

What to Plant in Algoma District.

In this region, beginning at a point east, say, of French River on the Georgian Bay, and west to beyond Port Arthur, and north to the farthest limit at which fruit can be grown—and this is very much further north than is generally supposed by persons residing in Old Ontario—you will see that it is impossible to give a list of fruits adapted to such a range; proximity to large bodies of water, difference in soils, elevation, etc., are all to be taken into account. But taking the Districts of Algoma and Nipissing, for a distance of 30 miles back from the Georgian Bay and St. Mary River, where the country is most thickly settled, the following list may be considered suitable, with the exception of soil differences, shelter, etc.:

Excepting blackberries, all small fruits can be grown with surer success than in Old Ontario. Spring frosts do little damage to fruit buds, the nights in summer are cool, and the summer drouths so prevalent in the East are unknown. Good gooseberries are: Pearl and Downing. Red raspberries: Loudon, Marlboro, for early; Cuthbert on high, dry soil. Currants: White Grape or La Versaillaise for profit, and the old Red Dutch for quality; Black: Fay's Prolific and Champion. Currants and gooseberries succeed best on rather heavy soil.

I do not care to say which strawberries are the best. Haverland, which has done best with me, may have to take third or fourth place with my neighbor.

Grapes, unless in a very favorable location, are not a success, except for a few vines to beautify home grounds. They need not be planted with a view to profit. Champion and Moore's Early are among the surest to ripen.

Sour cherries, on warm limestone soil and in the vicinity of large bodies of water, are certainly a success. Early Richmond, Montmorency and English Morello will fill the season. I have never found the Russian cherries quite so profitable as those named, but further inland, away from water, they seem to succeed better. Sweet cherries are too tender, as a rule, for our section.

Peaches cannot be grown; heavy frost will kill them to the ground every winter.

Plums can be grown with fair success when the soil is suitable, but on heavy clay are not entirely hardy—that is, the Domestic class. I have not found anything better than the old Lombard, to which may be added Glass Seedling and Moore's Arctic. A very great difference exists among the Japan plums as regards hardiness. Some, such as Wickson, are very tender; others, again, are inferior in quality, but as a class they are showy and look well in the basket. Burbank, Ogon, Abundance, Gold, with me, have all proved hardy; the first named is of good quality. Red June is good, but just a little tender here. The Americana Class are very hardy, and will grow where a maple will grow; they have more or less the appearance of the native wild plum, which is against them. The top of the tree is very brittle; a heavy crop of fruit will break the large limbs off. As a rule, they are inferior to eat out of hand, but make excellent preserves. This class is not extensively grown by nurserymen in Ontario yet, but no doubt it is the coming plum for the far north. Hawkeye, Stoddard, De Sota, Wolf, are all good, but late in ripening their fruit. We want something earlier in the season.

Pears are not much of a success commercially. It is too much of a struggle between the climate and the tree which is to come out ahead. The Russian pears are quite hardy, but they are very poor. I do not care to recommend anyone to plant them to any extent, but if planted they should be headed not more than one foot or eighteen inches from the ground. This holds good with all tree fruits. Nurserymen head their stock far too high for planting in the north, but the fault is not entirely theirs, for many people would refuse to buy stock with the top starting eighteen inches from the ground.

At the risk of being told that I am talking nonsense, I will take chances and affirm that many varieties of summer and fall apples are a surer crop and certainly a better-paying crop than in what is considered the best apple sections. There is no off year in the north. It is true we are limited to certain varieties, some of which grown in the southern portions of Ontario are of very poor quality, which, when grown in Algoma, are the very best. For instance, Alexander and Wolfe River are coarse and poor when grown in Kent or the Niagara District, and excellent in quality here. Sun scald is about the only trouble we have to guard against, and this may be naturally overcome by heading the trees near the ground. The following may be considered a good list, given in the order of ripening: Yellow Transparent, Astrachan, Duchess of Oldenburg, Charlamoff, Wolfe River, Alexander, Gideon, McIntosh Red, Princess Louise, Wealthy, Pewaukee, Scott's Winter, St. Lawrence. This list might be largely extended, but is fairly representative of the varieties planted. We have not yet a perfect winter apple, but when it is understood that, with the exception of the first four, the others will keep when grown here two months longer

than the same grown down East, we are not so badly off. Ontario did well for some years, but the hard winter of 1893-94 was too much for it. The three principal commercial apples in the East are of no use here. Thousands of Kings, Spies and Baldwins have been planted, and I have yet to hear of a single mature apple being gathered from either of them. Top-grafting these varieties on hardy stock is being tried; the result we have yet to learn, but my own opinion is that our fall here is not conducive to ripening up the fruit or wood of them.

Algoma Fruit Station.

CHAS. YOUNG.

Varieties of Fruits in Georgian Bay Region.

After many years' experience with hundreds of varieties, and also with buying and shipping, I would advise the planting of comparatively small numbers of each kind of fruit.

Apples.—There are very few of the so-called novelties or new kinds that are at all the equal of many of the old, well-tried varieties. The following list is sufficiently large, and, in my opinion, comprises the cream of all the two hundred or more kinds of apples grown in the Georgian Bay district. For winter export, Rhode Island Greening, King, Baldwin, Northern Spy, Mann, Golden Russet, though one of the best, usually yields and barrels up so slow, I always hesitate to recommend it. Of Ben Davis this country already has enough for many years to come. For summer and fall, home use and export, in the order named, and in a limited way, except Gravenstein, Transparent, Duchess, St. Lawrence, Gravenstein, Alexander, Calvert, Snow or Wealthy, Twenty-ounce Pippin, King Pippin, Ribston, Blenheim, Fallawater. These are all quite hardy, and succeed well in the Georgian Bay District, in fact, in all the apple-growing sections. Stark, Baxter and Wolf River are fine, showy apples, but no better or not quite so good as Baldwin, King or Alexander, of which they are of about the same season, in the order named. Gravenstein is without doubt the peer of all the fall apples, and sells almost as well as Spy.

Plums.—In plums, I would also advise few varieties. Out of our large collection of about two hundred kinds, to cover the season for home use and markets, Red June, Washington, Bradshaw, Lombard, Quackenboss or Glass, Archduke, Prune d'Agen, Yellow Egg, Coe's Golden Drop, Reine Claude. Where they do well, Pond's Seedling and German Prune, but they are rather poor bearers with us. To be sure, there are many other good plums, but for quality and profit, in my experience, there are no other ten or twelve varieties on our whole list that are nearly so good. This list is quite large enough; usually few varieties are most profitable and give least trouble. I have named only one Japan plum, and that on account of its being the first good plum to ripen. Japan plums are quite hardy, enormously productive and strikingly handsome in appearance, yet their quality is so much against them, as compared with the European, that I could not at all recommend them. When well known they are very hard to sell; canners don't want them; they say they put up a very poor grade of goods. Our lake traders won't buy them when they can get anything else. In my opinion, they have done more to make plum-growing unprofitable than all other factors combined.

Pears.—The following are succeeding remarkably well at this station, covering the season in the order named: Beurre Giffard, Clapp's Favorite, Bartlett, Howell, Belle Lucrative, Flemish Beauty, Duchess, Louise Bonne de Jersey, Seckel, Beurre Clairgeau, Goodale, Beurre d'Anjou, Josephine de Malines. There are a good many other good pears doing well here, but this is enough. For home use, Beurre Giffard, Bartlett, Duchess, Seckel and Anjou would be enough. Flemish Beauty, when well grown, is one of the finest of pears, but on account of its liability to scab requires the most careful pruning and spraying.

Cherries.—All things considered, there is, perhaps, as much made out of the common red and black as any others. But many of the better varieties succeed just as well—May Duke, Windsor, Olivet, Black Tartarian, Gov. Wood, Early Richmond, Montmorency, and sometimes Yellow Spanish.

Peaches.—Triumph, Fitzgerald, Tyhurst, Bow-slaugh's Late, Champion and Crosby. These are all good peaches, and fairly hardy with us; only partially failed once in five years. They are also all freestone, except Triumph, which is a clingstone, but the earliest of all. Those peaches are all very much harder than Crawford's, which are rather uncertain in this district.

Grapes.—Grapes are, in a small way, grown almost as easily as potatoes. Everyone should have a few grapes. Champion, Niagara, Moore's, Diamond, Green Mountain, Worden, Delaware, Vergennes, Salem, Brighton and Concord are all doing well here, but ripen from one to two weeks later than in the Niagara District.

Red Raspberries.—Marlboro for earliest, and

Cuthbert next, easily lead. Shaffer is an excellent berry for canning, but many object to its color, which is rather dark crimson.

Gooseberries.—Industry, Red Jacket, Peril, Whitesmith, Downing and Houghton. These kinds nearly always bear well with us, and give little or no trouble with mildew.

Blackcaps.—Tyler, Hilborn and Grey, in the order named, to cover the season.

Currants.—Red: Cherry, Fay's Prolific. White: White Grape, White Imperial. Black: Champion, Lee's and Naples.

Every farmer should have a fruit garden, and supply his table with the luxuries of the season. Any of the above, if properly cared for, will many times repay all the time, trouble or money invested in them.

Co-operative Planting.—If fruit-growers in localities would arrange to all plant the same varieties, and not too many, it would be of great benefit to them all. Buyers or shippers could then get carloads of one kind, if desired. As it is now, there is such a multiplicity of varieties that this is almost impossible. Also, there is a great deal more waste, and they are much more costly to pack.

Grey Co., Ont.

J. G. MITCHELL.

THE FARM BULLETIN.

Our knives are in great demand. They make an excellent premium.

We guarantee all premiums to be just as represented. Get one, and satisfy yourself on that point. We refuse to send out anything cheap or trashy.

The Queensland Government have cabled for 500 bushels of Manitoba seed wheat. Some seed wheat sent from the Canadian Northwest on a previous occasion was found so desirable that more is wanted.

The Stationary Engineers of Ontario, who number in the vicinity of 10,000, are petitioning the Ontario Government for an amendment to the present Ontario Act concerning stationary engineers, the object of the desired amendment being to make certificates necessary, in the interests of public safety.

We are informed that it is contemplated to discontinue some of the less important fruit experiment stations in Ontario, and probably establish a large station in the Niagara district. The system is managed by a Board of Control, composed of officials from the Ontario Agricultural College and directors of the Ontario Fruit-growers' Association.

Several of the co-operative fruit-shipping associations in Ontario have been considering the advisability of sending a man over to the Old Country this summer to promote the apple trade, and possibly act as a direct selling agent. A. McNeill, Chief of the Fruit Division, is confident, however, that this will not be necessary, that the excellence of last season's pack will make a direct sale for all the co-operative associations that have a reputation, and that the money will be paid and the bargains completed on this side the water.

P. E. I. Notes and Conditions.

The winter is gliding away very pleasantly. It has indeed been remarkable weather, with scarcely any snow, very little frost, and poor ice, but sufficient for the training of the numerous trotters which Prince County boasts of possessing. Most every day in the week spectators may witness a friendly race between some of the very fastest horses, as well as others which are mere colts but are very promising, and will surely be heard from a little later on. The ice on the muskeled beds, which had got so thin on account of the continued mild weather that digging had to be abandoned for a time, thickened up again, so that a great many have been hauling this very valuable fertilizer upon their farms. The hauling on land has been so very poor that hundreds of cars of mud have been shipped from Summerside to the different stations along the line. Feed is plentiful this winter, and the hay presses are kept busy going from one barn to another, baling up the surplus hay, which will be placed on the market. At present every place is full of hay, and it is difficult to get \$8.00 per ton for it. A great many cattle are being stalled for the spring market, but the prospect for a big price is not very encouraging. Anyone who has pork to sell is right in the swim; 8c. to 8½c. per pound has been paid for pork now for some time past, and the price is likely to remain high. Potatoes for the local trade are only 22c., but no one can tell yet what the spring price will be. Oats are the same price all winter, 35c. and 36c. for white and black; wheat, about 70c.; roller flour, \$2 per cwt.; eggs, 18c.; butter, homemade, 20c., factory, 25c.

The Institutes are holding good meetings. A series of "Good Seed" meetings were held in different sections throughout the Island this winter. Much interest was manifested, and farmers gained valuable information regarding the obnoxious weeds which are fast gaining a foothold on many of our farms. I know of farms in my locality, the hay off which I would not take as a cut and use it on my farm. The farmers now should look out and secure the very best seed grain obtainable, a few cents per bushel on seed grain is nothing compared to the extra value received for a good crop. We would warn P. E. I. farmers not to sell