

✧ Question Drawer. ✧

Black Currants Do Not Bear.

978. SIR,—Could you kindly give me a reason why Black Currants are such a poor crop here, large bushes not giving over one quart each, and often not over a cupful although they are well cultivated and manured, and any old wood cut out but still there is plenty of two and three year old wood left to bear, as I also thin out all weak one year old shoots. As to kinds, the Black Naples is as good as any although Lee's Prolific had a very fair crop last year, but the one you sent out, one of Sanderson's seedlings has borne well and is of great promise.

A. J. COLLIN.

The experience of Mr. Collins is but a repetition of that of each of us, who has tried growing black currants for profit. Can any one tell how to make them productive?

Rockport Bigarreau.

979. SIR,—We have a large cherry tree of Rockport Bigarreau that we gathered 150 quarts off last season, but from some cause the fruit did not ripen properly, and nearly the whole of them begun to rot badly so that really we had none that was good. The tree is shaded from the morning sun, if the whole of them had ripened all right we should have had over 200 quarts, generally they are a fine large meaty cuerry, once before there was quite a lot rotted on the same tree, other trees of the same kind were very fine. We were thinking it would be a good plan to give this tree several sprayings next spring and summer with copper sulphate and Bordeaux mixture. Would you advise us to do so, and do you think it would save the fruit.

WALTER HICK, *Goderich.*

Probably no variety of cherry is so subject to rot as Rockport. We have had it in bearing at Maplehurst for twenty-five years, and though it loads tremendously, not one-half the fruit ever ripens. The rot comes on just before maturity, and rapidly spreads throughout the tree, especially if favored by showery weather. Spraying with Bordeaux mixture about three times, once before blooming, once after, and again when the fruit is half grown, should control this rot.

Planting An Orchard.

980. SIR,—I intend setting an orchard of 300 apple trees, and am at a loss to know the best varieties. As you are in the fruit business, please give me your opinion, naming six good kinds for the English market. many speak high of the Ontario.

R. D. PICKERING.

Varieties that succeed in the Niagara peninsula might not succeed well north of lake Ontario, yet speaking generally, the following six varieties may be planted with confidence, viz : Duchess, Gravenstein, Blenheim, Wealthy, Ontario and Ben Davis.

Canning vs Evaporating Factory.

981. SIR,—Please say if you think there is a good chance of making a success of our evaporating factory on the co-operative plan; or would an evaporator be more likely to succeed?

E. E. H. OAKVILLE.

A first class canning factory needs a large investment of capital, and must be most carefully managed to avoid a financial failure; but an evaporator requires much less capital, and is therefore more certain of proving a safe investment.

Ground Cherries.

982. SIR,—Kindly furnish me with such information you may have on hand regarding the culture and different kinds of ground cherries and prices usually obtained per lb. or bushel and were the best market is for the same. Can you furnish the seeds? If not where can they be obtained and what is the price per lb.

E. S. BROWN, *Parma, Ind.*

Reply by Prof. Taft, Michigan Agricultural College.

The ground cherry requires about the same care as the tomato. The seed may be sown in a hotbed, or in a box in the house, and transplanted when danger of frost is over; or may be sown