

about 25 pounds. Each of the boxes weighs slightly under nine pounds. Girls are employed to do the packing. They pack from 60 to 100 boxes in a day in this manner.

Each box contains from 20 to 25 peaches, the number contained being stamped on the outside of the box. The ends have an attractive label pasted on, entitled "Canadian Grown Peaches." The paper in which the peaches are wrapped is also stamped "St. Catharines Cold Storage Co., Ontario, Canada."

LOADING THE CARS

Great care is taken in preparing and loading the cars. The bottom and sides of each car are slatted, and the crated boxes are placed in tiers seven high and six wide, and a space of about three inches left between each tier, and over every tier narrow strips are run across the car to keep them from moving. All these precautions are taken to ensure good ventilation between the packages. A car will hold almost 1,200 of these boxes, or 400 crates; but the shipment I am describing only contained 700.

The car is iced 12 hours before the fruit is placed in it, and the fruit itself is also pre-cooled. On the previous shipment to Montreal the temperature of the car never rose above 45°. A thermometer is also used on board ship, and the temperature is kept well down till within a day or two of landing, when it is allowed to gradually rise to the temperature of the outer air to avoid the condensation of moisture upon the fruit.

In shipping fruit long distances by car from California and elsewhere, pre-cooling of the fruit and the pre-icing of cars have been found to be of vital importance. The St. Catharines Company is wisely adopting similar methods.

This package would seem to me to be a very good one for the western trade. The St. Catharines Cold Storage Co. are, however, using a larger box for their trade, holding about 60 peaches, and weighing about 26 pounds. These boxes are in my opinion far superior to the Georgia carrier crate.

Mr. Dobson, the St. Catharines Cold Storage Company, and the Government officials already mentioned, are to be highly commended for the thorough and efficient way in which they are handling these shipments of fruit. The peaches are very carefully picked and handled previous to being packed in the boxes, the baskets in which they are picked being lined with excelsior. They are of the Elberta variety and are shipped as soon as they are slightly colored.

If fruit trees are kept well pruned they make stronger growth, distribute the fruit more evenly over the trees, the trees are more shapely, and less fruit is likely to be knocked off by the wind and the fruit is more easily picked.

Familiar Autumn Flowers*

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THE Golden Rod family, with its thirty-odd members, "all well defined," gild field and glen, on hillside and unfrequented wayside. By an expression of the choice of the people of the United States not many years ago, the Golden Rod was selected by an overwhelming majority as the representative American wild flower.

The botanical name of the cultivated aster, is from two Greek words, meaning beautiful crown. This popular flower comes to us from China and Japan. The Victoria is an old favorite, whose flowers in a great variety of colors, are soft-rayed and have a reflex curve. Truffaut's aster is incurved, and has a large range of colors. There is a quilled aster of German fame which has distinct needles. The Triumph is a variety with brilliant red flowers. One of the most beautiful newer varieties is the Comet. This is a flower with reflex curling rays of a singularly translucent quality of color. The white ones are particularly delicate and altogether lovely. There are many new varieties advertised in the florists' catalogues, but it will be found that they do not diverge greatly from the types above mentioned.

The garden Petunia gets its name from "petun," the aboriginal name for tobacco. It belongs to the night shade family, and is a near relative of common tobacco. The finest of all the petunias are called Giants of California. They are hybrids raised by a lady whose health demanded outdoor exercise in a warm, sunny climate. These flowers measure four or five inches across and possess exceedingly brilliant hues.

The Larkspur (Delphinium) comes variously from Europe, Siberia and China. It has a lovely spear of deep blue or purple or light ultramarine color, which gracefully waves to and fro in every passing zephyr.

The old fashioned hollyhock still holds its place in the modern garden, but the old single variety is being displaced by a double one which is as full as a Paul Neyron rose and quite as beautiful.

The Gladiolus has been much improved by hybridization so that the old red and pink varieties have been supplanted by an infinite number of brilliant-hued flowers, the finest of which have been produced by Mr. H. H. Groff, the eminent Canadian horticulturist of Simcoe, Ont. Everyone who has seen them can testify to their matchless beauty.

Phlox is the Greek name for fire, and, although all the phloxes are not fiery hued, there are many of them red enough to deserve the name. They are North American plants. The annual variety,

Phlox Drummondii, comes from Texas originally. The range of color in the Drummond phlox is extraordinary. There are cream, white, pale yellow, pale salmon pink, deep pink, crimson pink, magenta, purple, lilac, pure red and crimson. They begin to flower in June and about the last of October Jack Frost snatches the last lingering blossom. Phlox decussata, the perennial variety, is not quite as brilliant in coloring, but it is refined and delicate and has the advantage of permanency. The best hues are crimson, magenta and pink, with variations. The nurseries are offering long lists of named varieties, but the nomenclature will be found unreliable. The root of the perennial variety should be divided every second or third year.

The beautiful fringed gentian must ever remain associated with the poet Bryant, who has written such charming lines about it. To him it was the flower of hope which comes

"When shortening days portend
The aged year is near his end"

and with calm eye look through its fringes heavenward; and he thought it was as blue as the sky. But the blue of the flower is not as true as its expression of hopeful dependence. There is, indeed, a heavenly peace expressed by every one of its lines. The flower cups are opened and closed according to the brightness or dullness of the day. If a burst of sunshine occurs on a dull day the flower expands in a few minutes. It always closes at night, and it will not open the next day if the sun does not shine.

Nicotiana affinis is a sweet-scented, white-flowered tobacco which blooms in late summer. The peculiarity of this charming flower is that it opens about sunset, emits a faint perfume, and then, when broad daylight returns, looks limp.

A LATE BLOOMER

Cosmos is a beautiful white (or pale pink) annual which closely resembles coreopsis or the single dahlia in form and blooms in autumn. This dainty flower comes to us from Mexico and grows wild there as well as in Texas. The variety called Pearl is extensively cultivated by professional florists and is seen in great luxuriant clusters in their shop windows in the large cities. The Texan ladies who come north wonder why we value a flower which is a common weed in their native state. For us it is the last flower of autumn, excepting the chrysanthemum.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS

The chrysanthemum is an Oriental flower for which we are indebted to China and Japan. Indirectly some of the

*Continued from last issue.