

CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM NOTES—XVII.

THIS has been a very favorable spring for garden and orchard work. There was no frost in the ground to delay operations when the snow disappeared, and since that time the weather has been all that could be expected. The only frost that has been recorded since early in April was on the 20th of that month, when the temperature was 31.3° F. Since that time there have been several white frosts which the thermometer has not recorded. There were warm days during the last week of April and the first and second weeks of May, the highest temperature in April being on the 28th, when it was 79.8° F. In May the highest, so far, was on the 8th, when the temperature rose to 81.2° F. There has been comparatively little rain during the past month, but to-day there is a heavy downfall.

Everything is well advanced at this date, May 17th, and the season is more than a week earlier than last year.

Now that the leaves have expanded and the flowers are opening, a better idea can be obtained of how the various trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants wintered than it was possible to have a month ago; and it is also much easier to predict what the crop of fruit will be.

There were few deaths from winter killing in the apple orchard and the trees are now looking well. A large number of trees were affected by blight last year, and while the terminal growth in many cases was not destroyed, the fruit spurs were killed; as a result, the crop of apples on the trees will be small. Trees which were not blighted and which did not fruit heavily last year will probably bear good crops. The apple crop on the whole will be below the average. The American plums have bloomed very freely and there will likely be a heavy

crop of them. There will, however, be no European plums, as the flower buds were killed. The hardier cherries came through the winter well. The flower buds on all the trees, however, were practically all killed. There was evidence that the bloom would have been heavy, as the buds on the branches near the ground which were covered with snow were uninjured and there was a good show of bloom. Grapes were uninjured and are looking well. Some varieties of raspberries wintered well, while others were more or less injured. Golden Queen was killed to the ground and Cuthbert was considerably injured. Strange to say, the Shaffer under the same conditions, never looked better. The blackberries, also, came through the winter better than usual. Strawberries are exceptionally good and the prospects are very bright for a fine crop of this fruit. Ornamental trees and shrubs are looking well and the injury to the tenderer things was probably about the same as usual, with the exception of some of the evergreens, which were badly browned. Trees of the Ontario apple were again badly injured by winter. Mr. Harold Jones, of Maitland, Ont., reports that at the St. Lawrence Fruit Station this variety is quite hardy, and it may succeed in more sheltered places near here, but is not safe to plant.

There are few early blooming shrubs which are hardy here, and on this account attention should be drawn to *Spiraea arguta*, a comparatively new species which is not generally known, but which is very beautiful. This species somewhat resembles *S. thunbergii*, but is of much more graceful habit and has the advantage of being quite hardy. It began to bloom this year on May 12th, when the bushes were simply covered with small white flowers. Maule's