

## STOCKS.

The Mazzard cherry (*Prunus avium*) is probably used by nurserymen more than any other as a propagating stock. It is a native of Europe, and is supposed to have given rise to many of our cultivated varieties. All varieties of cherries unite with it readily.

The Mahaleb cherry (*Prunus mahaleb*) is used to a considerable extent, partly on account of its dwarfing tendency, and also because of its adaptability to clay soils, as pointed out by Professor Bailey. (See Bulletin on NATIVE PLUMS and CHERRIES.)

The Morello stock (*Prunus cerasus*) has not been largely used by nurserymen chiefly owing to its sprouting habits. It is hardy, however, and can be frequently procured by amateurs, when Mahaleb or Mazzard are not easily obtained.

WILD RED OR BIRD CHERRY (*Prunus Pennsylvanica*) has been successfully used as a budding stock for some years by several experimenters, but its ultimate value for this purpose has not been definitely determined. Most varieties seem to unite with it as readily as with Mazzard. Budded trees of many varieties on this stock in the trial grounds of the Central Farm are making a vigorous growth, apparently having made a perfect union. The ease with which seed of this species can be procured in nearly all parts of the Dominion, as well as its great hardiness, should render it a popular stock for cold climates.

## PROPAGATION BY ROOT CUTTINGS.

When cherries are on their own roots, as when grown from sprouts, they may be multiplied by means of root cuttings. The surface system of roots,—those nearest the top of the ground,—are used for this purpose. These are taken up in the autumn and cut into three-inch lengths, packed in boxes with earth and stored in a cool cellar till spring. When the ground is in proper condition the cuttings are planted in rows, sticking them in a slanting position and covering completely, so that the top end is about an inch below the surface of the soil. Several shoots will usually start; the strongest should be trained up to form the future stem, and all others broken off. Where greenhouse facilities are available, the cuttings may be started during winter with gentle bottom heat in the propagating bench, and set in nursery rows the following spring.