

"Average of orchard per year, \$884.32; average per acre, \$88.43. Deducting, say 25 per cent. for expense of picking, packing, marketing and care of orchard, it would leave a net profit of \$66.33 per acre per year.

"These figures compared with figures in growing grain give a far better result.

"Notwithstanding that this orchard was planted 25 years ago, on a stony piece of land, prohibiting cultivation other than top-dressing with manure, and before any reports as to the most hardy varieties for this Province had been published, and the fact that the orchard contains more than 30 varieties of apples, and some of the varieties almost worthless, I think the above figures show that orcharding as a commercial investment has given fair profits—N. C. FISK, before Montreal Horticultural Society.

### Girdling Grape Vines.

I have practiced girdling more or less for many years to test its value in a scientific and economical way. The numerous experiments made in the college vineyard lead to the following results:

1. No injury to the vines girdled has ever been detected, even where the girdle was made on the main trunk near the ground.

2. The time of ripening is generally hastened by one or two weeks.

3. Careful sugar tests show no injury to the quality of the fruit.

4. The fruit was larger, more beautiful, and sold for from three to five cents per basket more than that from ungirdled vines.

5. The best time to perform the work has been found to be early in July.

6. For reasons of economy of the forces of the vine, only a part of the cane of each vine should be girdled and only those that are to be cut away.

7. Annual arms should be grown for the purpose of girdling to bear the fruit, and a few unbearing ones fruit for spurs to produce the canes for next year's girdling.

8. The best results were obtained when the ring of bark taken out was from one-eighth to one-quarter of an inch wide, according to the size of the cane girdled.

9. Good results were obtained when wires were twisted about the canes, but only when twisted very hard with pincers. For this purpose about No. 20 annealed was used and the work done late in June.

10. From our experience we believe that girdling will result in profit to the vineyardist, and in much pleasure to those who are growing choice late grape varieties.

In our practice we have worked out a method of girdling that may be applied to any system, but is most satisfactory where one cane is allowed to grow ungirdled on one side of the vine, but not permitted to grow fruit, while the cane of the previous year has been girdled and is producing fruit.—S. T. MAYNARD, Mass. Agric. Coll.

### Caragana Arborescens.

CARAGANA ARBORESCENS, the Siberian Pea-tree, is an old inhabitant of gardens, and a perfectly hardy small tree, of good habit, and

an unfailing bloomer at this season of the year when the erect branches are covered with its handsome, bright yellow, pea-shaped flowers, borne in fasciated clusters from the axils of the compound leaves. These have spinescent stipules, and consist of four to six pairs of small, oblong-oval vilous leaflets. This tree, which will grow to a height of fifteen or twenty feet, is often found in nurseries grafted as a tall standard; but it makes a more beautiful object when it is grown on its own roots and is allowed to send out its branches from near the ground.

The shrubby "*Caragana frutescens*" is a native of Siberia also, and a desirable plant. It has larger solitary flowers of a paler yellow, and smooth leaves with broader leaflets. It flowers a few days earlier than *C. arborescens*, and is equally hardy. Both species are easily grown from seed.—Garden and Forest, June 5th.

### Mixed Manure.

The experiments at stations and by individuals continue to confirm the old opinion that barn manure is more universally useful and efficient under all circumstances than any of the special fertilizers. In rating its value by analysis, the carbonaceous matter which it contains is not commonly taken into account, but its abundant presence is one reason why it is so generally beneficial to all soils. It operates in several ways, among them in the mechanical condition given to land, and in promoting the absorption of moisture and essential ingredients of fertilizers. It greatly assists in improving the texture of many soils. With these qualities, it is well to mix with yard manure various other substances. Inquiry is often made as to the best way to apply bone-dust, plaster, marl, air-slaked lime, superphosphate, etc. In most cases the easiest way is to mix them through heaps of manure, in their alternating layers; and if there is plenty of the manure, and the quantity of the other ingredients is small, the more perfect the intermixture can be made, the thinner and more numerous the layers, the more perfectly they will be diffused through the manure, and the less labor will be required in working over the pile of manure.—Cultivator.

### Ink for Zinc Labels.

A LEGIBLE and permanent black ink for labels may be made as follows: Verdigris, one ounce; sal ammoniac, one ounce; lamp black, half an ounce; rain water, half a pint. Mix in an earthenware mortar or jar, and put up in small bottles. To be shaken before use and used with a clean quill pen on bright zinc.

### Ruby Currant.

MOORE'S RUBY CURRANT.—Mr. Hooker—This currant originated in Rochester, N.Y., and has borne with us for several years. It was produced by crossing the Cherry with the White Grape, and shows characteristics of both parents; is of fine quality and unsurpassed for family use. It is about the size of the Victoria, and is much more productive than the Cherry.