

Maplehurst on a dwarf tree, is very favorable.

**Fruit**, above medium size, irregular obovate; skin pale green at harvesting time, yellowing somewhat toward maturity, with numerous russet dots, russet patches around the stem and calyx and often a brownish check. Stem, about one inch long, stout, swollen at base, set in a narrow, deep cavity; calyx small, closed, set in a much

plaited basin of moderate depth. Flesh: color white, texture fine, melting and juicy; flavor, sweet and agreeable.

**Season**—January to May, under ordinary conditions.

**Quality**—Dessert, good.

**Value**—Export, good.

**Adaptation**—Southern parts of the province.

## CHOICE VARIETIES OF GOOSEBERRIES.

BY STANLEY SPILLETT, FRUIT STATION, NANTYRE.

**The Question.**—*What variety or varieties of gooseberries do you advise one to plant for profit?*

This question has been asked more frequently than any other and is difficult to answer, but, as I have had quite an experience along this line, I will give, in as few words as possible, the conclusions I have come to.

The gooseberry is not a popular fruit and I am satisfied this unfavorable opinion arose from the custom of canning or preserving it green, as we did ourselves years ago.

Nine people out of ten will tell you they have no use for gooseberries. I have asked a good many why they put up their gooseberries green any more than their plums, and the only reason given was "the skin of the fruit becomes tough and disagreeable if allowed to get ripe." This is true of a good many of the foreign varieties but not of our own native varieties.

**Large vs. Small Berries.**—Growers often say if they were able to grow the large berries they would have no trouble in finding a market. I am certain this is an error; people do not buy the gooseberry because it is small or large, cheap or dear, but because they fancy they do not like it; but I have

never met a man yet who said he had no use for the gooseberry preserved, but who, if he ate it or was induced to buy a basket of ripe fruit, quickly changed his mind.

Fifteen years ago I sold 20 twelve quart baskets ripe to neighbors, mostly farmers. Three baskets went to Lefroy, one to each store and one to hotel. Every year since, these same people want to get their basket of ripe gooseberries, and the hotel, noted for its good table, takes 3 or 4 baskets. Nearly all these people put in their order a year ahead, for fear they will miss getting them.

Now many of these have tried the large varieties, but, in every case, have pronounced in favor of the medium sized berries such as Downing, Pearl and Red Jacket. One gentleman said "the big berry is no better than the medium berry, and most of our family say not so good, so the only advantage with the big berry is that it can be cleaned a little more quickly." Our own experience is just the same. Year before last we kept all our large berries for our own use; last year we sold the large and used Pearl and Red Jacket, and in our opinion the smaller berry is the nicer.

**Foreign Varieties.**—Of the fifty varieties sent to this station from England, fully 40