

❧ Question Drawer. ❧

Varieties of Apples for Commercial Orchard.

817. SIR,—I am about to plant an apple orchard near Palermo, and would like your advice concerning the best varieties for profit.

DR. H., *Brampton.*

A hard question, considering the varying conditions in different sections. For export purposes, the following would be an excellent list for Southern Ontario, in order of their season :—

Blenheim, Gravenstein, Wealthy, Ontario, Cranberry, Baldwin.

These are all showy and salable varieties, and grow to perfection in the section indicated, between Burlington and Oakville.

Quantity of Fertilizer for Apple Orchard.

818. SIR,—I have an old, old orchard, some of it one hundred years in bearing. A considerable part of it has been new topped in recent years, and doing fairly well. Soil, a loose and friable clay-loam. Last November, I gave it a very moderate dressing of stable manure and turned in with the plough. I propose to apply some mineral fertilizer and harrow in spring. What would you recommend, and in what quantities per acre? Do you recommend ploughing bearing orchards in the fall?

JOHN KILLAM, *North Kingston, N.S.*

For an apple orchard, the following quantities per acre of the different fertilizers are recommended by Prof. Van Slyke, viz. :—

Nitrogen, 8 to 16 lbs, furnished by 50 to 100 lbs. nitrate of soda, or by 1600 to 3200 lbs. stable manure.

Available phosphoric acid, 30 to 60 lbs., furnished by 300 to 600 lbs. bone meal, or 250 to 500 lbs. dissolved rock.

Potash, 50 to 100 lbs., furnished by 100 to 200 lbs. muriate, or by 1000 to 2000 lbs. wood ashes.

Fall ploughing, as a rule, is beneficial, opening the ground to the action of the frost.

Tuberous-Rooted Begonias.

819. SIR,—What is the best way to grow the tuberous-rooted begonia?

F. F., *Lindsay.*

We cannot reply better than by quoting from "House Plants." Tuberous begonias for the summer window are started in a gentle heat in the spring. Put the tubers in three-inch pots, barely covering the crowns. Water very moderately at first, increasing the amount as they grow. In six weeks from the time the crowns start, shift the plants into five-inch pots to bloom. A little shade from the hottest sun will please them.