

Bonne, Clapp's Favorite and Ananas D'Eté.

When the pear is budded at or near the ground upon a very thrifty stock the first year's growth is too rapid, and it seldom matures sufficiently, especially if the summer is short. This evidently is the cause of the debility of the tree.

I think of working at standard height some of our valuable apples, such as Baldwin, King of Tompkins and Chenango Strawberry, they being too tender when low worked.

Berlin, January, 1885.

R.

THE RUSSIAN MULBERRY.

No doubt some who have planted only single seedlings of the famed Russian Mulberry will be disappointed in not getting fruit. The fact is the tree is dioecious, either being a male (*staminate*) or a female (*pistillate*), and when grown apart at a distance from the effects of insects or the wind, the female tree will bear fruit, but no seeds; the male will blossom but have no fruit. This peculiarity is often witnessed in the vegetable kingdom. For example, our cut-leaved Weeping Birch is a female and cannot be propagated from seed if separated from a monoecious birch. The Lombardy Poplar is a male tree, and both are or can be propagated artificially, either by cuttings, suckers, or budding, or grafting, as is the case with the former. A notable instance of the sexual character of plants may be seen in the hemp; in a clump, you will find both male and female plants growing together.

What has led to the supposition that this variety of Mulberry, being a native of Russia, must therefore be hardy, is that the Duchess of Oldenburg is also Russian and is very hardy. But this is a mistake. This apple comes from the confines of Siberia, from a latitude as far north as Quebec or Labrador.

The Russian Mulberry is indigenous to the South of Russia, near the sea of Azov, the climate being as warm as that of Ontario in summer, and not so cold in winter. I find the tree no hardier than either the Asiatic or American varieties, and where either cannot be grown successfully, neither will the Russian succeed.

Seedlings of all cultivated fruits cannot be depended on. One in a thousand may be good, and the only way to perpetuate good varieties is by artificial processes. The cultivated Mulberry, either for feeding the silk worm or for fruit, is grown artificially. The majority of seedlings of the Russian variety produce fruit no larger than a common raspberry.

All Mulberries are more or less injured in this locality by late spring frosts, the young shoots being killed back to the branches.

Berlin, January, 1885.

R.

A PLEA FOR THE CHAMPION GRAPE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

In 1878 your correspondent planted six grape vines. The smallest among them was a Champion. In three years it had far out-grown all the others, and commenced to bear. The year following it was so loaded with fruit, as to make the impression it would surely die from over-bearing. But no; for it has gone on increasing ever since. In 1883, while the grapes on all the other vines were badly mildewed, the Champion was completely free. Last year it reached twenty-five feet on the trellis, covering it ten feet wide, producing 140 pounds of good, sweet grapes. From the 25th August they were eaten freely, sold, given away, while the seeds were removed from a sufficient quantity to fill twenty quart cans. After being boiled down with sugar, the expressed juice of the remainder was put up as unfermented wine,