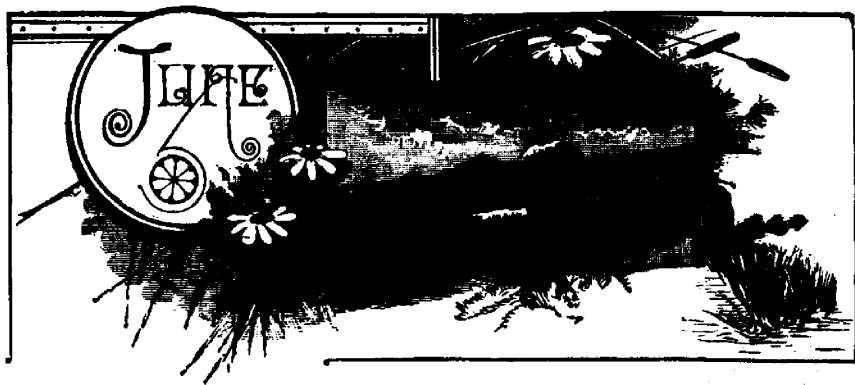


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DOWNING GOOSEBERRY.



ANADIAN fruit growers have not, thus far, entered very largely into the cultivation of the gooseberry for market. It will, therefore, surprise them to learn that in that excellent work, the "Dictionary of Gardening," edited by Mr Geo. Nicholson, of Kew Gardens, over eighty distinct varieties of gooseberries are named and described, very few of which are in the least degree familiar, even by name. The explanation is that the cool, moist climate of England is exactly fitted to bring about the best results in gooseberry culture, while in our dry, hot summers, the mildew utterly ruins these foreign kinds.

A few natives, however, have been found to succeed admirably in Ontario, and to these we must look for the success in this industry, which we are sure will be extended in the near future, as improved varieties are introduced which are adapted to our own country.

The gooseberry is largely used in England in the green state for pies, tarts and puddings, and were the fruit present in larger quantities and in greater variety in our markets, there is no doubt the demand for it would be increased to an almost unlimited extent.

Of the few native varieties which have so far been introduced into cultivation in Ontario, the Downing is by far the best and most popular. It originated some years ago, at Newburgh, on the Hudson, and is now widely disseminated. The fruit is of a medium size, roundish-oval, and of a pale green color; the rib veins