

proved strictly hardy, and a very prolific bearer. The original trees are now about fifteen years old, and bearing annually. Young trees in the nursery row have often been found with considerable perfectly developed fruit. It has never been troubled with any insect or disease. The fruit is wholly unlike Hawkeye. It took first premium for the largest native plum at the World's Columbian Exposition, and has always taken premiums at our State fairs. At the last fair it took the premium for the largest and best plum introduced since 1885, and that is just what we claim for it.

We have also introduced a red raspberry, something like the Shaffer's Colossal, only more stalky in growth. It throws out numerous fruit-stalks, and bears its fruit more along the cane. It blooms late, thus escaping late frosts. The fruit is lighter in color than the Shaffer and has less bloom, but is firm enough to bear shipping. It is of excellent quality, and the bush is a prodigious bearer. So far, it appears hardier than the Shaffer, and better able to stand drought. We consider it one of the best of its class yet introduced, and would be glad to have you try it at your Station.

J. WRAGG & SON, *Waukeee, Iowa.*

### Poisoned Grain for the Sparrow.

SIR,—Your letter to Mr. Fletcher, enclosing a communication to Mr. Goodhue respecting the extermination of the English sparrow, has been referred to me.

Undoubtedly, grain poisoned with strychnine is very effective, but the danger in using such about the farm buildings would lead me to hesitate before advising its general adoption.

Sparrows may often be collected in large numbers by scattering grain for several days in the same place. If for this purpose a small and enclosable part of one of the farm buildings be selected, the destruction of the birds is an easy matter. Large numbers of sparrows have been killed on the Central Experimental Farm in this way during the past few seasons. When the grain is spread outside, the shot-gun proves a very effective method of destruction.

FRANK T. SHUTT, *Chemist, Expl. Farms.*

### The English Sparrow.

SIR,—I notice in your February number an article written by Mr. Goodhue, of Danville, Que., regarding the English sparrow. I would say to that gentleman that we could not do well without them. I claim that they are the best cabbage-worm destroyer that we have. Being very active, they are great feeders, and they destroy millions of seeds of noxious weeds in the winter. I know they are a pest to the citizens, but they can buy cabbage much cheaper, owing to the work of these birds. Where they are a constant pest, use wheat through your iron rod (gun) and they will soon leave you, but do not kill one of them.

W. J. HUNTER, *Orangeville, Ont.*

### Growing and Trellising Grapes.

SIR,—In regard to what you say in February number about grape trellising; I think that we Germans, who have been growing grapes for one thousand or more years, should know more about vineyards than Canadians do.

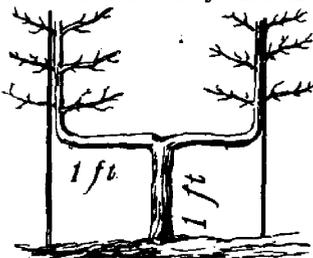


FIG. 940.—STUB SYSTEM.

In making a vineyard, I would recommend the following varieties only: Concord, Delaware and Niagara. I would plant the vines five feet apart, and for every vine stock I would set two poles; that is according to the Stub system (see Fig. 940).

In this way the vines want only tying twice during the summer, and cutting off on top of the poles. This method only needs one man for ten acres. (But the Kniffen method needs no summer tying at all.—ED.)

T. N. GRUENBACK, *Cayuga.*