

A few trees did not produce fruit. This will account for the absence of some kinds from the list.

Several varieties of the very early peaches show a disposition to decay, and their value is greatly lessened by this defect. Another year's trial will establish to a certainty the advantages which some sorts possess over others in this respect. As will be seen from these notes, several old peaches which have been neglected of late have been found to possess qualities which will merit attention. We expect next year to fruit the following:—Saunders, Wilder, Musser, Conkling, Mrs. Brett, Bradley, Honeywell, Gov. Garland, etc. Mr. Myers says that Saunders is not quite so large as the Alexander, but has fine color, and is entirely free from rot. The tree is very productive, and ripens its fruit a few days after Alexander. Downing ripens with Alexander and Amsden, and is of medium size and free from rot. Wilder, of the same season as Alexander and Amsden, decays like these varieties.

This collection of peaches has been the most interesting that I have had the pleasure of examining. I hope that other fruit growers will favor us with the results of their experiments, so that we may assist each other in determining which kinds to keep and which to reject.

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## CAUSE OF BLACK KNOT.

BY N. HENDRICKZ.

There seems to have been and still to be an opinion that the outgrowth on the plum and cherry trees, commonly called black knot, is of a fungus nature. Let me ask, before proceeding farther, what is the cause of the knot, found on oak trees, or wild roses, or blackberry shrubs, or vine leaves, or linden tree leaves, or oak leaves, and in Europe also on beech tree leaves, which afterwards turn out when dry like beads for necklaces, or for other ornaments? All these have insects inside. Having all due respect for persons and their opinions, I dare say there are many who read a great deal, and judge by what they read, so they form their knowledge upon the authority of others; but to study the facts of nature by themselves, and watch the result of an indefatigable investigation into matters of nature is not given to everybody, in fact cannot be done by the most of men, and so we must be very forbearing with their opinions.

When about fifteen years of age I liked to read about insects and study their habits, so what I say is formed by my own experience rather than what I have gleaned from authors, though at that time I