

seed. This year they appointed wholesale agents for the sale of it in Great Britain, Australian Colonies, India, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Russia and other continental countries. As a pot plant it received an award of merit (the highest honor that can be conferred on a new variety) at the Royal Horticultural Society, held in London, England, last year. From what we read of it, it comes true from seed, grows 5 or 6 inches high, the flowers are borne on long stems, the color white. I have started some in pots, two seeds in each pot, and intend to plant it in the open; I hope others of this Society will give it a trial.

#### **New Branching Aster**

As a rival of the Chrysanthemum. Chrysanthemums are rarely brought to perfection by amateurs, and are best left to the professional florist. Asters are easy of culture, and in the new Branching, introduced in 1893, we have a flower closely resembling it in form and color. Many will remember seeing them offered for sale in the flower stores last fall, and a great many might have mistaken them for Chrysanthemums. The flowers have broad wavy petals, gracefully curled and twisted; the season for blooming is earlier than the Chrysanthemum, but later than any other variety of the Aster tribe. This gives it a special value for a late fall flower; the flowers are borne on long stems and are particularly suitable for cutting, as they will keep a long time and the flowers expand in water. If arrangements can be made for covering the plants on frosty nights, the blooming can be extended considerably past the time of other outside flowers. They are also admirably adapted for pot plants to flower in the house in the Chrysanthemum season. One grower writes of them in their last fall trial: "I have a dozen pots of the Branching Asters, loaded with flowers, that are the admiration of every one, and many say they must be Chrysanthemums. I think them a fine pot plant every way." The colors are white, pink, crimson, purple; the time for starting and transplanting is the same as for all other varieties of Asters.

**The Orchard Fence.**—It is time that the farmers of Ontario began to pay greater attention to the tidy appearances of their farms, and especially of their orchards. The old rail fence with its snake like curves is fortunately disappearing from our road sides; now let us have a fence which is as nearly invisible as good service will permit, that will neither favor the growth of weeds nor even serve as a shelter for mice. One of the members of our association, Col. Roger, of Grafton, Ont., has put up such a fence around his orchard and we have pleasure in showing our readers a view of his place in apple harvest, as an example worthy of imitation.

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**Fallow** crops are the best for orchards, potatoes, vines, buckwheat, roots, Indian corn, and the like. . . . If we desire our trees to continue in a healthy bearing state, we should, therefore, manure them as regularly as any other crop, and they will amply repay the expense.—A. J. DOWNING, *The Fruits and Fruit Trees of America*, 1st Edition, 1845.