

✧ Question Drawer. ✧

We shall be glad to answer all questions relative to Horticulture, Floriculture, and Forestry, in these columns, but cannot undertake to send answers to such questions by mail.

Apple Growing.

988. SIR,—I am going into the growing of small fruits and apples. I have six acres of high level land for the apple—high level land, sandy loam, sandy subsoil. People tell me trees will do well for three or four years, then gradually die of starvation. Now if well fed from top manure, and sowing peas and clover, and plowing under, I think they should flourish. Kindly give your views. What varieties of winter apples would you advise me to plant? The thermometer sometimes goes down to 20° below zero.

J. L. LAIDLEY, *Omemee.*

No doubt the local experience is quite correct, that in such a soil, without the addition of much manure, or any special cultivation, apples would soon starve. But if moist and well drained, such soil might be suitable for an apple orchard, under certain treatment. A liberal annual application of wood ashes—about 50 bushels to the acre would have an excellent effect, not only supplying the needed potash, but also, tending to give greater compactness to the sand. This with plenty of barn manure, and ploughing under a leguminous crop should give success in apple growing.

As to varieties of winter apples, we can only suggest, for actual experiment is the only final means of answering the question. The following are excellent and probably hardy enough: Blenheim, Snow, MacIntosh, Wealthy, Ben Davis.

Ashes.

989. SIR,—Are ashes worth three cents a bushel good as a fertilizer for red and black cap raspberries, and are they good to use around trees and strawberries on sandy loam?

J. L. L.

Yes, they are worth 25 cents a bushel for sandy soil for any kind of fruit crop. At the price mentioned by enquirer, no

cheaper or better fertilizer could be purchased for sandy soil. On clay soils, however, ashes are objectionable, tending to make the soil more tenacious.

Carnations in Ontario.

990. SIR,—I am desirous of obtaining information respecting the growing of carnations in Ontario more particularly the latest and newest varieties and the amount of glass employed in growing them. For this information I have been referred to you, and I shall be glad if you can give me this information. Perhaps you have articles in the past numbers of your journal which deal with the subject. Are the carnations grown here for winter flowering a separate species, or are they allied to the English Tree carnation?

D. WILLIAMSON, *Montreal.*

Reply by Prof. Hutt, O. A. C., Guelph.

The following are among some of the leading varieties of carnations, grown in commercial establishments:—white—Lizzie McGowan, Silver Spray, Ivory and Storm King; pink—Daybreak, Wm. Scott, Tidal Wave and Bridesmaid; scarlet—Portia; yellow—Goldfinch and Dean Hole; pink and white—Hellen Keller, J. J. Harrison. Many new varieties are being introduced every year, some of which will no doubt take the place of those mentioned. It would be impossible to give a close estimate of the amount of glass employed in growing carnations in Ontario. Dale, of Brampton; Dunlop, of Toronto; and Miller, of Bracondale, have several acres under glass, a large portion of which is devoted to carnation culture. The English Tree carnation and that grown here belong to the same species (*Dianthus Caryophyllus Somperflorens*). For a book on that subject I would refer the dealers to *American Carnation Culture*, by L. L. Lamborn.