

the barrel and the fruit carefully poured out. This should be done slowly and gently, allowing the apples merely to *roll out*, not *fall* down on to the fruit already in. As each basket is emptied into the barrel give the barrel a shake sufficient to settle the apples snugly and compactly into their places. Fill the barrel in this way even with the top of the staves, leveling with the hand by placing the apples so that there will be as little unoccupied space as possible, then put on the head, pressing it down to its place with the hand screw packer; drive on the hoops tight and nail a small strip to hold the head in place. The barrels, when filled and secured by nailing, should be taken out of the sun, and placed in a shed, open to the north, and remain there until there is danger of the apples freezing, when they should be removed to the cellar, which should be kept cold, barely free from frost, and the barrels opened as the fruit is wanted for use. If no such shed is at hand, let the fruit be stored in the cellar at once.

The American Sweet Chestnut.

We desire to call attention to this very valuable tree, and suggest to our farmers that they should plant it, especially those who have any light soil on their farms, though it thrives exceedingly well on clayey, loamy, gravelly, and rocky soils, indeed anywhere that the ground is not cold and wet.

The farmer should plant this tree because it is a hardy, native tree, thriving well from the shores of Lake Huron to Lake Erie; because it grows rapidly, bears fruit in a very few years—about as soon as most apple trees—which sells at from three to four dollars per bushel; and because the timber is very valuable even now, and is fast becoming more so; and if not available to the planter himself, will be of great value to his children.

Small nursery-grown trees can now be had of our leading nurserymen, which can be transplanted with entire success, and at a cost not exceeding that of apple trees.

The landscape gardener will not fail to use this tree abundantly wherever suitable, for it ranks with the oak, the king of the forest, in landscape gardening. It attains an enormous size, and is almost as remarkable for its longevity. The celebrated chestnut tree at Tortworth, in the county of Gloucester, England, measures nineteen yards in circumference, and is believed to have been standing before the Conquest, 1066.

Downing says of the chestnut that "when old, its huge trunk, wide-spread branches, lofty head and irregular outline, all contribute to render it a picturesque tree of the very first class. In that state, when standing alone with free room to develop itself on every side, like the oak, it gives a character of dignity, majesty and grandeur to the scene, beyond the power of most trees to confer. It is well known that the favourite

tree of *Salvator Rosa*, and one which was most frequently introduced with a singularly happy effect into his wild and picturesque compositions, was the chestnut; sometimes a massy and bold group of its verdure, but oftener an old and storm-ripped giant, half leafless, or a barren trunk coated with a rich verdure of mosses and lichens.

"The chestnut in maturity, like the oak, has a great variety of outlines; and no trees are better fitted than these for the formation of grand groups, heavy masses, or wide outlines of foliage. A higher kind of beauty, with more dignity and variety, can be formed of these two genera of trees when disposed in grand masses, than with any other forest trees of temperate climates; perhaps we may say of any climate."

It is but a very few years since Mr. Robt. N. Ball, of Niagara, planted a few chestnuts, and from these raised some little trees which he transplanted on the lawn, that now not only are an ornament to the grounds, but yield a profusion of nuts. From this it may be seen that the tree is one of rapid growth, and that the planter may reasonably expect to enjoy much of the fruits of his labour in planting the chestnut.

On Melons.

The cultivation of melons has always been a specialty with me, and many are the failures I have made in their production, but during the past two seasons I have hit off what I consider to be the correct plan of growing this really delicious fruit in profusion and perfection for my own table. My plan is as follows:—

About the first of April, having a hotbed in good order, I start the plants in sods turned upside-down, and when the first two leaves after the seed leaves have formed, plant out in a cold frame; this may be done about the middle of the month.

Although the preparation of a cold frame is a very simple affair, yet, as some of your readers may not have had any experience in their construction, I will give them my method:—

Drive four stakes firmly into the ground at a proper distance apart, so that when boards are nailed to them, the end frames of the sashes provided will rest on the boards nailed to these stakes. I use my double windows, which are six feet long, and having nailed twelve feet boards to the stakes, three sashes side by side nearly extend the whole length. The sashes must have a fall of about eight inches to the south, two boards being used for the back, and one for the front. The proper slope can be obtained by sinking the back boards or raising the front as desired before nailing on. The main thing is to have these boards level, so as not to wring the sashes. After getting the sides properly adjusted, cut boards, so as to fill up one end; lay on the sashes, and

fill up the other end with boards in the same manner, driving in the stakes to hold the end boards in their places. Then bank up with earth all round to make the frame tight.

The next thing is to enrich the earth in which the melons are to be grown. To do this, dig out two round holes, two and a half feet across, towards each end of the frame, two spades deep, and fill up with equal parts of sandy loam or rotted sods, and well decomposed manure thoroughly mixed. Put three plants into each *hill*, which should be slightly *depressed*, being at least two inches in the centre below the rest of the soil; this serves to hold the water when applied by the watering-pot. Having set out the plants, as before directed, about the middle of April, keep them moderately cool by giving air, that is, shifting the sashes, if the days are very bright, so as to allow air to pass between them, and watering daily until thoroughly established. (If the plants are grown in a good thick sod they ought not to wilt at all; wilting checks the growth, and should by no means be allowed.) In three or four days the sashes may be kept pretty close; always shut on cloudy days and at night, and in bright weather keep up a heat of from eighty to ninety degrees, watering the plants freely every other evening, and when they begin to run pinch off the main vine, so as to make the plant branch out.

It will be noticed that there are no female flowers on the main vine, and consequently no fruit. The fruit-bearing branches are what are in grape culture called the laterals. In June they will begin to flower, and at the end of that month the runners will fill up the frames. The weather at this season will be at its hottest, and the sashes may be removed, the boards knocked down, and the earth levelled, so as to give free scope to the melons to run. The first week in August, the vines may be stopped by pinching off the ends, as no fruit will set and ripen after that date. Ripe melons may be expected on or before the first of August, and a good supply will be gathered every day for two months.

When the fruit begins to ripen no more water should be applied, and, in fact, unless the weather is quite dry, very little water after the sashes are removed. It will be found that the vines will have done bearing before cold nights and days come round, at which time the melon tastes, in my opinion, more like a very bad turnip than anything else, perfectly devoid of sweetness and flavour.

Results—From two of these frames the youngsters kept count of the fruit gathered, and the produce was ninety-three, chiefly nutmegs and canteloups, of the sweetest and most exquisite quality.

The method practised by some of growing melons in hotbeds is decidedly erroneous.