

THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST



* * DECEMBER * *

BEURRE HARDY.

A good variety for the month of October, both for home use and market. The fruit is uniform in size, and the skin is covered with a bright clear russet.

ORIGIN: Boulogna, France; dedicated to M. Hardy, director of the gardens of Luxembourg, Paris.

TREE: fairly vigorous and productive, and forms a fine symmetrical form, especially when grown on the quince.

FRUIT: average size, 2 inches long by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad; form, obovate, obtuse, pyriform, of smooth,

regular outline; skin yellowish green, with numerous russet dots and covered with light brown russet, especially at the ends; stem, about an inch in length, stout, with a fold at the base, and inserted obliquely in a small depression; calyx large, open, in a shallow basin; flesh, white, fine grained, buttery, juicy, with rich aromatic flavor.

SEASON: October.

QUALITY: dessert, very good; cooking, good.

VALUE: home market, good; not exported as yet from Ontario, but exported with success from California to Great Britain.

COMMERCIAL PEAR GROWING.

DURING the last twenty-five years a complete revolution has come over commercial pear growing. In the year 1869 Mr. P. T. Quinn, Newark, N. J., published a book entitled "Pear Culture for Profit," which the writer read in 1871, and was thereby induced to plant freely of all varieties, with anticipations of a wonderful bonanza.

In speaking of the profits he said: "The subjoined list of the prices per barrel for which pears were sold in the New York market in 1866, '67, '68, I obtained from a responsible fruit merchant, who kindly placed his sales books within reach; thus enabling me to get accurate data on this important

point. These figures also show the comparative market value of the leading varieties of pears for the last three years. It will be observed that the prices for 1868 averaged higher than the two preceding years. This was, in a measure, owing to a partial failure, both of the peach and pear crops, last season in the eastern states. Where there are three prices per barrel, opposite one variety, such as \$10 to \$15 and \$25, the first two apply to the main crop, and the third to choice fruit of extra size, or else to a portion held back, until the chief supply was out of the market.

"In looking over the sales of pears in the New York market, I find the prices for