

HORTICULTURE

Fruit Prospects

The present appearance of most kinds of fruit trees and bushes in Ontario indicates that they have come through the winter in fine condition. While still early to make predictions respecting the coming season's crop, all reports from growers are optimistic.

WENTWORTH CO., ONT.

Winona.—Everything has come through in fine shape and only a few of the more tender varieties of peaches have been hurt. They were not damaged much and the amount of bud left indicates a good crop. All kinds of plum and pears are in good shape and a heavy crop is looked for.—J. W. Smith & Sons.

LINCOLN COUNTY, ONT.

Grimsbly.—Fruit trees and vines are looking very promising.—A. H. Pettit.

OXFORD COUNTY, ONT.

Ingersoll.—Fruit trees and bushes look very promising and should get no set-back from now on. If sprayed carefully, big crops will be in order.—J. C. Harris.

ESSEX COUNTY, ONT.

Leamington.—All varieties of fruits promise a big crop. The only exception is in peaches. Those that are tender have many dead buds but enough are left to insure a good crop. Most varieties promise a full crop.—J. L. Hilborn.

KENT COUNTY, ONT.

Chatham.—Peaches show plenty of bloom; also apples and pears. Strawberries and raspberries give full promise at present.—Milton Backus.

BRUCE COUNTY, ONT.

Walkerton.—Strawberries wintered well. Raspberry canes are badly broken down by the snow, which will lessen the crop fully one-half. Plum, pear, apple and cherry trees have come through in splendid condition but it is too early to say anything about the bloom or crop.—A. E. Sherrington.

Best Six Summer Apples

It is a rule in fruit growing that a commercial orchard should consist of but few varieties. It is not my intention, therefore, to preach to the contrary. If in this paper I give the description and my opinion of 6 varieties of summer apples for Quebec, it is far from my intention to advise that these should all be planted together. As a choice from these varieties depends on the taste of the planter, the particular circumstances in which he is placed and the situation of his land, one can easily understand that it is impossible to give exact advice in each particular case. When one is occupied in selling fruit trees, he realizes this fact more clearly. One planter will set out an orchard of one variety while

THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWER GARDEN.
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his neighbor would not listen to this idea and, it is useless to discuss it with him.

YELLOW TRANSPARENT

The Yellow Transparent is the earliest of our apples in ordinary years. In the neighborhood of Montreal, it ripens about August 15th, but can be put on the market about the end of July. While yet green, it fetches a good price. The tree is hardy and bears early. By its fruitfulness, it takes first place amongst our summer apples.

LOWLAND RASPBERRY

Lowland Raspberry is the best summer apple which one can cultivate. If it were more cultivated, it would make an excellent showing on the market. The size is medium; the color, white and red to the sun and more or less regular stripes. Its taste is exquisite. The tree is hardy and I have seen it in full bearing at this old variety Mr. Chapuis. The fruit ripens about the same time as the Yellow Transparent. This is a variety of the future which will have a place in all commercial orchards with local trade.

RED ASTRACHAN

Red Astrachan is a deservedly favorite variety. Its size, beautiful red color and exquisite taste always obtains for it a good price on the local market. The tree thrives well as far east as Quebec and I have seen in Mr. Dupuis' orchard, a very old tree of this old variety Mr. Chapuis. It is packed very carefully in boxes, appeared firm enough to stand even a long journey if packed in cold storage.

DUCHESS

Duchess is considered a summer variety in the vicinity of Montreal, but is a winter variety around Quebec. This is a commercial apple "par excellence," as much by its beautiful appearance and size as by its extraordinary fruitfulness. Nothing is better, say the connoisseurs, than a Duchess baked two weeks before maturity. At this period, it has fair size, possesses full color and easily stands long journeys, making it practically the first export apple in regard to hardness, no other variety compares with it.

MONTREAL PEACH

The Montreal Peach is one of the most popular varieties. There are orchards so and 40 years old, planted entirely with Peach and I know people who have made a fortune from them. It is a good, late summer fruit of good appearance and of good growth. One acre of Montreal Peach as productive as certain other varieties that are better but less profitable. This tree suits all difficult ground on account of its hardiness, and great vigor. Certain growers in my district have sold all their Peach apples to preserve manufacturers at 50 cents per bag and they were not obliged to pick them by hand.

SUMMER ST. LAWRENCE

The Summer St. Lawrence is the most profitable of our summer varieties. The tree is very hardy and although slow in producing, finishes by giving the most satisfactory returns. The St. Lawrence has for a long time divided popular favor with the Fameuse and many of the older orchards are composed entirely of these two varieties. The fruit is known everywhere, thus there is never too many for exportation. From a commercial point the St. Lawrence ought to be the choice of the growers provided they are not too pressed for speedy returns.

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Growing Celery

J. H. Copeland, Chilliwak, B. C.
The soil for celery should be a deep peat, with plenty of natural moisture. It should be drained to the depth of two and one-half feet so that there will be no stagnant water lying in the ground. Next break the sod with good, deep furrow. Turn it over well in the fall and disk, and as early as possible the following spring, disk it again and apply about 50 pounds of some good fertilizer per acre, with about 40 bushels of lime 50 bushels of wood ashes and half a ton of salt an acre. Disk it every week till time to plant.

Sow the seeds in an open bed as soon as the frost is off the ground in the spring. In peat soil, the frost is usually all out by the middle of April. Give extra care in well fitting the soil for the seed-beds and do not cover the seed too deeply. Tram the soil very firmly with the feet before sowing and roll after with a hand roller. Do not sow the seed too thick as the plants will be slim if this is done. About 100 plants per square foot is a good stand for first class plants. Keep the plant beds well weeded so that the plants will be strong and bushy.

When the plants are about two and one-half inches high, start to plant in the field. Set the plants six inches apart in the rows and have the rows four feet apart. Stretch a line straight across the field, then walk on the line and you will have a good plain mark to plant by. Make the holes with a pegger. One man can make holes for two or three planters, who should plant 6,000 per man in 10 hours. Great care should be

taken to press the soil firmly about the roots and see that the tap root of the plant is straight or else your plant will be a failure. After planting keep free from weeds and cultivate the same as any other crop of roots till large enough to bank up for blanching.



Can't Beat Him, He's Posted.

Sawyer—Year Log, 30 feet long, 24 inches in diameter, out just 500 feet according to Doyle's rule.

Farmer—According to Roy's rule and table, which was rightly tested, it makes 516 feet and hence I don't suppose to accept payment for 16 feet less. (6, 90.) Log, diameter 46 in., length 18 ft., cuts 1850 sq. ft. Board, 10 in wide, 16 feet long, equals 25 1/2 sq. feet. Beam, 18 in by 18 in., 38 ft. long, equals 1026 sq. ft. Load of Cordwood 13 feet long, 8 feet wide and 46 in. high, contains 138 cubic ft., and at the rate of 85¢ per cord, comes to \$4.04. (8, 91.)

A cubic foot of pure Water weighs 62 1/2 lbs.; Iron, 480; Ash, 46; History, 58; Oak, 52; Pine, 39. (p. 88.) Which is heaviest, which the lightest substance known? Give the Tonnage strength of iron, wood, etc. (p. 156.)

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