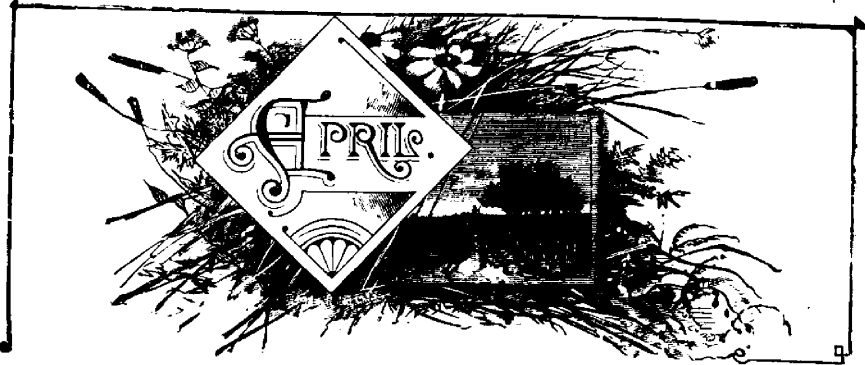


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THE GRAND DUKE PLUM.



WHEN once our ten Fruit Experiment Stations are in full operation we hope to be able to introduce to our readers only such new fruits as have been well tested at these stations, and proved to be worthy of notice. Our Plum station in the Georgian Bay district, at Clarksburg, will this year be furnished with a full list of varieties, and among them the Grand Duke, which is being introduced to Canadian fruit growers by the frontispiece in this

number.

The Grand Duke Plum comes to us from England, and is thus described by the celebrated horticulturist, Mr. Thos. Rivers: "A seedling from the "Autumn Compote." A very large purple plum, ripening October 10th to 20th. Flavor very fine, and will prove a very valuable addition to late plums, either for the market or the private garden."

This plum has been grown largely by Mr. S. D. Willard, Vice-President of the Western New York Horticultural Society, and in reply to an inquiry, he writes, under date 19th Feb., 1895: "Now as to Grand Duke plum. It so far has shown itself entirely hardy here, is a great producer of beautiful fruit, even and large in size, and which, by reason of its appearance and lateness of season sells well at outside prices, but the tree with us is such a poor grower in the nursery that it will scarcely become popular with the tree dealers, who, really now control the sales. And purchasers expect that every variety will show the same habits of growth as the Lombard, hence this, as well as many other valuable varieties will not be grown to any extent by nurserymen unless it develops better growing qualities elsewhere than here."

We have also to record the experience of a noted Ontario plum grower with this variety, viz., Mr. J. K. Gordon, of Whitby, who writes as follows: