

Garden and Orchard.

A Useful and Ornamental Tree.

Herewith we give an illustration of the *Catalpa speciosa*, commonly known as the Hardy Catalpa, which has lately been introduced into this Province. It being a native of the Western States, flourishing especially on the river bottoms of Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and the more southerly States, we have been shy in recommending it; but now that it has been sufficiently tested in different parts of the Province, nearly all who have tried it speaking highly in its favor, we can now recommend it with considerable confidence.

Mr. W. Saunders, President of the Fruit Growers' Association, has quite a number growing on his experiment grounds in this city, and the accompanying illustration is a sketch by our special artist from one of the oldest Catalpas on these grounds. In his annual address to the Association, Mr. Saunders speaks of the Hardy Catalpa in the following language:—

"While on this subject of distribution, it is fitting that I should call the attention of the members to the selection which has been made for this purpose for next year. One of the things offered is the hardy western Catalpa, *Catalpa speciosa*, a handsome tree with large soft foliage, and bearing fine clusters of beautiful flowers early in the summer, succeeded by very long and curious pod-like seed vessels. This tree has been planted very extensively in the Western States, both as wind-breaks and for economic purposes, and being a rapid grower and very hardy, it has endured severe vicissitudes of climate and given remarkable satisfaction. The durability of the wood makes it very valuable for fence posts and for furniture. As an ornamental tree it has few equals; it has, as far as I know, proved hardy wherever it has been tried in Ontario, and deserves to be better known throughout the length and breadth of our Province."

There are other species of the Catalpa which are not hardy enough for our climate, having been tried and proved a failure. In order that our readers may not be imposed upon by unscrupulous agents, we give the unsuitable species, viz., *Catalpa bignonioides*, *C. cordifolia*, and *C. springeri*. Some of these are said to flourish in certain sections of the Province, but we cannot yet recommend any of them.

The *C. speciosa* is a very rapid grower; the tree from which the accompanying illustration has been taken is only four years old, and yet its diameter at the base is nearly four inches, and its height is over twelve feet. The seed pods, represented in larger size at the right side of the cut, are about twelve inches long, but sometimes grow double this length. They resemble bean pods, but are nearly round, instead

of flat. The leaf, represented on the left of the cut, presents a peculiarity not found in any other tree. Leaves of the same tree are of various shapes and sizes, and it is questionable if the one illustrated is a representative specimen, although many, especially those of medium size, have the shape represented. The smaller leaves, and many of the larger ones, usually have no prominences on the sides; some have two or three prominent points on one or both sides, many are pointed only on one side, while still others are indented in some places; but all have a prominent point at the apex.

The wood of the tree is light, but very strong and durable. It is chiefly used for bridge timbers, railway ties, fence posts and shingles. Being easily worked, it is a valuable wood for furniture. For railroad ties it has been known to outlive two sets of white oak ties.



CATALPA SPECIOSA.

It thrives best on bottom lands and in light sandy soil, but it easily accommodates itself to a great variety of soils, and if planted in a sheltered location, so much the better.

It may be propagated from cuttings and layers, but more successfully from the seed. The pods may be gathered any time in fall or spring, and the seed planted in May, or as soon as the weather gets warm. Stretch a line along the ground, open a light furrow with the hoe, and cover the seed one-fourth to one-half of an inch deep. Place the rows twenty inches apart, and drop in 25 or 30 seeds to every foot in the row. In weeding, endeavor to prevent breaking the plants, for they are tender when

young. In setting out a grove or plantation, place the plants in rows four feet apart each way. If the plants are cut back the first year either by the knife or by the frost, they will make a more vigorous growth. See premium list.

Mulching.

BY W. W. HILBORN.

The small fruit crop for next year very largely depends on how well the plants are protected during winter and early spring. It is not the severe freezing that injures the plants so much as the thawing out so rapidly, and the oft-repeated freezing and thawing. By whatever means we can most effectually prevent these sudden changes from cold to heat, is what we should act upon.

Strawberries should be mulched as soon as the ground freezes sufficiently to hold up horses and wagon when driving on with the straw. There is not the danger of smothering the plants when ground is thus frozen. Wheat straw is best where it can be obtained; oat straw packs down too closely, and does not admit air enough to either soil or plants.

Most of the straw should be placed between the rows, and just enough over the plants to nearly cover the leaves from sight. When growth begins in spring, draw the covering to the centre between the rows, and leave it there until after the fruit has been gathered; it thus serves the double purpose of keeping the fruit clean, and causes the soil to hold the moisture gathered early in the season, which is all important to the production of a large crop of fruit.

All raspberries, currants, blackberries and other small fruits that have been planted this fall should have a small mound of earth drawn up around each plant before the ground freezes, and leveled down again in spring.

Grape vines can be drawn down to the earth and held there by a stone or other most convenient material. Some

practice covering with earth, but there is danger of uncovering too soon or not soon enough in spring. They are more tender when thus covered, and should a severe frost occur after uncovering, they are more apt to be injured than if not covered.

Keeping Vegetables.

We observe that some writers on vegetable gardening speak of the difficulty of keeping succulent vegetables, like beets, turnips and parsnips, from wilting when placed in cellars, and recommend packing them in sand, or burying them in the earth of the cellar bottom. This mode is necessarily cumbersome and in-