

Picking Pears

SOME interesting information regarding his method of picking pears was given *The Horticulturist* recently by Mr. E. C. Beman, of Newcastle, who has an orchard of 2,000 pear trees. "I generally start picking Clapp's Favorite," said Mr. Beman, "from the 15th to the 20th of August, and the Bartlett about the end of the month.

"My practice is to obtain as good pickers as possible, and not too many of them. Picking is started early that they may get through in good time. Fruit keeps better when picked before it is too ripe. Clapp's Favorite must be picked as soon as it is full grown or even a little before, as otherwise they start to rot at the core. Bartlett pears also require to be picked as soon, or a little before, they are full grown, as the quality of the pears is better than if they were allowed to mature on the trees.

"Care is taken to see that the early varieties of pears are out of the road before the late varieties are ready to pick. It pays to obtain good pickers, as they use greater care in handling the pears, which, owing to their tender nature, require careful treatment. I find that I can make a little more on all kinds of fruit by shipping direct to commission men than by selling my fruit from the trees. Small growers, of course, can hardly do this. Many growers apparently do not understand how to pack, as they do not use sufficient care."

Top Grafting.—We have a number of King Baldwins and other trees that have been top-grafted from 15 to 30 years, and we have them on the original stock in the same orchard. I am sure there is double the amount on the top-grafted. I have counted six or seven Kings on a branch no thicker than a pipe stem. They have to be propped up. I think the government should do work of this kind. I consider top-grafting the greatest need in this section.—(J. I. Graham, Vandeleur, Ont.

Questions About Apples

Are Wismer's dessert apple, the Rivers Early and Graham's Royal Jubilee as good as recommended in the nursery catalogues? Are they good keepers and shippers? Are they marketable? Are they good dessert apples? Are the trees hardy, and where can I obtain one or two year old trees from nurseries who do not employ agents?—(J. B. Bruce, Kanagan Landing, B. C.

It is surprising how fond we all are of trying things new and untried, even although we know full well that nine-tenths of all new things put out before a gullible public prove worthless and pass out of sight after a few years. Were it not for this failing in us many a business would come to grief.

These fruits have not yet been introduced long enough for us to know their faults, or to answer your questions. We have eaten the Wismer apple and found it a very agreeable dessert apple, and of fair size. So far these apples have not been tested; they are comparatively new, and may or may not bear out the laudations of their introducers.

Self Sterility in Cherries.—I do not know that any systematic investigation has been made regarding the sterility of cherry blossoms. Here is room for important investigation which we would like to have followed up this year had it not been that in most of the varieties the fruit buds were more or less destroyed by winter killing. I have seen it stated somewhere that Belle de Choisy and Reine Hortense are self-sterile varieties, but I cannot say for certain if this is always the case, as varieties self-sterile in some sections often prove self-fertile in others. On general principles, however, it is well to avoid planting large plots of any one variety, as better results are obtained even with self-fertile varieties of cross fertilization.—(R. Cameron, Niagara Falls South.

I only use barnyard manure in my orchard. I grow no crops in the orchard, but cultivate and keep down weeds.—(A. Shaw, Walkerton, Ont.