and spot, which diseases render the fruit almost unsalable, and the tree when

once attacked by the blight is generally beyond recovery, as it is taken in the trunk and not in the branches only, as is the case with the Bartlett.

SEEDING DOWN AN ORCHARD.

54. SIR.—What is the best to seed down an orchard with? How many bushels to the acre will it take? A. A. FUNNELL, *Trenton*.

Reply by John J. Hobson, Mosborough, Ont.

I have had very little experience in growing any of the grasses but timothy and the different varieties of clovers; I have watched the results of the experiments which have been carried on at the Model Farm, in growing the different varieties of grasses, and it has made me feel quite satisfied that I never went into the testing myself,—and unless I see more satisfactory showing I will keep on on my own line—my practise is to sow seven pounds of common red clover, from one to two pounds of Alsike (according to the nature of the soil) and four pounds of timothy to the acre.

THE ONTARIO APPLE, FIG CULTURE, THE CORTLANDT GRAPE.

55. SIR.—Why don't some one give a true description of the Ontario Apple now that that variety ranks highest in the list for Ontario. To say that it is good size, may mean all the way from the English Russett to a Gloria-mondi; a late keeper, may mean Dec. or June; Highly colored means a Belleflower, Greening, King, Blue Pearmain or any and all the shades of the beautiful Princess Louise, quality might be rated so as to be understood by comparison with other apples. What I most desire in my present condition is "more light," won't you kindly furnish it for me. I am interested in fruit culture; am setting an orchard for commercial purposes. I am very anxious to know just what the Ontario is like and if I can make it *rate best* for British Columbia, I will not hesitate to set a thousand trees as soon as I can prepare the ground.

I also would like to know of any varieties of figs that can be successfully grown in Ontario, and can you give any information in regard to the Cortland grape advertised in the HORTICULTURIST.

I have a niche in the mountain well sheltered from cold storms, and am anxious to try growing some of the tender varieties of fruits that would not succeed in more ex-