

### The Largest Peach Farm in Western New York— Good Crop this Season.

A recent visit to the peach-orchards, covering over fifty acres of the farm of John K. Buell, in Perinton, is thus described by the *Rochester Democrat*. "There were three orchards visited. The first one had an ancient and neglected look. However, even in this orchard, the visitors found something to surprise them. It was the fact that many of the oldest trees bore a large burden of fruit. Passing through this the visitors found themselves in a tract of fourteen acres, on which stand some 2,500 trees, and nearly every one of these is loaded down with fruit. The peaches are mostly Hill's Chili, a late variety, which does not ripen till about the 20th of September. The yield will be simply enormous. The trees, all young and bright looking, are bent to the ground with the weight of their burden. They are all healthy, and no borer or moss seems to have affected more than half a dozen in the whole orchard. After hearing all the spring that the prospects of the peach crop in Western New York were totally destroyed, the visitors could hardly believe their eyes when they saw these thousands of trees, bent down with their delicious load. The splendid condition of this orchard may be, and undoubtedly is, owing in large measure to its situation. It is enclosed on the east, north and south by a belt of willows growing close, and thirty feet in height. A patch of forest shelters the orchard on the west, so that it is practically enclosed on all sides. The winds cannot touch it, blow from what quarter they may. The third orchard, of nearly the same size, lies at some distance and is sheltered on the north-east and south by a range of hills. It lies upon a slope, and is therefore fully exposed to the west winds. These seem to have done no harm, for the young trees are burdened with all the peaches their branches can sustain. The three orchards, covering over fifty acres of land as they do, number about 6,000 trees, and two-thirds of them will bear an average of three baskets each. Two years ago the entire crop netted \$5,000, and the trees then did not bear as well as the present season. The soil in all these orchards is a light, sandy one. The trees are planted fifteen by eighteen feet apart. No fertilizer has been used since they were set out. There is a little hollow running through one of the orchards in which the soil is clayey, and here the trees, although greener in foliage and stronger in growth, bear no fruit."

### The Wild Plums of Kansas.

[Some time ago, it was stated that a traveller in Central America, while passing over the sandy plains of Kansas, met with dense thickets of small plum trees, not larger than our gooseberry bushes, bearing fruit of immense size and fine flavor. Several inquiries for further information respecting these plums not having met with any response, our occasional contributor, Mr. Jackson Gillbanks, who takes so active a part in all branches of natural history, wrote to America to ascertain whether or not such plums existed, as small bushes bearing large and delicious fruit would be a grand acquisition to both our gardens and orchard houses. This has produced the following interesting letter on the subject from Mr. L. L. Thompson, of Kansas.]

"Lawrence, Kansas, U.S.A., July 3, 1874.

"Dear Sir:—Your letter relating to wild plums of the plains of Kansas, has again directed my attention to them. The head waters of the Kansas river, and many streams entering into the Platte, abound in wild plums of many varieties and colors, where the soil is fertile and water plentiful, the trees grow to the height of from 6 to 10 feet, and the fruit of many kinds is large and pleasant to the taste. There is one variety of white plum quite as large and of as good flavor as Bolman's Washington, a kind generally cultivated and much valued in the eastern states. Another kind resembles the St. Catherine in size and color. Among the sand hills of the Arkansas the trees do not reach the size that they do further north, being, in fact, mere bushes 3 and 4 feet high, growing in dense clumps or thickets. The fruit, however, appears to be equally large and luscious, and during the early fall my men have frequently brought baskets into camp, which were exceedingly palatable, either raw or cooked. In the fall of 1872, after we had experienced severe frosts upon the head waters of the Republican, on our way into settlements, upon the north ford of the Solomon, we found a deep arroyo, with a spring, whose sides were filled with plum trees in full bearing, their sheltered position having apparently delayed the fruitage and protected them from frost. I shall be this year south of the Arkansas river, in the extreme south-

western part of this state, and if the Indian's untutored mind does not suggest his raising my hair, I will make further observations upon this subject, the result of which I shall be happy to communicate. (Signed), EDWARD D. THOMPSON.—*The Garden*.

### Strawberry Culture.

R. L. Gazley, of Bridge-water, a very successful strawberry cultivator, sends us a box of specimens of twenty varieties of berries, which we have examined with interest. The specimens were for the most part in stocks and exhibited well the abilities of the different varieties, both in quality and quantity of product. Mr. Gazley believes that the Col. Cheene variety crowns out Charles Downing and shows superior excellence. He places first in estimation the Col. Cheene, the Agriculturist and the Fillmore. We quote the results of Mr. Gazley's experience for the benefit of our berry-growing readers. He says:—

The Fillmore bears the heaviest foliage and the strongest foot-stalks I ever saw. The green prolific is large and good and so is the Charles Downing. The Michigan and Boston pine resembles the Cheene. The Jenny Lind in fruit resembles the Fillmore, but not in vine. Napoleon III, Triomphe de Gande, Juconda and Golden Queen resemble in some respects the fruit of the Agriculturist, but not the plant, that being very fine and with light-colored foliage. The Golden Queen grows very low, and bears a purple, delicious fruit. The Russel prolific and C. Downing are similar except in shape and fruit. The pine is similar to the Cheene. All the above sorts, except Jenny Lind and Fillmore, are much larger, superior in flavor, more prolific, and more hardy, except the Napoleon and Golden Queen to the following:—

The Col. Wilder and the Nicanor are similar. The French is merely like Wilson's, except that it is earlier and sweeter than that noted variety. The Downer and Ida are two acid, but are prodigious bearers. The Royal Hauthois is peculiarly sweet, but it is fit only for the amateur grower. It has run itself into the ground. The Colfax is hardy and an abundant bearer, and will do for those who say they prefer field berries. Barnes' mammoth is large and good enough, but there are not enough of them. One row of this variety has stood three years between Fillmore and C. Downing, but now it must give place to its neighbors, for eleven hills or stools have produced only five foot stalks and but three berries. Gazley's seedling must leave next year if it does not improve in size and flavor. My thornless blackberry is hardy, a prodigious bearer; the fruit is small but long and almost sweet. My white blackberry has stood fifteen years' trial; it has a small spine, very light-colored wood, the fruit is long and sweet, but there is not enough of it. I shall try them longer. —*Uta Herald*.

### Pond Mud and Strawberry Runners.

I have received so many useful hints from the "Notes of Observation" of you and your correspondents, that I am tempted to offer my contribution in the shape of a note on pond mud. Having let off a pond (made two years ago), I heaped it up by the sides, and wondered what would be the best use to turn it to. When it had lain a week and was solidified and plastic, I took some down to the strawberry beds, made a number of balls of it (about the size of a large apple), and went through the beds in no time, with my left hand "plumping" a ball down, with my right pushing a runner in to root upon it. It has answered exceedingly well, the runners rooting quickly, the mud retaining moisture most tenaciously, and patting from the ground with ease when you detach the runners to form new beds. I have also been using the mud for laying roses, carnations, &c., but of course cannot tell as yet how it will answer. The second use I have made of it is as an "aphis absorber." I take two *quarts* of it (of the size of, say, a sheep's kidney), one in either hand, and dab them—simultaneously, of course—on either side of the infested shoot. The brutes stick to the clay, and, with a roll of the fingers and palm, are buried for ever in the mud. The shoot is not in the least hurt, and if the work is deftly done the clay penetrates to the minutest furrows of the leaf. More information is needed.—R. B. of B., in *The Gardener's Magazine*.

AN ENGLISH writer gives a plan for protecting all kinds of fruit from birds. It is simply crossing threads from twig to twig in various directions, so that birds will strike against them, when seeking the fruit. He says it never fails to scare them away.

### THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.

#### Seasonable Notes.

CABBAGES AND CAULIFLOWERS should be hoed often, and if slugs or other insects appear, dust freely with lime. White hellebore and other active poisons should, for obvious reasons, be avoided as much as possible.

TOMATOES must be kept securely fastened to their trellises to prevent the fruit touching the ground. Trim off all superfluous branches, and if the large, green tomato-worm makes its appearance, destroy it at once, as it is capable of doing a vast amount of mischief in an incredibly short space of time.

CORN.—Select a few of the choicest ears for seed, and feed the stalks to cattle as soon as possible after the ears are removed. A few stalks of green, juicy corn in the evening will keep the "cud of contentment" moving all night.

CUCUMBERS.—Pick daily such as are of the proper size for pickling, reserving the larger sizes for cucumber-eat-up, or what is termed "sweet-pickles."

MELONS should be turned frequently, to ensure even ripening. When fully ripe they are easily detached from the stem. Gather in the morning before the sun has had time to heat the fruit.

ONIONS are ready for pulling as soon as the tops fall down. Dry in the sun and store away in a cool airy place.

REMEDY FOR CABBAGE WORMS.—Having noticed many inquiries, and among them that of C. H. D., in your issue of August 20, for a practical remedy for the cabbage worm; I would say that I have found that buckwheat flour, sifted through a sieve, early in the evening or in the morning while the dew is on, will effectually eradicate them. Two applications (and often one) will do the work. I have succeeded in raising splendid cabbages, while my neighbors, who did not use this remedy, have invariably failed. It is far preferable to hellebore, or any other article, for the purpose, and has the advantage of being harmless.—*Cor. Country Gentleman*.

VEGETABLE INSTINCT.—If a pail of water be placed within six inches of either side of the stem of a pumpkin or vegetable marrow, it will in the course of the night approach it, and be found in the morning with one of the leaves on the water. If a prop be placed within six inches of a convolvulus, or scarlet runner, it will find it, although the prop may be shifted daily. If after it has twined some distance up the prop, it be unwound and twined in the opposite direction, it will return to its original position or die in the attempt; yet notwithstanding, if two of the plants grow near to each other, and have no stake around which they can entwine, one of them will alter the direction of the spiral, and they will twine around each other.

A NEW TOMATO.—We are in receipt of a specimen of a new tomato brought before the public for the first time this year, says the *Detroit Tribune*, by our old and excellent friend John Ford, of Detroit. The quality of the fruit is superior to that of any early tomato with which we are acquainted. It grows very smooth, of fair size, and is entirely free from the hard, bali-woody portions with which Hathaway and other early sorts are troubled. The fruit was shown to the members of the Wayne County Horticultural Society at their August meeting by whom it was carefully examined and named "Ford's Early Cluster." Mr. Ford stated that three years ago he noticed among some Trophy tomatoes a plant ripening earlier and loaded with fruit. He preserved the seeds separately, and planted them last season. The plant retained these characteristics fully, and so again the present year; and he feels sure it is a valuable addition to the list of tomatoes, ripening two weeks sooner than any other variety.

THE VEGETABLE MARROW AS A WINTER VEGETABLE.—Why do we only grow this really serviceable vegetable for summer consumption, and not seek to produce a crop for winter use? Is there a prejudice against it when in a ripe form, or does this negligence arise from that indifference for new things that is so much the characteristic of the English people? It took a long series of years to teach our ancestors the great value of the potato as an article for winter consumption, and now we realize its value in the greatest degree. It cannot, however, be denied