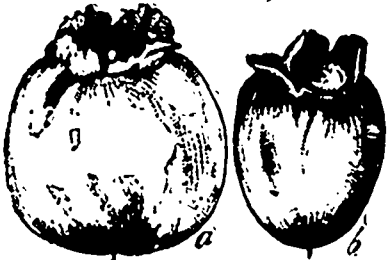


Large and Small Fruits.

A NEGLECTED NATIVE FRUIT.

The persimmon is one of our native wild fruits which is susceptible to great improvement by proper selection and cross fertilization. It is a southern fruit, hardy as far north as New York, but is little known outside of its native belt and not given much attention there as regards cultivation. The fruit, which varies much in size and firmness, ripens from Aug to Dec, and until



TWO NATIVE PERSIMMONS.

thoroughly ripe is very astringent or puckery, but after ripening it is the sweetest of our native fruits, containing 20 per cent of sugar as against 12 for apples, 11 for cherries, 9 for oranges and 5½ for strawberries.

It has generally been supposed that frost is needed to ripen them, but such is not the case for all varieties, for the early sorts are ripe and gone long before frost appears. The native sorts are from ½ to 2 inches in diameter, contain usually from four to eight seeds and vary greatly in shape, as shown by the illustration. The Japanese kinds are larger, heavier and contain fewer seeds, but are less sweet. The trees, in the open, grow not over 40 ft high and are self-fertile, although a few male trees are found which bear no fruit. Varieties do not come true from seed and resource must be had to grafting or budding which is easily done. Owing to a long tap root, the seedling trees are not easily transplanted except when under two years old. They come into bearing from 3 to 5 yrs from the graft.

Persimmons do well on almost any soil, but best, however, on locations similar to that demanded by the peach and plum. They draw rather more heavily upon the fertility of the soil than most other fruits, but send their roots so deeply that they thrive on the poorest soils. The fruit has been greatly improved in Japan, where it ranges in size from 8 to 20 oz and holds relatively the same position that the apple does in the U. S. They are little known in the northern markets but a profitable demand could easily be created by shipping only the choicest varieties. Marion, a native persimmon which was found in Mo. is shown at a, and Golden Gem, a variety of Ind origin, at b. The Marion ripens in Oct, the Golden Gem in Aug and lasts for six weeks.

A Mulch for a Strawberry Bed in a windy location has the four-fold benefit of protecting crowns from freezing and thawing, holds back the buds from late spring frosts, keeps the fruit from getting sandied during rain storms and while keeping down weeds retains the

How to Grow Good Fruit.

The superintendent of the Lenox sprayer company of Pittsfield, Mass. has delivered an address before the Lenox horticultural society at Lenox, Mass. The address bore chiefly upon spraying and general culture of orchard and field crops, how to do it, do it cheaply and good, and how to obtain the most profit from your labor in the easiest manner. The address is quite lengthy, about an hour's talk. Owing to other matters ahead of it we cannot publish it in this issue. Had this address been placed on the market in book form it no doubt would have sold at a good price. The full address, profusely illustrated, in pamphlet form, was intended to be sent to fruit growers and owners of estates, free for the asking, but to prevent imposition by the curious and disinterested, the book will be sent complimentary to anyone inclosing 10 cents for postage to the Lenox sprayer company, 21 West street, Pittsfield, Mass.—[Adv.]

moisture during a dry time. But the mulch must be loosened in the spring, to let the plants push through, else if not smothered entirely they will be retarded.—[Mary E. Cutler, Worcester Co, Mass.]

Catawbas in April—Some good Catawba grapes have been carried in cold storage throughout the entire winter in N Y and O. Demand fair but not important, as consumers fail to appreciate the novelty of grapes so late in the season.

The Currant Stem Girdler cuts off the new growth of currant stems and then lays an egg in the pith. To hold in check, trim off and burn all girdled canes 2 in or more below the point of injury as soon as the girdling is noticed. The egg, deposited an inch below the girdling, will then be destroyed.

If your orchard consists of a lot of undesirable varieties, top-graft with sorts proved to be hardy, long-keeping and salable.

The prudent man builds his grandest successes on the foundation of ruinous failures.

If farmers would do more thinking and a little less hard work, they might better their condition.—[O. L. Briggs.]

Top grafting on Wealthy or Duchess is not to be recommended, as growth is too slow.—[Prof McCoun, Ont.]

Burpee Seeds

are the most popular

They are sent out only in sealed packages from the New Burpee Building, Philadelphia. A postal card application will bring

Burpee's Farm Annual for 1900

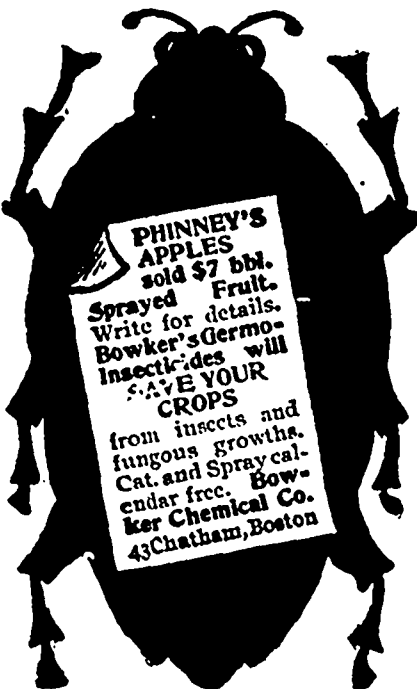
which tells all about the Best Seeds that Grow, as tested at Fordhook Farms, the largest trial grounds in America.

No matter how many other seed catalogues you may have, you cannot be thoroughly posted without Burpee's. Write TO-DAY. Address simply **BURPEE, Philadelphia.**

GREGORY'S SEEDS. For 40 years the favorite with practical gardeners and florists. The new 1900 catalogue describes all varieties. Send for it. J. J. GREGORY & SON, Marlborough, Mass.

PEAR POSSIBILITIES are only fully realized by those who plant our **Standard Kiefor Pears.**

Each is renowned for vigor and rapid growth and absolute freedom from disease, etc. The pear is enormously productive, large size, fine flavor and handsome appearance. A good seller. Trees are free from light ripening late. Our stock is the best the growers' sit can produce. **HARRISON'S NURSERY, Box 27, Berlin, Md.**



BRADLEY'S FERTILIZERS



Always grow splendid crops of even-sized potatoes, which are free from rot and scab.

They may be used with or without stable manure with perfect success.

WE SAVE YOU MONEY ON FERTILIZERS.

Buy your fertilizers Direct at Wholesale Prices, and get your money's worth.

SPECIAL OFFER TO CLUB PROMOTERS.

WRITE FOR PRICES, SAMPLES AND PAMPHLET.

WALKER, STRATMAN & COMPANY, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Agricultural Drain Tile

made by JOHN H. JACKSON, A. BANY, N. Y., are the very best that long experience, thorough equipment and superior clay will produce. Tiled drained land is the earliest, easiest worked and most productive. Make also Sewer Pipe, Chimney Tops, Red and Fire Brick, Oven Tile and Supply Mortar Colors, Cement, Plaster, Lime, etc. Write for what you want. 773 Third Ave.

NEW STRAWBERRY "ROUGH RIDER" LEADS ALL

It is the firmest, latest and best-keeping strawberry yet introduced. Extremely large, immensely productive. Sold at 50¢ per qt wholesale season of 1900. Endorsed by best authorities. Write the introducers. Send 10¢ for 6 months subscription to FARMERS FRUIT FARMER. Catalog free. L. J. FARMER, Box 15 Palaski, N.Y.

Buy direct from the grower Apples, Pears, Peaches, Plums, Blackberry & Raspberry Plants.

Full line of nursery stock. Certificate. Catalogue free. **ARTHUR J. COLLINS, Moorestown, N. J.**

Success Weeder and Surface Cultivator

The opinion of farmers who have tested it:



"You appear to be the most liberal manufacturer we have ever dealt with. This is the third year we have used the Success Weeder. We used it for corn, potatoes, tomatoes, cabbage, etc., with wonderful results. We had a good two-horse cultivator at the time we bought the weeder, but have not used the cultivator since, as one small horse and the weeder will do more and better work than two teams and cultivators."

J. E. GRAY & SON, Youngstown, O.

Surface cultivation will average 50 per cent. better returns than the old way. Let us tell you all about it.

O. Y. HALLOCK & SONS, Box 311, York, Pa.