

PIN FOR FRUIT LABELS, AND IOWA FRUIT PROSPECTS.



SIR,—I enclose you a sample pin which I have been using to hold a card with the names of fruit and the entry tag, at our exhibitions. I have the names of the fruit printed in English and German on clear white cards, and it shows a long way from the fruit stands. The card enclosed will show you where the pins may be bought at a cost of thirty cents for a box of one hundred. Our fruit crop is poor this year owing to so much rain and cold weather during April, May and the first part of June. All our fruit blossomed very full, but dropped badly. Plums are an entire failure; cherries rotted on the trees and the grapes have mildewed and are rotting. I am selling my early apples, largely Duchess of Oldenburg for \$4 per barrel.

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FIG. 66.

GARDENING IN MIDDLESEX.

This will not be a very profitable year to the fruit grower in this part of Middlesex, as the late frosts in the spring injured both strawberries and raspberries, and also currants, and when the apples, plums, cherries and pears came in blossom the weather was so wet that fertilization was not complete, and consequently our crop of fruit is very light, compared with what it was last year. Peaches were badly winter-killed and did not blossom at all, and, owing to the excessive dry weather, some of my blackberries and black raspberries have dried up without ripening their fruit. The Erie blackberry is not hardy here but it gives larger berries than either Agawam or Ancient Briton. The latter I find the hardiest. The Rancocas raspberry did not do well with me this year, and the Cuthbert was winter-killed to the snow line.

Potatoes will be a short crop here. Many planted them the second time, and vegetables generally will be a poor crop, but we have a very good crop of early potatoes, cabbage, onions, and we had ripe tomatoes by the first of August. The flower garden has given a good account of itself this year so far, and now the monthly roses are giving some excellent flowers. Even though the past three or four weeks have been extra dry, the Polyanthus have been continually in bloom. The following roses of the hybrid perpetuals did best with me this year, White Baroness, Merveille de Lyons, Perfection de Blanches, Helen Paul, and White Perpetual Moss, Paul Neyron, John Hopper, Vick's Caprice, Comtesse de Serenye, Dinsmore, Zebrina, Little Gem, Henry Martin; but some others I have are not as good. Gen. Jacqueminot did not bloom nearly as well this year as formerly. I have a seedling pink Scotch rose, that gave some excellent blooms early in the season, but, like most of Scotch roses, only bloomed early in the summer and then took a long rest. I got some French Canna seed this spring and they are commencing to bloom now. I filed small holes in the seed and then soaked them in hot water before planting, and then I tried to keep the ground from getting too dry, as that is sure death to any kind of seed after being soaked in water, and when I transplanted them to the open ground I puddled the soil in around them and then put some dry clay on top and shaded them for a few days, and they never stopped growing when the dry weather came.

Your proposed changes in the HORTICULTURIST meet with my approval, the size of the page as at present just suits my fancy and of course no reader should grumble at an addition to the number of pages and illustrations.

JAS. M. WATERS, *Fernhill P.O., Ont.*

THE WILLIAMS' STRAWBERRY.

SIR,—The Williams' Strawberry has pleased me this season better than ever before. The cool moist weather seems to have favored the development of its characteristic qualities. The crop was something enormous and the berries the largest of any I ever saw; There was no trouble with the white tips. Some of the best berries measured five and a quarter inches in circumference. Its season lasted over a month and held its size longer