

THE FRUIT SEASON.



NCE more we are in the midst of our fruit harvest. The good results of the faithful application of fertilizers and of good cultivation will now be apparent, while it is too late to remedy, to any extent, the ill results of neglect. Hard work, persistent hard work, is the only road to success in our line, for it is the only way to produce fruit of a first-class character.

The great object now is to place the fruit we have upon the market in such a way as to bring the best possible returns. In our desire to make the most we can of our crop, there is great danger of pushing forward into the market much that would be better never shipped. There is no doubt that it would pay growers generally better to dump out on the manure heap all low grade stock, and expose for sale only the better class of fruit. All commission men agree that it is the inferior fruit which causes the gluts, and that first-class fruit will always bring good value, even in seasons of abundance.

The importance of a tidy package has often been emphasized by us, and little more need be said here on this point. We notice that the old fashioned 54-qt. berry crate is still in use in some sections, and some dealers, even in Toronto, go so far as to furnish their patrons with such crates, free of charge, in order to insure consignments; while at the same time these very dealers assure us that a 24-qt. gift crate is the most saleable. The reason is that it holds just about the quantity usually wanted in a family for preserving purposes; it is more easily handled, and so reaches the market with the fruit in better order; and, being a gift package, it is much more convenient to re-ship to outside country dealers. The accompanying Fig. 40, shows one of these crates; it is strong, convenient to handle, and withal quite economical, being supplied by almost any basket factory for about ten dollars a hundred. They are easily put together, so that, for those not near a factory, the best plan is to buy them in the flat, in which shape the freight is very little, and the first cost proportionally less; the nailing of them together will then be an easy job for rainy days. The same plan may be carried out with the berry baskets.

We notice in *Popular Gardening*, a basket nailing bench, illustrated as here given. It is thus described:

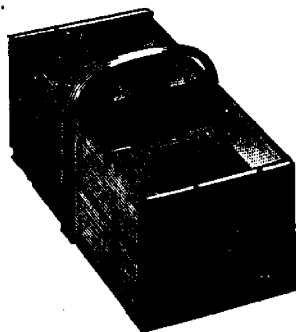


FIG. 40.—BERRY CRATE.