

the great importance of a good heavy mulch, especially where the plants are thin in the row. This prevents the great damage that results from heavy freezing, or alternate freezing and thawing. The season was later than usual and prices ruled higher on account of a light crop.

#### CONCERNING VARIETIES.

As to the best varieties each grower will have, in a large measure, to decide for himself which are best suited for his soil and style of cultivation. In some places Michels is the best early, in others it gives a very good return. The first to ripen last season were Excelsior, Michels, Van Deman, August Luther, Camelon, Success, Early Market, but not very much ahead of the bulk of the mid-season varieties. Gandy, Nettie, Hunn, Robbie, Buster and Irene were among the last picked.

Among the good varieties Monitor did well. It is an early variety. There were

only one or two pickings of the earliest varieties before the mediums, viz., Clyde, Monitor and Splendid, were ready; then Bubach, Tennessee Prolific, Williams, followed by Glen Mary, Sample Atoma, Gandy, Joe, Nettie.

Of the new varieties, fruiting for the first time with me, Success, President, Fairfield and Ben Davis did the best. Success is early and makes small plants, but is a good runner and the berries medium in size. I have a new strawberry named The Cardinal. It is claimed to be the long looked for "perfect" berry. The plants are clean and bright, vigorous and strong, large and healthy, no trace of rust on any of them. When it fruits next season, if the berry proves to be as good as the plant, it may turn out to be what its originator claims, viz., perfect. I hope it may have a favorable season in which to make its first appearance in Canada.

### Berry Bushes in the Orchard

**M**R. A. PETTIT, of Grimsby, was one of the fortunate fruit growers who did not lose many peach trees by the severe weather of the winter of 1904. He attributes this largely to the fact that he has berry bushes planted in alternate rows in his peach orchard. The bushes, he claims, help to hold the snow and break the sweep of the wind. "Where the bushes were planted," said Mr. Pettit to a representative of *The Horticulturist*, "I only lost three or four trees. In another orchard where there were no bushes I lost about 200 trees. The location of the two orchards was practically the same. I have been unable to account for it in any other way."

"How would mulching with straw, or the use of a cover crop, affect the trees," was asked Mr. Pettit. "Anything that will hold snow and protect the roots," he replied, "would be of value, but I doubt if it would be practicable in a large orchard."

### Dry Sulphur for the Rot

**L**AST year was my first experience with the black rot in grapes," said Mr. R. H. Lewis, of Hamilton, to *The Horticulturist* recently. "I never had anything serious the matter with my grapes before. My impression is that growers will have to spray thoroughly and at the proper time if they are to prevent the rot seriously injuring their crops. I used dry sulphur last season, which I applied twice, but with no result. This may have been due to the fact that I did not apply it soon enough, although I do not believe sulphur is the remedy."

"The Bordeaux mixture, I think, is the best to use. This year I intend to apply a copper solution before the buds start and to follow it with two or three applications of the Bordeaux mixture. One application put on thoroughly is worth half a dozen put on poorly. I am using a power sprayer and have obtained excellent results."