

PEARS.

Pears cannot be grown over as large a portion of the Dominion as apples, yet there are many localities where they can be produced in great perfection. The attempts at their cultivation in the Ottawa valley has not yet been attended with much success.

In order that a thorough test of them may be made on the Experimental Farm a collection has been secured consisting of 298 trees of 101 varieties, 45 of which are from Northern Europe. Further additions will be made to this list in the way of seedlings and supposed hardy sorts, and it is hoped that some at least will be found which will endure the severe winter weather in this locality and prove valuable not only here but also in other colder portions of the Dominion.

PLUMS.

Large crops of wild plums are grown in this vicinity; they succeed very well indeed, but to what extent the improved varieties in cultivation will prove hardy is yet an experiment.

The experience of fruit growers here would indicate that as far as tested there are none of the improved sorts that will endure more than a few years at most. In the course of the farm work that, however, will not be taken for granted, but specimens of many of the leading varieties have been obtained for trial and comparison with the native seedlings.

The collection at present consists of 197 trees of 72 varieties, 32 of which are from Russia and other parts of Northern Europe.

No pains will be spared in making a collection of native seedlings and in the endeavour to raise the standard of that fruit much above its present level.

CHERRIES.

Cherries have not been planted very extensively around Ottawa. Greater interest will, therefore, be felt in our collection of 155 trees of 71 varieties, 54 of which are from Russia and other parts of Northern Europe, among which are some very hardy and valuable sorts of the Ostheim and Vladimir families.

PEACHES.

It is not expected that peach trees will endure the severe winter climate in this locality, hence, the number of trees planted of that fruit is small, 25 in all, of 11 American varieties.

APRICOTS.

Of this fruit seven trees only have been obtained consisting of four varieties, two Chinese and two European.

This completes the list of large fruits obtained in the spring of 1887. Most of the trees are large enough to plant in the orchards, which will be done in the coming spring.

A careful record will be kept of every tree, and such information as is gained which promises to be useful will be reported on from time to time.

SMALL FRUITS.

These can be grown over a much greater area than large fruits, in fact, wherever wheat or other grain will succeed many small fruits can be grown very successfully.

In the great North-West of Canada these desirable fruits should be tried extensively and may be planted in every settlement with good prospects of success.