

Black Pekin is a large and vigorous growing kind ; stems petioles and veins always deep purple ; leaves large, more or less distinctly lobed, purple with metallic lustre above. Fruit large, five to seven inches in diameter—often larger—spherical or oblate, very dark purple. Entirely distinct from every other variety, rather late, but it fruited well the past season. A popular market variety—*Maine Experimental Station*.

SIERRA SNOW PLANT.

This plant is acknowledged by all, to be the most beautiful in the floral kingdom. It is a bulbous plant, and attains a height of from fifteen inches to three feet. It grows at various elevations, but is more generally distributed between the elevations of six and seven thousand feet above sea level. In their flowering season, they throw up a spike of deep, brilliant red flowers, so intensely colored, as to glisten and sparkle in the light. These blooms last for several days. For supreme beauty, and wild magnificence, this plant stands unrivalled.

Grizzley Flats, Cal.

S. L. WATKINS.

Washing the Bark of Fruit Trees.—I noticed with a great deal of interest and satisfaction last spring the effect of potash dissolved in water to the strength of one pound to two gallons, and applied as a wash to trees in the orchards of Mr. Thompson, Mr. Archibald and Mr. Chipman of this village. I afterwards used a milder solution in a young orchard of my own, and, although the trees were previously in an average healthy condition, yet the effects of the application were noticeable at quite a distance, for it had given the bark a particularly clean, dark brown appearance. I would strongly recommend the cleaning off of all the loose bark and moss—the dwelling places of the bark lice and the winter quarters of the codling moth—with a hoe during April, and an application of the potash about the middle of June. Experiments have been made with most astounding results as to crops where the diluted potash has been applied as a fertilizer to the roots.

Pruning Raspberries.—In growing for fruit the branches should be nipped at one foot in length. If tips are the object let the branches grow, and when they reach the ground bury the tip. If you wait until the cane runs much before it is covered you will have a long string of roots and plants and none of it fit to set. Last fall my tips were covered until the branches were three to four feet on the ground and then nearly all covered, and this spring the young plants put up all around the old bush as bad as the red varieties. The Marlboro, I fear, will not yield well with me. What berries I had were fine. The Golden Queen proves more hardy, and I think of better quality.—Farm and Home.