

Notes From Our Fruit Experiment Stations.

Notes on Peach Trees.

During the spring and summer of 1896 the weather was very favorable to the growth of the Peach trees. They made a very strong growth from three to five feet on most of the trees not over four years planted. The wood and fruit buds ripened up perfectly in the autumn which was quite dry. When the first frost came I never saw buds in better condition. In December the weather was quite warm for a number of days which started the fruit buds to develop and swell to nearly double their normal size, this of course developed portions of the fruit bud that should remain dormant until spring. The cold of January, 12° below zero finished the work, I have not seen one fruit bud except what has been killed on the peach. Plums and cherries are all right.

W. W. HILBORN.

Leamington, Ont.

Gooseberries in Simcoe County.

Sir,—I offer for publication a few notes upon my work as gooseberry experimenter.

Last fall my bushes were dug among last thing in the fall. As much first class stable manure was dug in as possible, so as to be in shape for mulching in the spring. This spring we mulched largely with strawy manure and pea straw that had been tramped by sheep all winter in pens.

The winter finished many of the English varieties received last spring, many of which notwithstanding all the care taken of them last summer, only barely showed signs of life in the fall. Ironmonger, Red Champaigne, London, Railway and Green Chisel are exceptions. These all lived and did well.

All the American seedlings, Dominion, Success and Oregon Jumbo came out splendidly this spring. Some rows mulched last fall look fine, as the pea straw is up level and smooth as a board with not a weed showing through. Mulching a large piece might be impracticable that is to cover all the ground as it certainly gives a lot of work, and requires a lot of material, but about bushes would be sufficient for all practical purposes.

My strawberries have come through the winter in fine condition without any winter covering and they were in a side hill facing the north and were bare several times during the winter. This is the fifth time in succession that I have had the same experience without winter protection.

The older gooseberry bushes could hardly look better than they do, and if late spring frost don't prevent, I shall certainly have something worth looking at.

STANLEY SPILLETT,

Nantyr, Ont.

Spring Notes from St. Lawrence Fruit Experiment Station.

On the whole the weather during the past winter and spring has been favorable to fruit growers. Once during the winter the thermometer dropped to 28° below which was not unusual, as some winters it goes as low as 30 or 35° below. The spring has been cool and wet up to May 4th, but no late frosts as yet to injure buds. Since May 4th, the weather has been warm and bright forcing plant growth rather rapidly. The blossom will be from 3 to 6 days later than last year which gives us that much in favor of missing a late frost.

Of the varieties planted at the station in 1896 as mentioned in the Annual report for that year I had nothing injured by winter killing, and in Plums I have the Chas. Downing, Whitaker, Hammer and Weaver that will bloom this year. Pears do not show any injury as yet. In my commercial orchard, which is composed mostly of Fameuse apple I have prospects of a good blossom, even though it was heavily loaded last year.

Fungi have been making rapid growth this year during the wet weather, and orchards left unsprayed will run a great risk of having the fruit badly affected. Green aphid is also present in large numbers, and tent caterpillars are numerous and are now feeding on the opening leaves.

Strawberries wintered very well, a few reports of heaving on clay ground, but where well covered they came out in perfect condition. No bloom yet even on early varieties, but wild berries are in bloom to-day.

Next month after danger of late frosts are over, I hope to be able to give a good account of spring growth and prospects.

HAROLD JONES.

Maitland, Ont.

Plums and Pears at Whitby.

I think the Abundance and Burbank are as hardy as any plums I have tested. I have grown them for some years, and they winter as well as any other variety. Duane's Purple is rather tender, and General Hand a very shy bearer. Pond's Seedling does splendidly, and although a neighbor complains that it is not productive, I have had to support branches of my trees to prevent their breaking from the load of fruit. My choice for an early plum is McLaughlin. Two years ago we picked thirteen 12 qt. baskets from one tree, and sold them at \$1.25 a basket. I think a good windbreak a great help to a plum orchard, as well as adding to the beauty of the surroundings. How cheerless the farm homestead is without an evergreen or other tree!