

## FRUIT PROSPECTS.



E hope, during the coming season, to post the readers of the CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST as fully as possible, both with regard to the prospective fruit crops of Ontario, and also with regard to the best markets for the disposal of the same.

Although it is yet too early to judge with any certainty, yet it is cheering to note that, for the most part, there is a promise of a fairly good fruit harvest.

In Southern Ontario there is a good show of apple bloom upon such varieties as the Red Astracan, Duchess of Oldenburg, Cranberry Pippin and the Greening, but, curiously enough, the Baldwin still continues to be obstinate and shows scarcely any bloom. The Ribston and the Russets also make a very scant show. Cherries of every kind appear to be unprecedentedly full and are set well. Even the peach trees promise a heavy load of fruit, which is almost a surprise after so many recent failures.

The late frosts have done very little damage in the Niagara district except to some early strawberry blossoms which have been blackened by them. We doubt, however, if the fruits of the north have escaped so well. We will be pleased to receive the fullest reports from correspondents in every direction as the season advances.

The following are a few reports from other sections of Ontario :

Mr. T. H. Race, of Mitchell, writes : " Judging from the show of bloom, the fruit prospects are not particularly promising in this locality. Pear blossoms are very scant ; plums, on the contrary, very heavy. Apple blossoms are the lightest we have had for years. All the smaller fruits promise favorably except the strawberries, which are kept back by the cold, dry weather."

Mr. G. C. Caston, of the County of Simcoe, says : " The prospects here, so far, are very good, but everything is very backward. We have had frequent frosts, and early strawberries that were in bloom, have been cut off."

Mr. Thos. Beal, of Lindsay, in the County of Victoria, writes : " Apple, pear and plum trees look well. The frost has done no injury (May 20th). The small fruits all promise well except strawberries, of which the earlier varieties are badly injured by late frosts."

Mr. W. C. Searle, of Clinton, says : " I am afraid that the fruit blossoms here have suffered from late frosts. If any have escaped it is those which bloom late."

Mr. J. M. Waters, of Fernhill, writes : " Our winter here was very mild, and the fruit buds were in excellent condition when the spring opened, but we are having a succession of heavy frosts which have injured peaches, pears, cherries, plums, currants and strawberries to a large extent, while our grape vines have been killed back to the old wood. Very few interest themselves in fruit culture here, and were it not for the tree agent little would be done in fruit culture in North Middlesex."

Mr. D. Nicol, of Cataraqui, of the County of Frontenac, writes : " On all kinds of fruit trees the show of bloom is unprecedented. The late frosts may have injured some of it, but I cannot say to what extent."

Mr. W. H. Wylie, of Carleton Place, writes (May 28) : " Yesterday morning water in exposed places was covered by nearly one quarter inch of ice, and one day last week by nearly half an inch. Grapevines, leaves and buds, were frozen crisp. Plums have been injured and will be a smaller crop than at first anticipated. Currants and gooseberries promise well."

Mr. A. M. Smith, of St. Catharines : " Prospects of fruit : Apples light, only a few varieties blossomed ; peaches, fair ; pears, Bartlett's, light, hurt by frost ; plums, ditto ; berries and grapes uninjured on lake shore."