

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

CAP RASPBERRIES.

The imported methods of drying fruits, and the ready market for dried berries, have given a new impetus to the culture of Cap Raspberries, or Thimble-berries, as properly they ought to be called. This classifying two so distinct species under one name has always been productive of considerable confusion, yet, as they were so denominated by our forefathers, Thimble-berries will no doubt be called Black-cap Raspberries to the end of time.

In the early history of small-fruit culture, Cap Raspberries figured prominently, and many varieties, all chance seedlings, were introduced and cultivated; but from disease and other causes most of them have become deteriorated and unreliable, creating a demand for reliable new varieties, which seems in a fair way of becoming satisfied. The following varieties are among the most promising recent introductions:

Hoosier Mammoth is evidently a seedling of the old Mammoth Cluster, and is in no way superior to it, unless it be that it is less subject to the casualties which impair the value of the latter.

Florence.—This is a large yellow or buff variety, and were it not that the so-called yellow varieties are not popular, and not in demand in the markets, would be eagerly sought after. It is almost as large as the Gregg, of strong growth, excessively prolific, and entirely hardy. It ripens in mid-season to late, and is of sweet and pleasant flavour. A dish of this and the Gregg, nicely mixed, is a most appetizing sight to all who are fond of Cap Raspberries.

Hopkins originated in Missouri, and promises to be of great value. According to an excellent authority from the State of its origin, it is as large as the Gregg, decidedly hardier, and even more productive.

Gregg.—In congenial soil, and under proper treatment, this is, perhaps, the largest raspberry of its class that has as yet been produced. Much disappointment has been encountered with this variety by planting it upon thin, light soil, where most Cap varieties succeed. The Gregg Raspberry, like the Strawberry, delights in a deep, rich, cool soil, and is so critical in this respect that it frequently refuses to respond in the least to any amount of coaxing on almost any other, and proves an utter failure upon sand. It is extra large, jet black, with a decided bloom, and, although quite good, yet not of the highest quality, being somewhat dry and meaty. In time of ripening it is a little later than the well-known Mammoth Cluster, hence late to very late. Very productive (when grown on congenial soil, and with thorough culture); and although exempt from the diseases that attack the Mammoth, and free from its weaknesses, it is not quite as hardy as that fine old kind. However, taken all in all, it is a variety of great value, and worthy of a place in all gardens suited to its culture.

Souhegan is just what everyone interested in Cap Raspberries has long been looking for: to wit, a good early variety. It has steadily, and entirely upon its own merits, made itself known, and really leaves but little to be de-

sired as an early Black-cap, either for market or the home garden. Of first importance is, that it succeeds on both light and heavy soils, and in productiveness it is simply wonderful, being, without exception, the most prolific variety of the productive Cap Raspberries that has yet come under my notice. In hardness it appears to be "iron-clad," having stood twenty degrees below zero without injury, when all others in the same plantation were killed to the ground, and is very early, ripening about a week earlier than Doolittle. It is of fair size, juicy, sweet, and rich, and, what adds much to its value as a market berry, shining jet black, without bloom.—*J. T. Lovett, in American Garden.*

KEROSENE FOR BORERS.

The following is told by one who has had some years of experience in caring for the orchards: Several of my apple trees died in one year; I did not know what caused them to do so. The next year I found it was the work of "borers" around the roots of the trees, and I had them dug out; but they soon returned, and I again had them dug out, and dug out the third time, until the trees, which were very much injured by them and the digging out process, began to show very marked signs of lack of thrift. It was plain the trees would die by this treatment, and I concluded to try another method, and so made a free application of kerosene oil, being sure to get it well into the holes. This did the work. The trees came forward and did splendidly, and I never intend to be troubled by "borers," nor lose any of my apple trees again by them. The above was a discovery by myself; still it may not be new, but it will be well at least to give it to the public, as it may do good. I have told several persons who were troubled the same as I was of the kerosene; they have used it and pronounced it first-rate.—*Maine Farmer.*

IMPROVED FRUITS.

President Wilder, in a recent address before the American Pomological Society at Boston, said:—

"Few are aware of the great benefits which have resulted from discussions of the merits of the many new varieties of fruits which are continually being brought to notice, recommending only those of promise, and discarding hundreds of kinds which would be otherwise imposed on the public as valuable sorts. Formerly it took many years to test the merits and adaptation of fruits to our several locations. We hail with pleasure the widespread interest now manifested in hybridization. The process is simple, whether by the air, insects, or the hand of man, and we have only to have due regard to the characteristics of the parents from which we breed.

"How potent the influence of this art! Little did Mr. Bull think what a blessing he was conferring on the world when he sowed the seed which produced the Concord grape—the mother of many improved varieties. See the number of white varieties which have been produced mostly from this: the Martha, Lady, Pocklington, Lady Washington, Hayes, Ann Arbor, Prentiss, Duchess, and Niagara. Plant the most mature and perfect seeds of

the most hardy, vigorous, and valuable varieties; and as a shorter process, insuring more certain and happy results, cross or hybridize your best fruits."

"From the sour crab, the puckery pear, the bitter almond, and the austere plum came the tender spicy apple, the melting juicy pear, the velvety, luscious peach, the delicious purple or golden plum, and from our rank foxy grape came the splendid varieties which now adorn our tables and 'make glad the heart of man.'"

"I have placed the grape first in our roll. No other fruit, unless it be the strawberry, now attracting so much attention, and perhaps no other, if we except the apple, is of more importance as a source of revenue, or an article of luxury for our tables. No other country possesses such a vast extent of territory, or possibilities for its successful culture, and in no other section of the globe is there, at the present time, such encouragement offered.

"The progress of American Pomology, rural economy, domestic comfort, and cultivated taste, which has been developed by our association, will continue its glorious march until all shall realize that fruits are one of the most beautiful emblems of Divine beneficence—one of the most perfect and useful gifts of God to man."

It cost \$75 in California to prepare an acre of land and grow grape-vines to the period of production.

By deep ploughing I have known men to find gold. It is quite commonly found among berry bushes—elbow grease attracts it.

A FEW years ago caterpillars devastated the Maine apple orchards. Since that time the trees have regularly borne in what are elsewhere off years. This year the crop is heavy, and brings high prices.

MR. W. D. PHILBRICK makes, in the *N. E. Farmer*, these suggestions about hot-beds:—"Most of the books and almanacs advise using two or three feet of manure; eight to twelve inches is all the best gardeners need. The manure should be freshly-made horse dung with a good deal of strawy litter. One-third by bulk of cow manure to two-thirds leaves, piled up in alternate layers, six inches deep, four or five feet high, will heat up in a few days so as to answer very well. More of this sort of heat will be required than of horse dung, but there is as much danger from using too much as too little. A little experience will soon teach one how to make a hot-bed with such material as may be at hand. The depth of loam spread upon the manure should be about six to ten inches, and for a seed-bed it should be about one-third sand, the rest rich compost. The more depth of loam is used the less need there will be to water often, and the less the heat of the manure will be felt at the surface, where the seed is: therefore, for hardy seeds such as cabbage, lettuce and radishes, we use less heat and more loam, and for the tender seeds of tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, etc., more heat and less loam. The season of the year also has much to do with the amount of heat required. Twice as much is needed in February as in April to do the same work, on account of the milder weather and greater assistance the sun gives us."