

Fern leaves, which should never have been ruled out.

These various freaks in floral fashions may add something to the stock of botanical knowledge of our city belles, but taste—a clear perception and appreciation of beauty and excellence—is rarely developed by fashion, which often takes retrograde steps and brings faulty modes and ill-shaped forms into common use, which, by their frequent contact, rather dull the taste for real art and beauty. A fine taste is not created by a freak of fashion; it is either born with us or is the result of careful study and high culture.—*American Garden.*

#### THE FARMER'S FRUIT GARDEN.

I contend that every prosperous farmer owes it to himself and to his family to supply his table with all the desirable and wholesome luxuries which his farm, under ordinary cultivation, is capable of producing, and to supply it bountifully, and failing to do so he fails in his duty to his family, and can not reasonably expect his sons and daughters to grow up contented with their lot. Children brought up on a farm are deprived of many privileges enjoyed by those brought up in the city, and should be provided as compensation with those which the farm is capable of producing. The farmer's boy or girl, visiting town, sees upon the green-grocer's stand almost every species of fruits and vegetables, and know that these desirable luxuries are grown on soil similar to their father's, and if they are continually deprived of such luxuries, what wonder that they are discontented.

None of the products of the soil are more enjoyed by children than fruit, and there is no portion of the homestead farm that are longer remembered or more fondly cherished, than the fruit garden. I remember, when a mere infant, visiting an uncle at Red-Hook,

Duchess county, and the only thing about the place that made a lasting impression on my mind was a garden of plum trees, loaded with luscious blue, red, and yellow plums. I pity the farmer's son who grows to manhood's estate with no such cherished spot to chain him to the parental home.

Having said so much to prove the value of the fruit-garden to the farmer's family, I will say but little about its character. In the first place, it should be ample. No farmer is so pinched for room that he can not afford space for a liberal fruit garden. A large garden can be cultivated in less time than a small one, as it affords room for using a team to advantage.

Then plant liberally of every desirable species, so liberally that there will be an abundant supply for the family without using defective fruit. A well-to-do, independent farmer should put no second-class products of the field, orchard or garden upon his own table. Throw wormy or rotten fruit to the pigs, but never offer it to your children.

Plant enough of the hardy, vigorous, productive varieties of the various species to insure a supply in unfavorable seasons, and then plant some of the higher-flavored, that require more nursing, so that you may have some of the best. I would say, plant none but those of highest quality, but should that be done, unless the farmer is an expert, there would be seasons when there would be no fruit, or at least an insufficient supply.

Plant in the fruit garden, pears, peaches, plums, apricots, cherries, quinces, grapes, gooseberries, currants, black-berries, raspberries, and strawberries. Cultivate the surface well until the trees are well in bearing, and then you may cease ploughing the trees, if you choose, but never cease to manure them. The small fruits, of course, must