

The chief complaint with the twelve quart basket has been the jamming of the fruit, which results from the piling of the full baskets upon one another on board the trains; but this has been obviated by a new cover, shown in Fig. 44, which is quickly attached, costs little more than the simple leno, and is a perfect protection to the fruit within. We say this after having given it a season's trial. The same cover has also been provided for the various sized grape baskets, and it makes the neatest and tidiest package imaginable.

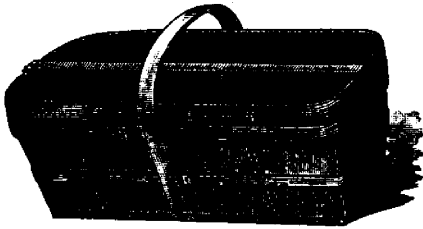


FIG. 43.—12 QUART BASKET.



FIG. 44.—GRAPE BASKET.

A sensible warning to shippers is contained in a circular just to hand from a prominent commission house. It is "Avoid shipping on holidays." The reason is that they are poor market days, and, as a rule, arrivals on such days have to be cleared out to pedlars at ridiculously low prices. Many growers make a mistake in this very particular, thinking that holidays must be the best of all days for the sale of fruit; therefore this warning comes quite opportune.

CULTIVATE MORE DAHLIAS.—While reading recent articles on the dahlia, the thought occurred to me why do sensible people neglect this, one of the most popular flowers? There are very few people who do not cultivate more or less flowers; but the majority, if they grow any dahlias at all, have the common red and white ones, which the lover of this beautiful flower would not give garden space. The dahlia, like all other choice flowers, needs generous care and treatment, but even when neglected it often becomes the queen of the garden. It is no more trouble to raise choice flowers than common ones, and the same soil will answer for both. My dahlia collection now comprises 45 distinct varieties, and my garden room is very limited, but the space I devote to dahlias is the choicest in the garden. Among my choicest varieties are the following: Prof. Fawcett, Goldfinch, Mrs. Stancourt, Oriole, Jewel of Austerlitz, Floral Park, Jewel, Sapho, Startler, Magnet, Snowdrift, White Dove, Guiding Star, Leila, Lady Arlington, Lucy Fawcett, Electric, Margaret Bruant, Fanny Purchase, and others. Many hundred distinct varieties exist, and are catalogued every year, but those who are unacquainted with the different habits and colorings of this flower cannot fail to be more than pleased by planting the above-named varieties.—H. C. TOWNSEND in *Popular Gardening*.