

❖ Question Drawer. ❖

Best Early Potato.

881. Sir,—Can you name a first class early potato that is profitable to grow on rather heavy soil; mine is rich clay loam, I have grown Carman No. 2 and Carman No. 3, this season and they both did better with me than any potatoes I ever grew and very few rotted. It is a pleasure to dig such fine large potatoes.

A. F., *Ridgetown, Ont.*

Would our readers who have experience with potatoes please answer. We have had excellent satisfaction this year at Maplehurst, with Burpee's Early.

The Prairie Rose. (*Question 873.*)

882. Sir,—Is there not a slip of the pen in your reply to Mrs. Wanderwoort in your Oct. issue regarding "Wintering roses?" You give Prairie Queen as a native of many Western States. This rose commonly called Prairie Queen, is properly speaking the Queen of the Prairies produced by Messrs. Samuel and John Feast of Baltimore Md. in 1843. In 1836, they sowed seed of *Rosa setigera* which grows wild in the Western States, and is known as the Prairie Rose. Seedlings from this sowing were fertilized by surrounding flowers from some of the best garden roses, and from their product came Baltimore Belle, Queen of the Prairies. The latter is the hardier of the two, while considered hardy I find they do better with some protection.

W. C. EGAN. *Egandale, Highland Park, Ill.*

We thank Mr. Egan for his note on the Prairie Rose. The fact of the Queen of the Prairie being a seedling of the former, no doubt explains its hardiness. At Grimsby both it and Baltimore Belle are perfectly hardy.

Protecting Trees From Mice.

883. Sir,—I have about fifteen hundred young fruit trees planted here in new land that is yet stumpy, and, from last winter's experience, we expect that mice may do them considerable damage. I have thought of wrapping them with tarred paper or lath, or washing them with an emulsion of soap and carbolic acid. Will you kindly advise me the best way to protect the trees and, if you recommend a wash, please give formula.

C. E SMITH, *Wyebidge.*

The wash proposed by our subscriber would no doubt be effectual, but the application of tarred paper would be simpler and quite as effective. Our own practice at Maplehurst has always been to clear away all rubbish from the trunk of each tree and place a mound of fine earth, free from sods, around the trunk about ten or twelve inches high. This will save the trees from damage by mice and can be rapidly done with a sharp spade.