

their enormous load of fruit, and this, too, of fine size and beautiful color. Our custom is to gather this apple, just as it gets its full color and greatest beauty, going over the trees two or three times a week, just as one would gather peaches. They are brought to the fruit house, where they are emptied out on the packing tables and the fancy ones selected out for packing in baskets, and the balance of the stock put up in barrels. For a long time it has been the general opinion that there was no money in early apples, and certainly our home markets are easily over-stocked with summer and fall apples, for which there is no outlet, owing to their perishability. For fancy fruit, however, there is almost always a good sale, and although we find the prices this year are very low for Red Astrachans in our Canadian markets, yet, taking one year with another, they are as profitable, when properly handled, as winter varieties.

Our *Yellow Transparent* trees are beginning to yield a few specimens, and, while we are much pleased with their size and waxy whiteness, yet we fear that they will scarcely come into the market in time to avoid competition with the beautiful Red Astrachans, which are so captivating to the eye that, after they are once placed on the markets, no other apple is wanted by the purchasers.

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GOOD PEARS.—It should not be forgotten that whether any one kind of pear is good or not depends as much on the treatment it receives from the grower as from its own efforts to be good. If a kind is inclined to bear large crops, the quality will be poor unless some of the great number be thinned out. Again, if a tree, which usually bears fruit of a good quality, gets a little sick, bringing on premature ripening, the fruit will be poor. Still again, those pears which ripen very soon after gathering are much improved by being taken from the tree before quite mature, while late ripening kinds like to stay on as long as possible. Some ripen better in a dark room, and others in full light. In nothing is skill more at home than in the proper ripening of pears.—J. F. M., in *Meehan's Monthly*.

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NITRATE OF SODA.—No manure that I have ever seen used, not even cow manure, in which I have great faith, has produced such immediate effect in the growth, vigor and full color of foliage. Mr. J. J. Willis, writing in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, maintains that it is a most valuable factor in the production of vegetable crops and fruits. He strongly recommends it for strawberries, celery, cabbages, onions, in fact, for all kitchen garden produce. But he recommends it to be used in conjunction with ordinary manures. He says: "It may be stated that nitrate of soda is not regarded as a substitute for other manures. Taking horticulture as we find it, we recommend nitrate of soda as the cheapest and best form in which to apply nitrogen to plants. To those who are using ordinary stable manure we say, continue to use it, but use nitrate of soda in addition.—W. Watson, in *Garden and Forest*.