

standing more rough usage than any other sort."

Temporary Wind-Break.—SIR: In sending in my subscription to your valuable publication, which I notice is improving in many ways, I enclose a description of a temporary wind-break, which I put through my Niagara grape vines this fall to ward off strong northern and western winds. We cut and drew several loads of young pines, which we got from a neighbor who was about to clear a pinery. These bushes, ranging from 6 to 10, or more, feet in height, were placed up against the trellis and wound fast with one strand of stove pipe wire, placing them close enough to form a hedge. Several rows were run through, one about every third trellis, where the vines were too large to lay down. The posts in the trellis are about 30 feet apart. About every other space we put a brace, by using two light posts fastened across one another near their upper end, the fastening being just under the top wires of the trellis. This mode is the best and cheapest wind-break I could think of for this season, but for a permanency I have other methods in view.

R. POSTANS, Oakville, Ont.

Important Questions.—SIR: I like the January Number very much. Mr. Simmers article on the culture of flowers is especially interesting. What to plant, how to plant, and how to prune, are questions that many are asking in rural districts. It must be confessed, the farmers wives and daughters are really the only ones that are interested in the garden, (the farmer and his sons giving all their interest and attention to the farm and stock,) and it is wonderful how well many of them succeed in raising fine vegetables and small fruits, and in surrounding their homes with flowers.

F. FOXSTON, Minesing, Ont.

Elliot's Early Pear.—SIR: I am glad to find a good word in your last issue in favor of the Elliot's Early pear. Some six years ago, I ripened it at Sault St. Marie, Algoma, in the fore part of August, although afterwards the tree blistered and died.

Is the Jessie strawberry now in the market? P. D. LAURENT, Lindsay.

[NOTE.—The Jessie is advertised in our columns.—ED.]

TIMELY HINTS FOR THE ORCHARD.

PRUNING.

The first mild weather is the favorite time with most farmers for pruning. This work is frequently overdone, and we often see permanent injury inflicted, by lopping off the large limbs and leaving great ugly wounds which never can heal over. By such cruel treatment many orchards are hastened into premature old age. We have an old veteran apple tree, a hundred years of age, and still in good bearing condition. It was a sweet kind, and therefore pruning was neglected, while many others, of better varieties, were pruned to death. We advise, then, to prune the *apple and pear* as little as possible, consistent with the necessity of removing all superfluous limbs which cross, and always to choose the smaller when one of two must be removed. Cut close to the main branch, so that the bark may close over the wound.

Dwarf Pears need to have the new growth thinned out, and judiciously cut back, in order to produce fine-sized fruit. The pyramidal form is best for a dwarf pear tree.

The *Cherry Trees* will need very little, if any, pruning. Broken boughs and dead limbs, however, should be carefully removed.

The *Peach Tree* will require considerable attention. It is our custom at this season to go over them with a pair of tree-pruning shears, removing all dead