

this northern county. The specimen of grapes, especially some of Rogers Hybrids, could scarcely be excelled anywhere in Ontario. Although the weather has been very wet and broken, yet we have had no frost severe enough to kill grape-vines, and the foliage is as green now in the middle of October as it was in August, so that all the varieties have ripened perfectly. Moore's Early, Early Victor, Worden, Vergennes, Prentiss, Rogers' No. 3, 15, 19, and the Concord, have all ripened well with me. Worden and Champion were the first to ripen—both about the same time, the Concord being the last and latest; and I would advise beginners not to plant too many Concord. What is wanted here in a grape, is early ripening, combined with hardiness and good quality. The Concord has proved very hardy with me but is too late in ripening. As for mildew, that is a thing we know nothing of here so far; and if we put down our vines and cover them in winter they come through safe, and if we can only get our grapes to ripen early enough to escape the frost, I do not see why grape culture should not be a successful and profitable enterprise, even so far north as Simcoe County.

*Strawberries* were a fair crop, although affected somewhat by the hot dry weather of July. I grow the Wilson, Sharpless, Crescent and Triomphe De Gande. I prefer the Wilson and Crescent; they have done the best with me.

*Raspberries* are not much cultivated here owing to an abundant wild crop. I have the Cuthbert and the Gregg; I don't wish anything better, and I doubt if anything better can be found at present.

*The Apple Crop* will be a fair average one, although there is a great deal of fungoid or spotted fruit, the Snow, Red Astrachan, Early Strawberry, and many other varieties being badly spotted. Golden Russets are very fine. The Wealthy is one of the coming apples for this county; it seems to be as hardy as the Duchess, bears early and perfectly free from spots. Another kind likely to do well here is the Pewaukee; it is a fine, clean, hard fruit here, and seems perfectly hardy.

*Plums* have been a comparative failure with me; I have tried a good many varieties, but they always die as soon as they get about large enough to bear, and the only way I have succeeded in raising a few of the finer kinds, is by top grafting them into native seedlings.

I believe that we must look largely to Russia for a list of hardy fruits suitable to the colder parts of Canada. I am one of those who believe that it will never do to take fruit from a warm climate to a colder one; but that in order to succeed, you must get a fruit that has been acclimated in a country colder than our own. And the sooner our nurserymen take hold of the Russian fruits, the better for them and their customers. I would also suggest that some arrangements should be made next year between the Fruit Growers' Association and the Directors of our large central exhibitions, whereby some competent Pomologist might be appointed to visit our principal fairs and see that the fruit is properly named, and correct any errors that may be made. Often samples of fruit are thrown out by the Judges because incorrectly named, and very often the Judges are wrong themselves and do not know the names of some of the fruit on exhibition. I think the Fruit Growers' Association should make the appointment and the Directors should pay the expenses. It would be well worth all it cost to have proper classification and nomenclature, and thus save all disputes.

#### FRUIT COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Report of the Committee on Fruits exhibited at the meeting of the Fruit Growers Association of Ontario, at Stratford, February, 1886.

PEARS.—Messrs. Ellwanger & Barry, Rochester, N.Y., exhibited twelve plates of pears, in a fine state of preservation, consisting of the following varieties: Beurre Alexander Lucan, resembling Belle Lucrative in appearance, quality good; the Winter Nelis, an extra sample, in good condition, quality good; Columbia, extra size, beautiful in appearance, quality not so good; Beurre D'Anjou, very fine sample, large and well-flavoured; Winter Beurre Grise, a remarkably fine large russet pear, not yet fully matured; Beurre Easter, fine size, and when fully matured, of good quality; Doyenne

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