

summer with us this season for grapes. Some kinds ripened well, such as Clinton, Delaware, &c.

Raspberries of black, red, and orange colours bore abundantly with us. Strawberries were a very large crop, berries large, and kept up a long season. Gooseberries and currants were also a good crop.

As we have now come to the winter apple season, I will notice that a great many of our winter apples turn black at the core, and some look splendid outside, but half the flesh will be brown inside. This is rather a rare, new trouble with us, for we generally have good, sound winter fruit.

No new disease noticed on any of our fruit-bearing trees or plants; all did well in the growing part, excepting the tame plum and grape vines. The plum trees by some cause or other, which I cannot account for, shed their leaves a month or six weeks before their ordinary time.

This year's growth of wood is rather feeble-looking in most cases; time will show what the consequence will be.

The grape-vines with me have this year been visited for the first time with an ugly-looking caterpillar, about one and one-quarter inches long when full grown. Its colour is dark drab, with red stripes crossing its back. These hungry animals will soon, if left alone, disfigure the whole vine by eating its leaves. They are noways particular where they take hold first; some will be sawing off the edge, while others are busy eating holes up through from underneath the leaves. Hand-picking is the best way to destroy these crooked-necked caterpillars.

December 11th, 1879.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION TO VISIT THE PEAR ORCHARD OF FERGUS ANDERSON, ESQUIRE.

Your Committee visited Mr. Anderson on the 15th of September last, and beg leave to report as follows:

The pear orchard of Mr. Anderson is situated on the north part of lot two in the ninth concession of Blenheim, the soil clay loam, inclining to sandy, and about three feet deep, on clay sub-soil, and is sheltered on the north by an apple orchard and rising ground, on the east also by rising ground, but is open to the sweep of the winds on the west and south.

In 1875 Mr. Anderson planted 515 trees, all Flemish Beauties, which were procured from Canadian nurseries. There are at the present time 505 trees living, only ten having died during the last five seasons. Three died the second season, three the third, and four the fourth season, and none this season. The trees, at the time we inspected same, all appeared free from blight and disease, and were well grown, thrifty, bark clean and wood well ripened, but many of them nearly denuded of leaves, especially on the west, where the soil was lighter than on the east side. The loss of leaves Mr. Anderson attributes to the drought. The trees when planted were set out in a field of barley and well mulched; the second year corn and potatoes, the third year fallow, the fourth year corn and turnips, and this year seeded down to clover.

No barn-yard manure has been used, but the trees have been plentifully supplied with swamp muck, and Mr. Anderson is of opinion that the freedom of his trees from blight is owing in a great measure to his using swamp muck instead of barn-yard manure, and which your committee think may be correct, and well worthy the trial by other pear growers, if the splendid appearance of the trees, one and all, is any evidence of Mr. Anderson's proposition. The trees have not been much pruned, but only enough to try and keep the trees well balanced, as all the trees lean towards the northeast, and are twelve feet each way; and Mr. Anderson now regrets he did not plant them fifteen feet each way, which he thinks quite near enough. The trees, we were informed, blossomed

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