

Long John Strawberry.

The *Rural New Yorker* for July gives an illustration of a strawberry with the above name. The fruit was sent to the *Rural* by John Burdett, of La Salle, N. Y., who says that he thinks it to be "superior to any known variety for flavour, size, colour, quantity and shipping qualities."

The *Rural*, judging from the samples received, says that "it retains its colour well, which is a bright crimson; that it has no neck, is tolerably firm, though not first-class in that respect; is not fragrant nor of high flavour, with little or no acidity; and that for local market it would probably prove of much value. The fruit is glossy, showy and large, and the plant a strong grower, with heavy foliage."

We presume this to be the strawberry mentioned on page 34 of the Report of the Fruit Growers' Association for 1869, by Mr. Geo. Leslie, Jr., who there speaks of it as a "large berry and of good quality." He further says that "the plant is much more robust and hardy than the Wilson, while its productiveness is fully one-third more, thus placing it at the head of the list for market berries. It has been planted and tested side by side with the Wilson for some years, and has fully borne out these statements. To the enormous productiveness I can bear testimony, having been an astonished witness thereof." Mr. Leslie saw it on the grounds of Mr. John Cross, at Oakville, in the summer of 1869, and we hope that Mr. Cross will tell us whether, after the trial of it this season, he thinks it worthy of general dissemination.

Bark-splitting in Apple Trees, Etc.

To the Editor.

SIR,—I planted an orchard last spring on a heavy clay loam, and during the summer the trees grew unusually, looking very thrifty. Late in the fall a mound of earth was raised about each tree to prevent the mice from barking them, taking the earth away as soon as the ground was dry in the spring. This spring the bark of several of the trees is split near the ground. There was no manure near the trunks of the trees during the winter; they were mulched in the usual way when planted, but the mulch was removed several feet when the earth was put about them.

Also, the tops and branches of some of the trees are dead, while the trunks are sound and apparently healthy; this is especially the case with the Baldwin and Red Astracans, although they did not appear to grow any faster than the other varieties.

Can you or any of the readers of this journal explain the causes of the bark splitting, and the branches dying? I should also be glad to learn how to prevent it in the future, and what should be done with those already injured.

CULTIVATOR.

Stock for Grafting the Cherry.

To the Editor.

SIR,—Might I take the liberty of enquiring if any of the cultivated varieties of cherries will take by budding or grafting on the black common wild Canadian cherry?

I inserted several buds of the common red cherry in black cherry stocks; none, however, of them took; but whether from unskillful manipulation or some other cause I could not ascertain. Any information on the point will be gratefully received by

A FARMER.

REPLY.—We have never used the wild black cherry as a stock. Will any of our readers who have tried budding or grafting on it give our correspondent the results of their trials? The Mazzard cherry is the one usually planted by nurserymen for stocks upon which they work the different varieties of cherry. The Mahaleb cherry is used when it is desired to lessen the size of the tree.

Double Hollyhocks.

No great has been the improvement made in these flowers, that they are well worthy of the attention of those who desire to make their gardens and lawns attractive.

Planted among the shrubbery they produce a fine effect at the season when but few shrubs are in bloom. They will be much finer if the soil in which they are planted has been well pulverized to a good depth, and liberally enriched with well-rotted manure.

A very fine selection, embracing quite a variety of colours, can be had from the nurserymen's lists. Perhaps the following is as good a selection as can be made.

Cygnets, pure white.

Black Douglas, intense black.

Earl of Rosslyn, bright glowing scarlet.

James Anderson, deep rosy peach.

Mrs. Meiklam, light rosy lilac.

Gem of the Yellows Improved, deep yellow.

Royal Scarlet, intense crimson scarlet.

Wm. Thomson, light rosy salmon.

The Prince, deep buff.

Mrs. Downie, delicate soft salmon rose.

Those who are desirous of obtaining these flowers in their highest perfection will do well to mulch the ground around the plants, by the first of June, with rotted manure.

Providing for the Birds, and Protecting the Garden.

A writer in an English journal describes his method of protecting his garden from the depredations of birds, and at the same time preserving the lives of these useful feathered friends. The plan may suggest a useful hint to some of our Canadian farmers or gardeners. The writer referred to says:—

"There are few gentlemen's establishments where the kitchen and fruit gardens are not more or less surrounded with shrub-

beries and woods, consequently there are great numbers of birds, which are generally most unwelcome to the gardener when he sees them fly off with his best strawberries and cherries; but I fully believe that the amount of good birds do in destroying insects (to say nothing of their beautiful notes in spring and summer) more than repays us for the small quantity of fruit they steal in the season. The plan that I have adopted is this:—In the autumn of 1867, when clearing off the strawberry runners, instead of consigning them all to the rubbish heap, I had a large quantity of them pricked out amongst the shrubs to provide food for the birds; the following season they well established themselves, and produced a fair crop last year; this year they cover a piece of ground about forty feet square, and are loaded with fruit, which is now ripening, and looking as well as those in the kitchen garden; and during the past week I have seen very few fruit-eating birds in the garden, as they prefer those provided for them amongst the trees and shrubs. I would certainly advise gardeners to adopt my plan, as strawberries will grow in any soil and situation; where nettles and docks grow strawberries will grow. They may be planted in hedgerows, coppices, or in any rubbish yard at the back of the garden, and will produce abundance of fruit for small birds, and also for the garden boys and labourers, who seldom get a dish of fruit, although employed in cultivating it for years. There are many spots amongst shrubs which are not immediately under the eye or seen from the mansion, in which weeds often establish themselves, and those are the places I recommend to plant the strawberries in, as I find they generally master the weeds, and help to keep them down."

The Striped Bug.

The editor of the *Germania Telegraph* thus gives his method of protecting cucumber, melon and other vines from the depredations of the striped bug, which, he says, after several years' trial has proved a complete success. "Instead of aiming to drive away the insect by soot, ashes, etc., we pet it, or rather furnish it with food better than the young melon and cucumber plants. We sow around each hill at the time of each planting a few radish seed, and coming up about the same time, the tops supply pasture for the bug, which it much prefers to the vines. Lettuce will also answer, but the radish is rather liked the best. While our vines are untouched by making this little provision for it, the young radish tops are completely perforated. Should this fail—which is seldom the case, and has never been with us—sprinkle the vines with a solution of whale oil soap and water. No other insect but the curculio can stand this soap. Where this preparation is not attainable, a weak solution of carbolic disinfectant soap will answer as well."