

The New Cherry—The Early Rivers

Linus Woolverton, Grimsby, Ont.

Among the many novelties furnished me for testing while I was doing experimental work in fruits for the Ontario Department of Agriculture, there was one new variety of cherry, recently originated by Thomas Rivers, the celebrated nurseryman of Sawbridgeworth, in Hertfordshire, England. I had almost forgotten the high value set upon this cherry by Mr. Rivers, until one day this month (June 15th) when walking through the cherry plot, I was attracted by three trees of remarkably fine looking fruit. On looking up my records I found that they were the Early Rivers, planted in 1904. As I sampled them I thought to myself, "No wonder Mr. Rivers gave the cherry his own name; he may well be proud of it."

Here is a cherry beginning to ripen about the middle of June out of doors in Canada, fit for use along with our Early Purple, and superior to it, and continuing in season for a month, according to Mr. Rivers. At first it is a rich dark red in color, but it becomes darker and darker the longer it hangs on the tree.

Of course, my remarks on the value of this cherry for Ontario must be taken "cum grano salis," until it has been longer under test; but from its showing this season, I should expect it to become a very valuable commercial sort for us. It appears to be resistant to monilia rot, it is plump and roundish, heart-shaped in form, the stems are long, an inch and a half, and hang in clusters, making them easy to gather, and the pits are very small.

The largest samples I have grown this year measure scarcely one inch across, but have not yet swelled to their fullest size. I may report further about it later, for the cherry may develop faults that do not yet appear. It should be tested on a larger scale than I have done before we can advise our growers to buy it, especially at the extravagant price asked for it. In 1904, I think the price was a guinea.

Summer Pruning

Among horticulturists the summer pruning of fruit trees has become a common practice. If it is done judiciously the plants are sure to be benefited.

The well managed fruit garden requires very little trimming at any season of the year, and the work can probably be more advantageously done now than during the early spring. Neglected trees often require the removal of very large limbs, and the thinning out of numerous interlocking branches. Such extensive pruning in summer would be a disadvantage to the trees. Peach and plum trees



Gathering Elberta Peaches in the Orchard of J. W. Smith & Sons Winona, Ont.

The trees in this orchard averaged ten baskets of peaches each. The ground is a deep, black earth. The trees have never failed to give a crop since they were planted four years ago. Mr. Smith likes the type of ladder here shown they being strong, light and durable. They are three legged and can be stood on any kind of a hill without toppling over.

have a habit of making a rank growth, and if this is not checked, the plants tend toward wood rather than fruit. Cutting back the leading shoots immediately has a tendency to throw young trees into earlier bearing.

The black knot appears on plum trees at this season, and should be cut out in its earlier stages. At first it appears as a swelling of the branch. Later it bursts through the bark, and shows a greenish color, which next turns to brown, and then black. Remove and burn all suspicious looking branches.

Apple and pear trees should have all interfering branches cut away, and all diseased or dead wood removed. Do not, however, cut off large limbs from these trees at this time. Dwarf fruit trees should have some of the more rapid growing shoots pinched back to make them acquire the desired form, and to keep them within bounds. Trained fruit trees need constant attention to prevent the side shoots and fruit spurs from developing wood. Allow the leading shoots to grow. The plants are sustained principally through these branches.

Grape vines growing in rich soil often run to vine and leaves, and if they are not summer pruned the fruit is of an inferior quality and quantity. Check the wood growth by cutting back the leading shoots and remove some of the rank foliage that prevents the sunlight from gaining admittance to the fruit. All summer pruning should be done now if it has not been accomplished before.

Peach Growing and Diseases of the Peach

A. G. Pettit, Grimsby, Ont.

After procuring the best soil possible, the three most essential things for growing peach trees are manure, cultivation and pruning. The best soil is deep, sandy loam. I have never seen a success in growing peach trees on a shallow soil, or on land that has water close to the surface. You can underdrain such land, and grow good crops of grain, but to grow peach trees on the same land, about the fourth year, the fibres from the roots will completely fill up the tiles. Then look out for dead trees. I have had as many as ten or twelve trees killed adjoining an underdrain. I have taken out the trees, and used the land for other crops.

PREPARATION OF THE SOIL

In the preparation of the soil for planting, do as you would in preparing land for a crop of corn. After it is marked, my method is, use a board with a hole in each end and a notch twelve inches from the centre. This does away with sighting.

For preparing trees for planting, cut off broken roots, shorten long ones, and I prefer to trim trees after planting. I also, prefer to have the stocks of trees from two and a half to three feet long. Some make objection to this and say that one foot to one and one-half feet is the correct thing. We shall leave this for growers to decide. If the branches come out close together at the right