

The Willard Plum.

845. SIR,—What is the general opinion of plum growers of the value of the Willard?
J. D. STEWART.

Reply by Mr. J. K. Gordon, Whitby.

The Willard is a yellow freestone plum of medium size and quality; the earliest in ripening of all the Japan varieties which I think constitutes its chief value for market; but as it is also a very early bloomer, I am afraid that our May frosts will render it unproductive here, and I would not, therefore, advise that it should be largely planted in Ontario County.

Principal Varieties of Hardy Plums.

846. SIR,—Can you give a list of the principal varieties of plums of the same hardiness as Lombard? as Bradshaw?
J. D. STEWART.

Reply by Mr. Gordon.

The Lombard is not so hardy as the Bradshaw, and I class with the Lombard the following varieties as possessing the same degree of tenderness, viz.: The Willard and Abundance, Grand Duke, Orange, Diamond, Goderich, Oullin's Golden Gage and Reine Claude de Bayay. While I would rank the Bradshaw with the following hardier varieties, that is to say: Yellow Egg Imperial Gage, Smith's Orleans, French and Italian Prunes, Washington, Duanes Purple, etc.

The Saunders Plum.

847. SIR,—What is thought of the Saunders plum in Ontario? With me it is a poor affair, at least on young trees, being small and of only medium quality.
J. D. STEWART.

The Saunders is not generally known or grown in this county (Ontario). From my experience I describe it as a healthy, hardy, underized tree, with slender, pendant branches, and a prolific bearer of handsome yellow fruit, medium to small in size, and medium to poor in quality; season quite early, which, with its fine color, may cause it to sell well, in case its small size and poor quality prove to be no objection.

Propagating the Gladiolus.

848. SIR,—In propagating the Gladiolus—I. Would you rely upon the small root offsets for satisfaction, or would you prefer the seeds?

II. What type would you be most likely to obtain from the offsets, and from the seeds?

III. Which would be nearest to the parent? and if differentiated, in what direction, for better or for worse?