

The *St. Catharines Times* says that the peach trees all around St. Catharines, and throughout the Niagara district generally, are entirely uninjured after the Winter. The fruit buds are fresh and green, and if the blossoms are not cut off by frosts in May, there will be a heavy crop of peaches. Cherries, pears, apples and grapes, and indeed all kinds of fruit, promise a most abundant yield the coming season.

Frederick G. Pratt in an essay on the strawberry read before the Concord Farmers' Club, says that the different varieties of strawberries require different soils. Thus the Hovey, originating in a heavy clay soil, has always done best on the clayey lands about Boston. The Agriculturist, starting from light sandy soil gives its best results from such light land, and so will all varieties each having some favorite soil.

The Northern Spy apple blossoms later in the season than most varieties, and on this account escapes frosts which often destroy the fruit of earlier sorts. The fruit is borne on spurs interspersed through the tree, and therefore is less liable to be blown off by the winds than those apples which are set on the extremities of the branches. The quality of the fruit is very good, and it retains its flavor until late in the Spring.

A correspondent of the *Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle* says that the best way to renovate old apple trees is to commence with a good pruning, then scrape off all loose bark and moss; give the tree a longitudinal incision through the bark; wash the whole with a strong solution of soap and water with lime added, and give a good working out with a digging fork around the roots as far as they extend. Spread lime and ashes broadcast around the tree.

A correspondent of the *Southern Cultivator* says that in planting a vineyard, the selection of a site is of the greatest importance. A slight declivity is desirable, with open or under drains to carry off the superabundant water, and to prevent washing. Shelters are also of vast importance, intermediate hill-belts of timber, or double rows of evergreens or deciduous trees, to break the force of dry and cold chilling winds, to prevent too rapid evaporation, and to keep vines as far as possible from all disturbing influences.

A correspondent of the *Southern Cultivator* says that Downing, Westbrook, and others recommend to train fruit trees low—say from 18 inches to 3 feet high. He has followed this advice for nine years, and his orchard is nearly a failure. His trees were planted in 1860 in holes two feet deep, six feet in diameter, filled partly woodsmould, swamp rakings and lot manure. These trees grew and flourished for three years, then the borer attacked them, and no effort of his could save them. One-third of them died before they reached their seventh year. The peaches rotted and fell to the ground before ripening. His apple trees failed in a similar way. He intends to train about five feet high in future.

A NEW GRAPE DISEASE IN FRANCE.—M. Bazzille presented a memoir to the French Academy on August 3rd, detailing a new disease which he says is likely to prove more disastrous than the famous vine mildew. This new enemy is not a fungus, but a minute *aphide*, which he calls a *Rhizobius*, and which forms yellow parasite patches on the roots of the grape vine.

HOW TO GROW LARGE POTATOES.—The *North British Agriculturist* says:—"To improve the size of potatoes, whether planted with small or large, whole, or even cut potatoes, when the plants are only a few inches high, let the shoots be reduced by pulling them up to one or two, or at most three of the strongest. The tubers will consequently be fewer and very much larger, also in measure nearly all fit for market and the table.

THE EUROPEAN LARCH.—A correspondent of the *Prairie Farmer* writes as follows, about this tree and its propagation:

"The European Larch is much more valuable than our native species, and will thrive well on a dry soil and sandy barrens, and is adapted to nearly all soils and climates, being a perfectly hardy tree. Its foliage is a light green, resembling the evergreen.

"It should be planted very young, or quite small, to do well, and very early in the spring, on account of the buds starting early.

"If the young trees are ordered from a distance, it should be in time to have them set as they can be taken up.

"Its seeds are small, and should be sown in winter or early in the spring, in boxes or beds, of light sandy soil, over a quarter of an inch; keep carefully moist and shaded, not exposing the young plants to the hot sun.

"In a couple of years transplant."

PARLOR PLANTS.—The *Journal of Horticulture* says that some plants will do well in rooms that will not flourish in the hot-house, and that such as will thrive in parlors are highly prized. He says that house plants suffer greatly from dust which chokes its lungs—the leaves serving the function of breathing. This can be remedied by frequently sponging or showering the plants. As to watering, the *Journal* says:

In every case where water is applied to a plant, either at root or branches, it should be of the temperature of the room where the plant grows. Rain water is preferable to any other; and where hard water only can be obtained, it should be allowed to stand some hours before being applied to the plants. In sponging plants that are very dusty, lukewarm water may be used to advantage, but after the operation, a good showering of cold water should be given. The soil used should be much the same for all window plants, and may be generally described as good garden loam.