

LETTERS FROM RUSSIA—XIV.

Double Plum.

In the garden of Chernigov, there grows a very novel plum called the Double plum. It is made up of two halves, joined firmly together when the fruit is green, but, when ripe, easily separated. Two stones grow on one stalk; they are small, oblong, and cling to the flesh, which is orange colored, sweet and juicy, but not very excellent in flavor. The color of the plum is red, with a blue shade, and sometimes a yellow one is found. The plum ripens in September, but will hang on the tree until frost.

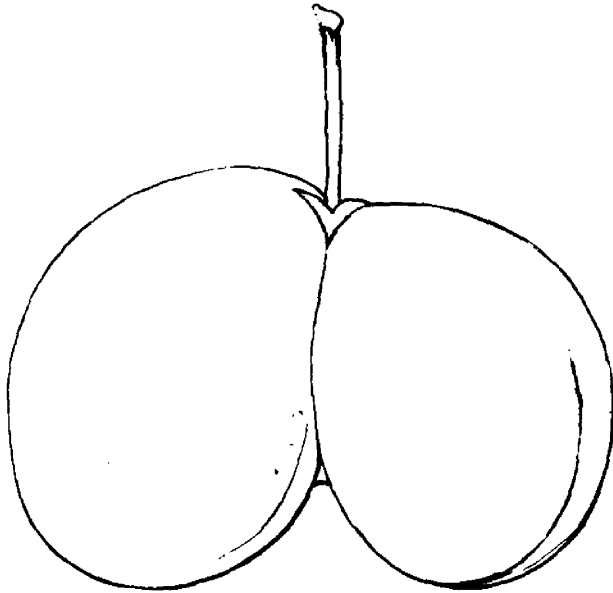


FIG. 541—DOUBLE PLUM.

The tree grows well and yields yearly crops, but is very tender and freezes north of Chernigov. The plums are not all double, some are single, but about seventy per cent. are double. The fruit is good both for table and cooking, and commands a good price in the markets on account of its peculiar shape. Fig. 541 represents its usual appearance, though sometimes it is larger.

New Crabs.

Prof. Shroeder, of Moscow, secured two very valuable hybrids by crossing several Russian garden apples with Siberian crabs. The first one he called Avenarius Hybrid. It is a little yellow apple with a red blush, long stalk,