

ing. The most famous grower in the association informed the audience, that somebody had recommended salt, and he had staked out a portion of his bog and sowed it with the savory fertilizer. Some time ago he went out to see how the vines liked it, and there was not a vine left. Another enthusiast solemnly asserted that he had nursed a small hog for seven or eight years, and that he had not as yet gathered a sound berry from it.

New Jersey raises one-half the cranberries in the country. The area under cultivation is about 5,000 acres. The crop for 1873 was some 125,000 bushels; for 1874, 90,000 bushels, and this year the yield is estimated at ten to twenty thousand bushels less. This steady decrease in the face of area, is due to the devastation of the rot and scald, which is still uncontrollable, and is likely to continue to rage until, like the potato blight, it shall have run its course and exhausted itself.

### Winter Work in the Orchard.

About this season of the year, in many places reached by our paper, the husbandman gathereth about him his hatchet and saw and pruning knife and goeth forth to his orchard to trim his fruit trees. The sight thereof maketh many of our friends to shudder and "prune not all" is heard from various quarters of our land. For our part we sympathize somewhat with those who would stay the farmer's hand; but then we do not by any means regard him as a "tree butcher," or contemptuously style the one a mere "carpenter" who, saw in hand, thinks he can do a little with it towards building up the prosperity of the tree. It may be that as the twig is bent the tree's inclined; but somehow this foresight is not always ready to hand, and it grows as we would not have inclined it; and often when we know better, the tree runs on in its own wilful way, simply for want of time or occasion to put in practice that which we know. We know of but very few orchards that a good pruning in winter will not benefit.

In a large number of cases, where the orchard is of some age, sprouts will come up from the trunk just under the ground, and form a complete bundle all around it. This is the more likely to be the case with trees that have over-born, and have a large number of half-stunted branches; and also in cases where the borer has been working in the tree near the ground. Whatever obstructs the passage of the sap up the trunk, induces shoots to break out from below in this way. Of course we should try to help this by encouraging vigor in the head of the tree, so as to check this tendency to throw out collar-sprouts; but at any rate these sprouts must come away. Many rest with cutting them back to the ground, which merely makes them push stronger the next year. The ground should be opened a little with the grubbing hoe, and with the same implement the sprout rooted clean out. Throughout the tree these sprouts are often common and should be cut away. Unless the main branches show signs of being worn out by disease or overbearing, in which case it is best to cut these large arms away down to the young vigorous sprouts which should thus have a chance to grow up and replace it. Sometimes cutting away these large branches leaves large scars on the trunk when cut off, and the old wood, weakened by disease, soon rots away, and leaves a hollow place for water to collect in, and then the hole soon gets worse. But this is remedied by painting the place over. It makes no difference what kind of paint is used. Anything that will keep out the water from the wood will do. It is because these precautions are neglected that people have a chance to say that cutting off large branches injures trees. Nature herself often seems to ask for the pruning-knife. Branches often seem to be struggling between death and life, as if the tree were begging of some one to cut them off. The trees are always benefited when they are.—*Germanstown Telegraph*.

### Notes on Raspberries.

**DAVIDSON'S THORNLESS.**—This is not so strong a grower as most of the black caps, but with me bears fair crops of good berries and is indispensable on account of its earliness.

**SENECA BLACK.**—This variety I regard as the best in quality of any of the black caps, and it is also a very vigorous grower, much more so than Doolittle, and it ripens immediately after that variety, and is much larger, sweeter and more juicy.

**MAMMOTH CLUSTER.**—A very large variety, still later than Seneca, and also a very vigorous grower, but not as juicy or sweet as either of the preceding.

**GOLDEN THORNLESS.**—A vigorous grower, and very large and beautiful fruit, but I find all the yellow varieties inferior in quality to the black.

**ONTARIO.**—This variety, which was sent out as remarkably early, proves to be no earlier than Doolittle and much poorer in quality, and its only recommendation is its firmness.

**NORWOOD PROLIFIC.**—Is evidently a hybrid having the same style or growth as the black caps, and also growing freely from tip, and producing no suckers, but having red berries. It is an extremely vigorous grower, stands the

sun perfectly, and will doubtless be as hardy on sandy soils as black cap. I have only fruited it one season, but it produced abundantly of good sized berries, similar in color to Philadelphia, and to my taste better in quality. I regard it as one of the most promising varieties we have yet tried.

**GUXARGAU.**—Another hybrid which I have only had this season, but it produced a few berries, considerably darker in color than Norwood, and poorer in quality, and the foliage burns in summer.

**AMAZON.**—A new red variety from Edesville, Md., claimed to be three or four hundred per cent more productive than any other variety, and as large as a Wilson blackberry. I have only tried this one summer, but it produced a few berries, and both in habit of growth, appearance and quality of fruit, is so nearly like Belle de Fontenay, that I am inclined to think them identical, although I have thrown out the latter, and cannot compare them so fully as if both were growing together.

**SOUTHERN SEEDLING, OR THORNLESS RED.**—Obtained from Indiana last spring, is much like Philadelphia in appearance of cane and leaf, but less thorny than even that, and the berries much better both in color and quality. I left the old canes about a foot high when planting, and besides making strong growth of new wood, my plants have ripened considerable fruit continuously up to the time of writing this article. I regard this as very promising.—*Gardeners' Monthly*.

**THE GOLDEN PIPPIN.**—This old English apple was cited half a century ago by Knight and others, as an example of a good variety gone to decay from old age. The *London Garden* says that any one visiting the London market during the fruit season, or any other large markets in the southern or midland counties of England, will find Golden Pippins as perfect and as fine as any figured or described in former times in any country.

**KILLING THE PEACH GRUB.**—A western paper recommends scooping out the earth around the tree funnel-shaped, four inches from the tree, and a foot deep, and then filling the cavity with salt. "It will gradually dissolve, enter the worm holes, and kill the borers." We have no doubt that it would be effectual, but in a different way. The grubs would not remain long in a dead tree. We have known brine poured at the foot of a tree, to kill it in twenty-four hours, and the continued supply afforded from the salt mass, would doubtless be effectual. It may be tried on a worthless tree.—*Country Gentleman*.

**YELLOWS IN THE PEACH.**—The inquiry having been made of the *Gardeners' Monthly*, how long after a peach orchard has been killed by the yellows, a new orchard can be safely planted, the editor mentions an instance where the disease was communicated from an orchard growing on the ground four years before. We have no doubt that the period will vary with circumstances. In one instance, an orchard growing on strong and rich soil, was infected at one side, and a few trees died, but with little care to prevent its spread, it entirely disappeared in a few years. In other localities, more favorable to its increase, it would doubtless have swept the whole orchard.

**GRAFTING GRAPES.**—The *Chicago Tribune* says:—David Robertson, whose vineyard has taken premiums from the Illinois State Pomological Society, writes us he has for years been trying to make something out of several rows of Isabella vines, but with no success, our seasons being too short for them, and has finally decided to make the roots do service in a better variety. He has grafted them to the Delaware. He says: "I have not followed the plan of books exactly, fearing to cut the whole main stock off, lest the channel for sap through a single scion be too small. So I have taken one of the stalks where the vine branches near the ground and grafted it, leaving the others to be cut off when the new scion gets a vigorous start. The scions were put in late this Fall and a good covering of earth placed over the wound. I used no wax, but simply tied the stock where the cut was made. I anticipate gathering in two years a fine crop of Delaware where before I have seen nothing but unripe Isabellas."

**PRUNING IN WINTER** should be practised only on hardy trees, such as the apple, and it should be performed to a moderate extent at a time on orchard trees. We never recommend heavy cutting away. It is better to allow a tree to remain a little deformed, lop-sided, or dense-headed, for a year or two, till the work can be accomplished gradually. (These remarks do not apply to young nursery trees.) A European cultivator has recently given in substance the following good directions: In sawing off a limb, set the saw below and cut up part way, and then cut from above to meet it. This prevents the limb from tearing away the bark in falling. Or, a better way, saw off the limb freely, leaving a stump about a foot long. Then, holding this stump in the left hand, cut off neatly and carefully. Cut as closely as may be done without making too large a wound; like the skillful surgeon, save skin. Never leave a projecting stump, which will disfigure the tree for many a year before it is grown over. Use sharp tools of the best steel, thus saving much labor, leaving a smooth face, and cutting more accurately just where you want to. Nothing is better than one or two coats of oil paint for covering the wound; and if it is ash or slate color, or having the same shade as the bark, the orchard will not appear defaced by the operation.—*Country Gentleman*.

**THE APPLE STORE.**—The surest way to mismanage the apple-store is to pick out the decaying apples. The fact is not generally known, so this note may prove extensively useful. It seems so natural to get rid of rotten apples that I cannot feel surprised if some should doubt my word; but where apples are stored in bulk the decaying fruit should be left untouched until those it is in contact with are required, when, of course, necessity makes an end of the matter. It will be observed that the decaying fruit does not communicate decay to the sound fruit next it. But if you remove it, those it has touched begin to decay directly, so that in place of one bad fruit you have now three or four. Our stores are extensive, and it is an essential part of the management to keep the fruit dark and dry, and never to touch them unless to remove them for the supply of the market. I leave learned men to explain the case; all I care about is to record the fact for the public advantage.

**HOUSE PLANTS** do best in rather cool rooms, or at a temperature not so high as 60°. This is the reason that we often see finer plants in the cottages of the mechanic and laboring man, than in the warm, furnace-heated mansions of the rich. In the latter, however, much improvement may be made by keeping the air-chamber of the furnace abundantly and constantly supplied with evaporating water—at least eight or ten gallons daily for a medium-sized furnace, and if the plants still appear to suffer from dry air, hang wet napkins over them. If this attention cannot be given, the plants should be selected from such sorts as grow naturally in dry climates, such as the cactus, sedum, &c. House plants are often injured by the accumulation of dust in sweeping, which may be partly remedied by syringing, but more easily by placing large funnels of tissue paper inverted over the plants till the dust settles. Tissue paper is best, on account of its little weight on the plants.—*Country Gentleman*.

**THE NEWTON PIPPIN.**—The discussion on this apple at the late pomological meeting at Chicago, as reported in the *Prairie Farmer*, was of an interesting and somewhat conflicting character. In Virginia and North Carolina it succeeds admirably, but not on the lowlands. Hundreds of barrels are shipped from Washington. It does not bear well in Maryland. R. S. Ragan, of Indiana, said the green variety was the only one worth anything at the West—the yellow is worthless. Breckenridge of Maryland and Overman of Illinois could not find two varieties. Barry of New York, and Lovey of Boston, thought the two were only different conditions of the same apple. Ragan of Indiana found the trees identical in the nursery and orchard growth, but the yellow variety bears a larger apple, which does not keep so well. To these opinions we may add the remarks of Charles Downing, given elsewhere: "The yellow is handsomer, and has a higher perfume than the green; the flesh is rather firmer and equally high flavored. The green is more juicy, crisp and tender. The yellow is flatter. Both grow alike."

**SHEEP IN ORCHARDS.**—Having a small orchard of about 60 trees, I have for three years past pastured it with six or eight sheep for the benefit of the trees. Last year, being a non-bearing year in this State, I had more apples than all the neighboring farms together. My practice is to plough shallow alternate years in order to disturb the surface of the ground, and not cut the roots too deeply, which I consider to be against the longevity of the trees, and sow to clover, to be fed one year by the sheep, the next ploughed and sowed again to clover—the sheep kept in another feeding lot till after haying, when the clover roots have gained strength and maturity, so that the close feeding of the sheep will not kill them. Why I plough so often is because the trampling of the sheep is apt to pack the ground around the roots of the trees, preventing their bearing. The sheep eat all the blighted windfall apples, which contain the germs of injurious insects, as soon as they fall from the trees; and they distribute their manure so evenly and finely over the ground that the rains soak it immediately down to the fine surface roots of the trees, causing them to bear every year. The sheep should not be kept in too late in the fall, nor put in too early in spring, when the grass is dead, as they are apt to gnaw the bark off the small trees.—*New-England Farmer*.

**WINTERING GERANIUMS.**—A lady inquires how to winter geraniums in the cellar; she has often heard that by hanging them up by the roots they will keep all winter in a good condition, but on trying this mode she has always failed. In answer to her inquiry, we may state that the practice of hanging up the bare plants sometimes succeeds, but there are few cellars that have the right degree of dampness. It will usually result in failure. The best way to keep the roots sound and fresh, is the following: Take up the plants, shake off the earth from the roots, trim off the longer ones, and head back the tops freely, and then place as many of these trimmed plants in a box or small tub, as can be crowded in without much pressure, in the same position as they would stand planted in pots. Then pour in among the roots as much dry, clean sand as will compactly fill all the interstices, occasionally shaking to settle the sand, till the tub is nearly full. Place them in a cellar where they can receive as much light as may be, and keep the sand slightly moist by occasional watering. In very damp cellars no watering will be required. Nail-kegs, with a third of the tops sawed off, make convenient tubs for this purpose, costing nothing. The plants will require a little occasional attention during the winter, to see if all is right, and that they are not suffering from any cause which a little experience on the part of the attendant will point out.—*Country Gentleman*.