

## PLUMS—A COMPARISON OF VARIETIES.

THE following list of plums contains some of the most desirable for the State. Those varieties which are denominated as American are natives of this country, and, as a rule, are hardier than either European or Japanese varieties. The American sorts are subdivided into several classes, but no classification is attempted here. Because of reliability most of them may be safely planted, but they are less salable than the European varieties, hence as an orchard venture, the planting of American sorts could be easily overdone.

Successful orchard culture of plums must, in the future, depend very largely upon the selection of the best varieties for market. As a rule these must be those bearing the largest and most showy fruit, and must be so selected as to cover as long a period of ripening as possible. All of those named, and many more, have been grown at the Ohio Experiment Station, but the conclusions drawn are not merely from the Station tests but from observations elsewhere as well.

*German Prune*—A reliable variety, especially valuable for market. Fruit medium to large; dark purple; of good quality, season medium to late. Rather a weak grower and succeeds better if top worked on some free growing sort.

*Pond's Seedling*—Fruit large to very large, of medium quality; bright red; tree vigorous and prolific, but fruit inclined to rot. Not regarded as a very profitable market sort, and not high enough in quality for dessert. Season late.

*Grand Duke*—A very fine, large, late variety; dark blue in color and very attractive in appearance. A slow grower and ought to be grafted on some other vigorous hardy variety.

*Lombard*—An old standby. Reliable and valuable, although considerably inclined to rot. Medium size; coppery red; fair quality. Inclined to overbear and needs close pruning.

*Bradshaw*—Tree a fine grower and prolific, but rather long in coming into bearing. Fruit

large, purple and of good quality. The earliest of the large sorts and one of the best for all purposes.

*Wolf*—One of the best of American varieties, but inclined to overbear. The trees begin bearing early and need close pruning to thin the fruit.

*Spaulding*—A yellowish green plum of excellent quality. Choice for home use but may not be sufficiently prolific for market. The claim of the introducer that it is curculio proof is unfounded.

*Yellow Egg*—A fine large yellow plum, suitable for canning, but not of first rate quality. Season medium to late. Inclined to rot on the tree.

*Cor's Golden Drop*—A large, late ripening, yellow variety. Tree a slow grower and should be top worked on some free growing sort.

*Tatze*—Said to be very hardy but can hardly be distinguished from the Lombard.

*Weaver*—One of the best of the midseason American sorts. Rather dull in color but excellent for culinary purposes.

*American Eagle*—One of the best of the American sorts because of large size and good quality.

*Imperial Gage*—A greenish yellow plum of the best quality. Especially desirable for the home garden.

*Richland*—A reliable midsummer variety, but too small for market purposes.

*Missouri Green Gage*—A greenish yellow plum, similar to Green Gage, but a little larger. Of the very choicest quality. Season medium to late.

*Reine Claude de Bavay*—Greenish yellow; late in ripening, of the best quality and very prolific. One of the best either for home use or market.

*Arch Duke*—A large dark purple, late ripening sort and very promising, but not fully tested.

*Reed*—A wonderfully prolific American variety. Fruit of medium size, bright scarlet; very beautiful and with very much of the Damson flavor when cooked. Very ornamental in foliage, flower and fruit.

*Golden Beauty*—A very pretty yellow fruited American sort. Suitable for canning.

*Prairie Flower*—A medium to large American sort of good quality with but little astringency. Does not drop as badly as some varieties of this class and appears to be very promising.

*Hawkeye*—One of the largest and best of the American varieties, but with rather too much astringency next to skin and stone.

*Forest Rose Improved*—A little later and larger than Forest Rose and more attractive in color as well.