

injured by a little insect called the curculio, causing the fruit to decay or fall to the ground before ripening. The curculio is a small grayish brown insect, about one-sixth of an inch long, and with wings that appear like two little humps on its back. Owing to the crescent-shaped mark that it makes when biting into the young fruit and laying its eggs, it has also been given the name of the "little Turk." However, fine crops can easily be obtained in most sections of the country, notwithstanding this insect. One of the simplest or surest methods is to plant the plum trees in a chicken yard, or to turn the plum orchard, if not large, into a poultry yard when the trees become of bearing age. If pigs are allowed to run in the orchard and eat up all the injured fruit as it falls, then they will prove almost equally as serviceable as chickens. Another method is to plant the trees on the edges of brooks or ponds, so that the branches shall hang over the water. Still another is to have the ground closely paved with large flat stones or shells around the trees. As plums are always picked from the trees, and not from the ground, none of the above plans will interfere very much in gathering the fruit. I could give many other successful plans for preventing the fruit from being injured by the curculio, but must now turn my attention to giving descriptions of some of the finer varieties of plums.

The General Hand is a handsome, very large, golden-yellow plum that is supposed to have originated near Lancaster, Pa. The fruit is of a roundish oval shape, and frequently marbled with greenish-yellow. It is a showy, attractive looking plum, sweet and moderately juicy, and of fair quality; ripens in September. It succeeds better in New York, Pennsylvania, and in some of the Gulf States than it does at the West or North.

Wild Goose—This is proving quite a favorite in many localities, but especially in places where it has been considered difficult to grow the ordinary varieties of plums. It has been heralded throughout the length and breadth of the country as being a "curculio-proof" plum. Though this is not strictly the case, yet it appears in many places to be less attractive to that little insect, either on account of its thicker skin or something distasteful in the fruit. The wild goose is of small or medium size, round, of a yellowish red color, and ripens moderately early. Though it is excelled in quality by some other plums, yet, as it succeeds so generally throughout the United States, and even in Wisconsin and Minnesota, it will probably continue to be a favorite.

The Richland is a plum that is not very widely known. The fruit is of medium size, of a purplish red color, tinged with blue, of oval form, and of quite good quality. It ripens in August, at about the middle of the plum season. It is grown for either market or table use, and thus far mostly within the Middle States.

Pond's Seedling is one of the largest and most beautiful of plums. The fruit is of oval form, skin of a yellow color, profusely dotted with red, and with a white bloom. It ripens in September, and is of moderately good quality. It is of English origin, and has not yet been very generally tested, but thus far has proved quite promising where grown.

Coe's Golden Drop, Imperial Gage, Washington, and Yellow Egg are some of the largest, best, and most delicious of yellow plums, and are very general favorites. The first is quite a late variety, and the second moderately early. Lombard, a reddish purple plum, is popular on account of its great hardiness at the far North.