

Raspberries in Cincinnati Market,

Mr. Ritz says of the merits of red and black Raspberries as a market fruit:—"The yield of Black Caps was large, and prices ruled low; too low, in fact, to pay for raising them. If some of our fruit growers would plant more of the red and less of the black varieties, they would find it more profitable. Black Caps have been selling during the season from \$1 to \$5 per bushel, not averaging, in many cases, more than \$2 to the grower, while the Antwerps have ranged from \$8 to \$16, and have been scarce at these prices. During the last ten years red raspberries never sold for less than from \$5 to \$6, most higher, and always averaging at least \$6 during the season. The purple cane family, however, including the Philadelphia, does not sell much, if any better, than the Black Caps."

How to Raise Melons.

The luscious melon, though it be a tropical fruit, we can have in our own gardens. For varieties I prefer the White Japan and the Christiana, they being not only early and productive, but sweet and luscious. The ground should be well worked the previous year to have it in its best condition, and should be a sandy loam with a southern exposure. After the ground is well warmed, or about the 20th of May, plough it fine and lay out the hills about four feet apart each way. Dig holes for the hills one foot deep and three feet in diameter, to be filled with one-third old, well decomposed manure or compost heap, one-third muck treated with lime and salt, and one-third soil such as is around the hill; let this lie a few days to warm, and then plant the seed as shallow as they will bear and not dry up; sift on the top of the hill charcoal dust to draw the heat and force the growth of the young plant.

The hills should be raised a little above the level if the ground is inclined to be moist; this gives greater heat, but care is to be taken to keep the hills from drying up in a dry time. Hoe the ground often, stirring it well between the plants, but keep the top covered with charcoal dust, unless the soil is dark coloured, as it keeps the hill warm and forces the growth. When the plants are ready to run, thin them down to four in each hill; afterwards do not handle or molest them only to stir the soil carefully and keep the weeds down. When the melons are ripe, they will readily part from the stem without any force. The earliest melons are the best for seed; and commonly the first ripening crop is sweeter than those that are last to ripen, the last crop not being fully matured before the frost hurts the vines.—*The People*.

Roses This Year.

I am again tempted to give you my notes on the Roses with me this year. The four that have given me the most unmixed pleasure have been La France, Marie Baumann, Baroness de Rothschild, and Xavier Olib.

Of these, La France has bloomed continuously, every bloom good, with the finest perfume of any Rose I know. Last week I had two perfect blooms over 5 inches in diameter, well filled up to the centre. This is, indeed, a first class Rose. The other three have bloomed continuously and well. Duke of Edinburgh is very fine, but hard to keep in colour. Louis Van Houtte, good grower, a splendid Rose, bloomed well for a young plant. Madame Eugenie Verdier, Marquise de Mortemart, fine flower, but shy grower. Dupuy-Jamin, lovely rose, fair growth, and fine bloomer. Princess Christian, an honour to its raiser will, I think, be equal to Baroness Rothschild. Thyra Hammerick, very profuse in bloom, but very hard to get a perfect flower. Clemence Taux, more peculiar than beautiful, not one in twenty-four fit to put in a stand. Edouard Morren, the same fault, but when a perfect bloom is obtained it is splendid; both these, with Pierre Notting, are very prone to mildew. Reine Blanche, very rough, but at times fine. So much for my experience of the new perpetuals. Of old favourites, I have had magnificent blooms of John Hopper, Victor Verdier, Jules Margottin (always ready and always good), Duke of Wellington, and Lord Macaulay; in fact, of all my stock of old favourites I have had a fine supply.

Of my particular friends, the Teas, it is yet too early to say much, as I always pinch them back so as to have my chief blooms in autumn. I am more and more delighted each season with Rubens and Souvenir d'Elise. Of these two I have blooms now which will go in a stand of twelve which will be grand; they are, I am certain, among the best of the Teas. Marechal Niel, owing to cold east wind, has not been up to the mark of previous seasons. Many of my friends, when I have mentioned Madame Falcot, have replied "Oh! it is very well in the bud." I find in early spring and late autumn that it is only second to Marechal Niel. Any who were at the Bath May Show must have remarked the splendid examples of that Rose shown there.

Of the new Teas, Unique is much more inclined to make wood than bloom, but it is certainly beautiful when in perfection. Adrienne Christophe cannot fail to become a favourite, it is so very distinct. I am more favourably inclined to Montplaisir than I was, but it will never equal its parent Gloire de Dijon nor yet its sister Belle Lyonnaise.—*Cottage Gardener*.

NEW WHITE WEIGELIA, *Weigelia Nirca*.—We have cultivated this beautiful shrub for the past two years, and value it very highly. It is one of the most profuse flowering varieties of this lovely genus of plants that we have seen, the plants continuing in bloom during the greater part of the summer and autumn.—*Rural New Yorker*.

Colman's *Rural World* says that the curculio is becoming almost as destructive to peaches as to plums. It is almost impossible to find a single peach uninjured by this insect some years. The past season, on account of the incessant heavy rains, they did not injure the crop as much as usual; many of our most intelligent peach-growers are devising means to prevent the ravages of these insects.

Violets.

The Sweet Violets are among the most charming little gems of the spring garden, and they will grow almost anywhere, provided they get pure air; but what they most delight in is a rich, deep, loam soil, with liberal soakings of manure water during the flowering season. The following are a few of the most distinct: King of Violets—Dark violet, a good grower, free bloomer, and fit for greenhouse or out-door culture. The Giant and the Czar—If not the same, are very much alike; both have large flowers, with long stalks, which make them very valuable for either bouquets or vases. Devonensis—In bloom the whole season, and has a long flower stalk, which makes it valuable for gathering; is of a light violet colour. Neapolitan—One of the most beautiful, second to none, remarkably sweet-scented, with charming pale-blue flowers. These are all worthy of general cultivation.—*Florist and Pomologist*.

A Miscellany.

To the Editor.

SIR,—I have enjoyed nothing so much for a long time as that interesting letter from "Sarawak." He rambles along over his trees and grounds with such a quiet ease, telling you about his dwarf pear trees, and dwarf apple trees, his superphosphate and his grape vines, in such friendly-like way, that you like the old man, for he very frankly tells you he is over sixty years old, and take an interest, one hardly knows why, both in him and his trees. And then he has such an easy way of asking you questions, and such long headed questions too, that he evidently believes you know everything, and should certainly feel highly complimented by the entire confidence in your wisdom which is so delicately implied. Of course he does not expect you really to reply to half of his questions, he does not suppose that you are acquainted with the quality of every ton of superphosphate made in your city; but such is his high esteem of your opinion that he would like to hear you discourse upon its effects upon different soils, and especially upon a stiff clay loam. I have had some little experience with superphosphates, and have thought that the weather had something to do with their effect the first year. When the weather was dry during a large part of the growing season, there seemed to be but little effect from them upon the crop. But this is not so much of a question with me as whether, on the whole, it pays a Canadian farmer to buy superphosphates at such a high cost? By carefully saving all the manure made on the farm, and when that will not suffice, by occasionally ploughing under a crop of clover, I believe we can manure our farms far more cheaply, and quite as efficiently. In the worn-out soils of