

THE
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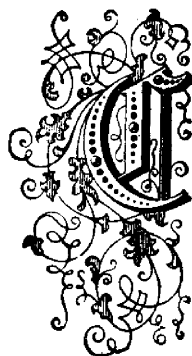
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THE WILDER GRAPE.



VERY year it is becoming more and more a question with the fruit growers, which he should rank first in importance, quality or productiveness, when he is planting for profit. The Concord grape for instance, is one of the most productive varieties that grows, but its quality is second-rate, and consequently the market price is every year tending downwards. Last year many growers had to content themselves with $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents a pound, a very low figure in consideration of the care of the vineyard, the trellising, harvesting, and purchase of baskets. Should this tendency continue, there will soon be no profit at all in growing such varieties. But with grapes of such excellent size and quality as the Wilder, there is no danger of low and unremunerative prices. By common consent this grape is counted one of the most showy of American out-door black grapes, for exhibition purposes, and one of the best for dessert purposes.

At Maplehurst this grape has not been largely planted for market, because it is somewhat subject to mildew and rot, and is not always productive. But since we have learned so well the benefit of using copper sulphate in our vineyards to destroy the fungi, there is no reason why we should not henceforth plant this variety more freely. To get the best results it should be trained on the renewal system, having two arms of old wood on the first or lower wire, and training the young growth upward. Every year the alternate uprights are to be cut out to the bud nearest the old wood, and those left will bear freely.

The Wilder, or Rogers' No. 4, was raised by Mr. E. S. Rogers, of Salem,