

THINNING TO INCREASE SIZE.

THE necessity of thinning the fruit is a work we shall have to recognize in the future. The benefits have been brought to my notice in many places this year. In September I was in Ontario in one of the best plum-growing sections, and saw an orchard of four hundred trees, each tree of which yielded ten baskets of Lombard plums, or four thousand baskets in all, which sold at twenty-five cents, making a gross return of \$1,000 for these 400 trees. I saw another orchard, not five miles away, that carried probably as large a number of baskets, but I am sure they would not realize more than fifty per cent of the gross return of the first. The high prices scored by the first lot may be attributed to the fact that they were thinned, and the second was not. The Lombard is one of those trees which will practically

kill itself by overbearing if it is not thinned. The fruit will, under these conditions, become small, and very poorly colored, so that the smaller price for the larger number of baskets will not equal in gross return that secured from the smaller quantity of better quality obtained by thinning. At the farm I have tried this experiment on some varieties of American plums. These are very prolific sorts; if allowed to bear to their full extent, will in a few years destroy themselves. In the case of the Weaver plum, two trees which were not thinned for three years died at the end of that period, and two other trees which were thinned each year, are in good health and give fair returns each year. It is, therefore, not only possible by thinning to increase the quality of the fruit but to keep your trees in health.—Report Quebec Pomological Society.

FRUIT NOTES.

ROAD dust thrown over the trees in which the slimy scales appear, will destroy them. They breathe through pores in their bodies and the dust closes these up and suffocates them.

Clean cultivation is the great safeguard against fungus diseases and insect pests. These enemies are cowardly, they always attack the weak and unprotected plants first. Look for them closely and apply remedies for them at once.

If you desire to hasten the maturity of any garden crop, use wood ashes liberally. On most farms enough ashes can be saved during the year to give the entire garden a good coat. We do not

place as high a value upon ashes as we should.

Such luxuries as small fruits of all kinds out to be indulged in liberally by every farmer's family, but such is not the case in too many instances. It isn't too late to make a start in this direction this spring, if you have neglected it in the past.

For the currant worm no remedy is safer or more easily applied than white hellebore. Dissolve an ounce of the powder in two gallons of water and apply with a fine sprinkler or brush broom. A sprayer is the best thing made for this purpose. The worm first appears on the lower branches about the time the fruit is formed.—Main Farmer.