

Ordering Trees.—Don't pick up with every travelling salesman for trees. If he can't give papers that show that he is selling for some responsible firm don't swallow his taffy and bright colored lithographs of fruit he shows, as they are entirely too highly drawn or colored; but look up some of the nurserymen advertised in the columns of the ADVOCATE, who are, I believe, reliable and honest; write out your list and send direct to them—several of them, if possible—and get their best prices for mentioned stock, and no substitutes. Don't take substitutes without you know what you are getting, as this "equally as good," as nurserymen often quote, is misleading. Some of them may be as good, but that is not the question. Who wants a lot of Lombards or Yellow Egg when they may have both of these kinds in plenty, but want some other? Never sign an order for trees of any kind and allow their reading in under ("if we are out of what your order calls for will substitute varieties equally as good") to remain uncanceled. Don't sign it, I say. If you do you will in nine cases out of ten get what you don't want. When you have quotations from several of the nurserymen, give your order to the one you think you are getting the best stock from—have it delivered early in spring. I believe spring planting is the best for general planting of all fruit trees or vines, except berries.

Varieties for profit.—I have found that for plums or peaches a good number of varieties are the best, as sometimes gages are called for, sometimes large white, sometimes large blue or red, and again, "send more Lombard" is the order. I, therefore, suggest the following, as having done well with me:—Lombard, Yellow Egg, Washington, Pond's Seedling, Coe's Golden Drop, Duanne's Purple, Renne Claude de Bavy, Glass' Seedling, Bradshaw, Niagara, Ger Prune, Imperial Gage, Victoria, Haling's Superb, Gen. Hand, Quackenbos, Smith's Orleans, Columbia, Lawson's Golden Gage, Peach, Bingham, Jefferson, Moyer's Seedling, Munroe Egg, Red Egg, Fellunburg, Prince's Yellow Gage, Canada Orleans, Lawrence Favorite, Shippers' Pride, and I might mention many others that are good to plant, but for a small orchard of a hundred trees or so I would not plant so many kinds—perhaps less than half of those mentioned would be better. Will quote as follows, ripening in succession:—Washington, Niagara, Imperial Gage, Duanne's Purple, Yellow Egg, Lombard, Quackenbos, Glass' Seedling, Renne Claude de Bavy, Coe's Golden. These might be changed as climate varies in temperature for hardiness, but I would not plant many of the varieties that are often forced on the public under the guise of hardiness and being free from curculio, they being mostly of the wild plum nature and qualities, as Marrianna, De Loto, Wild Goose, De Caradene, Newman, Weaver, Moore's Arctic, Miner, Langsdon, Indian Chief, Golden Beauty, Forest Garden. These above mentioned are often spoken of as hardy, of good size and free from curculio. It is not true; they are no more hardy than plenty of the larger and finer flavored varieties mentioned first, and as for being free from curculio, there are no plums that are free, in my experience of 20 years growing for market.

[TO BE CONCLUDED IN NEXT NUMBER.]

Apples for Ontario Planters.

BY JOHN CRAIG, EXPERIMENTAL FARM, OTTAWA.

It is not so generally known as it should be that the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association have published a list of apples which are recommended for cultivation in each electoral division of the province, including 12 varieties, made up of 3 summer, 4 autumn and 5 winter varieties. In presenting the fruit lists the committee, composed of Messrs. Beall, Dempsey and Allan, make the following statement:—"We have consulted the directors, as well as the leading fruit growers throughout the several districts. We have also tried to frame the lists, so as to advise the planting of such varieties as bear the highest points for each district, for hardiness, growth, bearing, shipping, quality of fruit and commercial values,

both in local and foreign markets. In point of season we have drawn a line for summer apples up to September 1st; autumn, to December 1st; and after that date winter, upon the understood principle that varieties arriving at maturity within the periods named belong to such seasons, although many, if not all the varieties named, are often kept and sold in market later in the season. We are also well aware that a few of the varieties named are placed in this list a little out of proper season, so far as some sections are concerned; but as it is necessary to draw a line, we have done so, taking the province into consideration and the area within which such varieties can be most successfully cultivated."

The importance of this move to the amateur should be thoroughly understood. A beginner, no matter what portion of the province he may reside in, can, by referring to the report of this committee, obtain names of such varieties as it will be safest to begin with, till added experience and knowledge of local climatic conditions may lead him to make changes or additions to the varieties planted.

It is interesting to note the universal adaptation of some varieties. For instance, Duchess of Oldenburg, summer, is recommended in each of the 13 districts; Yellow Transparent in 11 out of the 13. Among fall apples, Alexander and Wealthy are recommended in 8 of the northern districts, Gravenstein being recommended for 9 districts towards the south. Among winter sorts Golden Russet is recommended in 10 districts, and Pewaukee for 8 out of the 13.

No doubt the catalogue will be somewhat modified from year to year, but as it stands it is a move in the right direction, and one of much value to the prospective planter.

The Boston Market Gardener.

With the advent of Thanksgiving (November 26th) the Boston market gardener ends his business year. At that date all preparation has been made for the early spring work. Celery is in its pit, hot-bed plants are all set, land has all been plowed, and from now until the first of February men and teams will have a two months' season of comparative rest from the hurry and drive incident to the market gardener's life.

The intervening time between seasons will afford time for preparation of hot-bed mats, repairing of glass and implements; for as time waits for none, work that can be prosecuted now will be to the gardeners' advantage two months hence, when every moment is needed to enable him to keep pace with his competitors, as well as to take every advantage possible of "Old Sol's" increasing influence.

We have time now for recapitulation. With note-book in hand we review the past season's work, and how often do we note, if we had calculated otherwise, the results would have been pecuniarily to our advantage; but the lesson has been bought and paid for, and as we grapple with the new season's work we do so with the examples of the past vividly before our mind, governing us accordingly.

The seasons of 1890-1 in this latitude have been marked with many extremes. The extremely late spring frost was very damaging to semi-tropical vegetation, necessitating the replanting of our spring beans. The spring and early summer drouth retarded growth of seasonable truck to the extent that prices received were extremely high, but the latter end of the season, owing to copious rains, has been marked by extremely low prices; and it is a query, when the average is struck, whether prices have not been lower than usual. Surely, with some it is a fact.

A dry year is the market gardeners' salvation. This seems difficult of association, but it is a fact. The well-fertilized acres of the market

gardener is in a condition to conserve moisture; and while his crops have the appearance of abundance of moisture, his less advantageously situated neighbor, located, as they are, too far distant from a centre of a city's manure supply, their crops are brown and sere. As I walked through Boston's great vegetable mart, the streets around the Quincy and Fanueil Hall markets during the drouthy season, it could be plainly discerned upon viewing the different loads of truck, those that had been grown upon well-fertilized soils. These soils have in many instances been reclaimed from practically barren sandy wastes, where thirty years ago an acre would not afford grazing for but a single goat. So barren was this territory that it went under the name of "poverty plains." By the aid of the excremental droppings of the great city stables, this territory has been transformed into a veritable "Garden of Eden."

It would be supposed with a soil as above described, the path of the owner might be "strewn with roses." Not so altogether; a soil with such a large amount of vegetable matter affords the lurking place for criminal parasites and vegetable fungi, which at times is very troublesome. Fall plowing tends to obviate the difficulty, by exposing to the weather the annual parasites, but it has no effect upon vegetable fungi. Since the list of edible vegetables is so large, some of them can be found, however, which are not affected, at least not destructively so. Among the list can be mentioned early cabbage, spinach, lettuce, string beans, parsley, beets, celery, onions and parsnips. The vine family is badly infested with one annual parasite and another. Cucumbers cannot be grown except under glass; melons grow luxuriantly until the first fruit is about formed, after which the vine drops its foliage, dying away, and leaving myriads of half-formed fruits; squashes some years are affected, but generally speaking not badly so; turnips, both flat white and ruabaga cannot be grown, and radishes are often affected with worms, especially those harvested after the middle of June; cauliflowers are a treacherous crop, often not paying for its cultivation; tomatoes are not a paying crop. The abundance of nitrogenous fertility in our market gardens forces luxuriant crops of foliage, which obscures the small number of fruit produced from the influence of the sun's ripening influence, until it is so late in the season there is no price received for the crop.

The bordeaux mixture is proving an agent for the remedy of the vegetable fungi difficulty, but as yet our gardeners have not become perfectly familiar with its use; still, the possibilities that will accrue appears to be unlimited.

Many of our market gardens at this date (December 1st) are clothed with the green of the spinach and shallots. Spinach some years is a very remunerative crop—when it winters well. The greatest difficulty comes during March and early April. The continual freezing and thawing at that time throws out the plant from the soil. Another difficulty is experienced by covering up the plantation with litter too early. This covering up is done, not to prevent the soil from freezing, but to prevent the sun's action thawing the ground the latter end of cold weather. Litter should not be put on until the ground is well frozen, which in this latitude does not occur until soon after the new year, and even then there is a possibility of the January thaw softening up the ground and sweating the spinach plants under the covering, thus destroying them.

The cultivation of the shallot is quite profitable when too many do not go into their cultivation. The sets, which look like small onions, are planted September 1st, in rows 12 inches apart and 3 inches apart in the row. Considerable growth is made before the end of the growing season. Upon being overtaken by the cold weather, they remain in winter in a green condition, starting to grow again as soon as the frost leaves the ground in the spring. Upon starting to grow again the bulb, instead of confining itself to one sprout divides, sending up sometimes as many as five sprouts, which, attaining sufficient growth May 1st, is pulled and bunched by tying four or five sprouts together with bass grass, thus furnishing the first onion scullions of the season.