

little too tart for table use until it is thoroughly ripe and mellow, it can not be surpassed in its season for cooking. It comes into use in September, just after the "Red Astrachan" are gone, and fills a place in our early autumn apples not occupied by any other. The fruit is large, handsome, showy, commanding a ready sale in any market. As it does not keep long, we can not advise any one to plant it largely for market, but a certain quantity will always find willing purchasers, attracted both by the pleasing appearance of the fruit, and its excellent cooking qualities. The tree is very hardy, enduring triumphantly the cold of even the far north-west, and bears young and most abundantly. The fruit is of a very uniform size and remarkably free from blemishes. We strongly advise every planter to set out a few trees of this variety, believing it will give great satisfaction in all parts of the country.

We have now named six of our best and most valuable early ripening sorts. Those who reside in the more favorable apple growing districts will find that the Early Harvest, Red Astrachan, Sweet Bough and Duchess of Oldenburg, will keep a family well supplied with apples from the latter part of July to the middle of September. In some places it may be necessary to plant the "Tetofsky" instead of the "Early Harvest," and some may wish to plant the "Benoni," in order more perfectly to fill out the supply between the "Red Astrachan" and "Duchess of Oldenburg;" but whoever plants a tree or two of each of these six, will surely have no lack of fruit during this part of the year.

THE FRUIT GARDEN.

Profits of Strawberry Raising.

Writing to the *Cleveland Herald*, F. R. Elliott says that the strawberry crop in and around the vicinity of Cleveland has been one of great abundance, but by reason of the drought it has been of short duration. The cost of raising strawberries, according to the best of his information, is about sixty cents per bushel for labor of cultivation and interest on value of land, that is, provided the crop is a good one. Drought, excessive rains, frosts, etc., etc., affect the chances of a good crop, and the strawberry grower occasionally goes under, pecuniarily. The cost of picking he puts down at sixty-six cents per bushel, marketing at thirty cents, making a total of one dollar and fifty-six cents per bushel as the actual cost of growing, picking, and marketing a bushel of strawberries. The prices ranged this year, during the first week, from seven down to four dollars per bushel, but on one day an excessive supply was thrown on the market which brought prices down to an average of two and a half dollars. After that day the supply fell off, and prices rose, but only those whose plants were on a deep, rich, loamy soil were benefitted by the rise in price. Those whose plants were on sandy soil, or strong clay, were unable to pick at any profit, owing to the severe drouth. It will be seen from this that the margin of profit, according to Mr. Elliott's figures, was ninety-four cents per bushel at the time of greatest supply.

The Picking and Marketing of Raspberries.

There are many little things about picking and marketing raspberries, that are learned by experience, which it would be to the advantage of the novice to know. We would prefer women, or nearly full-grown girls, for pickers. Small children can not overlook the tops of bushes, and will be liable to miss some of the berries, besides they do not sufficiently value time.

It is quite important that when the canes are picked over they shall be picked clean, as it will be days before they will be picked again, and those missed will very likely be injured. A few mouldy or rotten berries in a box will soon spoil the entire box, and injure the flavor of the other boxes in the crate. Small children, and especially boys, are not apt to be conscientious about picking clean.

We usually pay two cents per box for picking raspberries, and we generally manage so as to have them thick enough to enable the pickers to make good wages at such rates. In order to insure this, we pick about one-third of the plantation every day, and that allows the berries three days to ripen in, before they are picked again.

The foreman should insist that the pickers fill every box full by picking into it, and not to partially fill them when picking, and then complete the filling when removing them into the crate, by pouring from one into another. The latter course not only muddies the berries, but leaves them so loosened up in the boxes, that when they come to settle the boxes are not well filled.

When picking to supply a home market, it is well to take them in about four o'clock, that customers may have them fresh for tea. If desirable to have the pickers pick all day, those picked in the latter part of the afternoon can be put into a cool cellar, and taken into market early in the morning. We are of the opinion that even black raspberries will command a price this year that will make them remunerative, and that those who are properly situated and constituted may engage in the business of small fruit growing, with a fair prospect of finding it a paying business in the future. *Rural Home.*

The Purple Beech and Filbert.

Form, lines of grace and curves of beauty arrest attention; but color fills the eye and gratifies the senses. Garden scenery is brightened immensely by means of color. The leaves of the new-born summer, the matured ones of autumn—how much they owe to delicate and multitudinous coloring! But for fresh tenderness of touch, that neither painting nor word-coloring can reproduce, commend us to the luring buds of April—the newly unrolled beauty of May leaves. Among these, what more beautiful than the Beech and the purple leaved Filbert? There are two or more varieties, of each, one larger and of more substance than the other. In fact, of the Beech there are many varieties, for the red reproduces itself from seed, and in a batch of seedlings there are tints of many degrees, ranging from dull greens to those of almost fiery glow. We have, however, never yet seen a seedling to equal in brilliancy the common variety, which is mostly increased by grafting it on the common Beech; and another with larger leaves, that keeps its color later in the autumn. But purple Filberts are easily multiplied by means of suckers—a mode of increase not always to be depended upon in purple Beeches on their own roots. Beeches seldom produce suckers, yet they occasionally throw little bunches up from the surface roots, and I have seen these green on purple seedlings, and purple on grafted plants—rather a singular circumstance. The Filbert is also so fully purpled over and through that we never remember to have seen it throw out a green sucker. It is most useful in shrubberies, contrasting admirably with such plants as lilacs, laburnums, guelder roses, deutzias, &c. It seems actually to glow with the intensity of its coloring, and is to the fore and middle ground of shrubberies what the taller Beech is among other trees. The Beech has a soft fluidness and semi-transparency about it that the Filbert, glorious as it is, lacks; and the richest coloring treatment—a very feast of glowing magnificence—is spread around every far-reaching purple Beech. One of the best modes of enjoying it to the full is to put the trees between the beholder and the sun, and look through the leaves towards him soon after he has risen, or a few hours before his setting. The purple is thus flooded with golden magnificence, and each leaf and branchlet is set off to admirable advantage. Purple Beeches are especially rich as foreground to masses of green oaks, elms, or other deciduous trees; or set against larches, birches, or limes, the light foliage of these or the flowers of service trees, wild crabs, pears, apples, &c., give a deep tone to the glowing purple. Further, the young leaves especially, contrast admirably with most conifers; though it must be admitted that the darker hues of the purple Beech in autumn become too sombre accompaniments for most pines. The place for the purple Beech is the background of shrubberies, home plantations, belts, the park, and even the woods and forests; for the purple Beech is not weakened by its color. It grows as fast, and forms timber neither better nor worse than any other any other Beech, and assuredly its more general use would give a glow to forest scenery that would add much to its beauty, and to the breaking of its dead monotony of color as well as form. Clumps of purple Beech here and there would change the face of our landscapes, and render them more agreeable without their being one whit less profitable. What with our want of direct sunshine, and our dripping clouds, and leaden skies, we have often a deficiency

of cheering color, and there could hardly be an easier and cheaper method of supplying this want than the planting of our copses with groups of purple-leaved Filberts, and our woods with purple Beeches.—*The Gardener.*

Cultivation of Nut Trees.

Little attention has thus far been given, says the *Oncida Circular*, in this country, to the cultivation of nut-bearing trees. It is, however, said by some, that the yield of nut orchards in nuts and lumber would pay a good percentage on the capital invested in them, especially if the trees were planted on rough, hilly land, not suitable for meadow and the production of crops requiring much hand culture.

For the purpose of showing that those who may engage in the enterprise will not necessarily have to wait a lifetime in order to see the fruits of their labor, I will state a few facts in regard to an experiment on a small scale. Eighteen years ago, one dozen trees each of the hickory nut and the black walnut of moderate size were obtained from a nursery. The trees were mostly set out by the road side, in rather a hard, gravelly soil. They received no culture, and for a year or two success seemed doubtful. However, all but one survived, and finally became established. The hickory trees have grown nuts for the past two years. One tree, a year ago, produced three and a half barrels of nuts, as they came from the tree. The trunks of some of these trees measure one foot in diameter near the ground.

About the same time that these trees were set out, some chestnuts were planted in the seed bed. From these, trees have been produced that have borne nuts the past two years, making about sixteen years from the seed to the bearing state. But it is by no means necessary to wait even this length of time for results; trees can now be obtained at the nurseries by the thousand, of suitable size for planting. These if the work has not already been done, may be grafted, taking scions from trees that are known to produce the largest and finest nuts. This process would considerably shorten the time before bearing, also secure the all-important end of producing the most valuable nuts.

Now as to the market value of nuts:—It is known that the price of edible nuts has steadily increased as they became more and more scarce, until at the present time our native chestnuts sometimes bring in the market the sum of ten and twelve dollars a bushel; hickory nuts, four dollars, while Spanish chestnuts, I am told, are worth from fifteen to eighteen dollars a bushel. The latter variety may also be grafted on our native stock if desirable. It is not as hardy as our native chestnut, and would require the advantage of more favored localities.

Treatment of Raspberry Bushes.

Raspberries are, perhaps, more liable to suffer from lack of moisture than from any other cause. They like a soil, therefore, which can be made just before and during the fruiting season, to contain a permanency of rain, or irrigation, without too much stagnation. They will, for the above reason, succeed pretty well in a half-shaded situation; but the fruit in that case never attains that high flavor, so much esteemed in the raspberry. We have, it is true, some highly improved kinds of the raspberry at present in cultivation. The *Fastolf* is a very fine fruit which has long bearing properties, for it continues longer in bearing than the *Red Antwerp*; appearing to partake in some degree of the double bearing, or *Everbearing Ohio*. Those who desire raspberries as late as possible, should prune some of the canes back, to later eyes, or buds, after the bushes have sprouted an inch or two. This forces them to sprout lower down the stem. Of course the latest raspberries like liberal manurings; indeed they should have a little annually, and no digging over the roots should be permitted.

The raspberry is of a prodigiously prolific character. We have in many cases a score or more of suckers, where only five are ultimately required. Those suckers must be understood to be robbers in a certain sense. Our readers may rely upon it, that every sucker, detracts, not so much from the parent stock immediately, but from the virtues of the soil, or compost around the original stem. Therefore, let everyone who can spare time pull away every sucker not wanted, the moment they can fairly handle them, and they may rest assured that they are removing what would ultimately detract from the fruitful bush.

The soil should be that of a strong loamy character—a darkish colored soil, rather greasy after rain.—*Rural Press.*