

Winter Protection.

1032. SIR,—Will you kindly tell me how to protect a third year Purple Barbary, also a *Hydrangia*? What covering will be best for pansies and roses! Is the last of October the best covering time?

EMMA CORSE MILLS, *Iroquois.*

*Reply by Prof. H. L. Hutt, O. A. C.,
Guelph.*

The purple-leaved Barbary is very hardy and should require no protection in Ontario. It has never been injured at Guelph during the coldest winters. One of the most satisfactory coverings for shrubs, roses, or even pansies, is cedar or spruce boughs. For shrubs and rows the boughs should be sharpened and stuck into the ground and tied closely about the bushes. On the pansies they should be placed thick enough to hold the snow, which is the best covering. It is well to keep the protection off as late as possible to allow the wood to harden. We do not put on covering before the end of November.

In Re Plums.

1033. SIR,—I am sending herewith by mail, a parcel containing three samples of plums. Numbers 1 and 2 I am sending for correct names, and number 3 to ask your opinion as to what has caused them to wrinkle up as they have done. I hope I am not asking too much, and will feel greatly obliged if you will kindly give it your attention.

My plums are a very heavy crop this year, too heavy in fact, especially the Lombards,—which are breaking the branches badly, from over-loading.

Hoping to hear from you at your convenience.

D. S. MACDONALD,

Glendyer, C. B., Nova Scotia.

Reply by J. K. Gordon, Whitby.

Having carefully examined the three varieties of plums referred to by Mr. MacDonald, my opinion thereof is as follows:—The round oval green variety is unknown to me, and I think that it is not grown in Ontario. In appearance it resembles the *Reine Claude de Bavay*, and at first sight it would be pronounced that variety; but the pit is much larger and of a lunate form, and

differs widely in these respects from the *Reine Claude*. I think, however, that it is a plum of much value.

The other green variety is of oval form and resembles closely Coe's *Golden Drop*, but is not it, and though I have grown it for a number of years past, I do not know its correct name. It is, so far as I know, grown in Ontario only about Whitby and Oshawa, and is known under the name of Vail's Seedling. It was discovered in the following manner: a plant of it, a few inches high, was found among the straw packing in a bundle of fruit trees received from Nova Scotia, about fifteen years ago, by a gentleman named Ashe, residing at Oshawa, and it was planted by Mr. Ashe as a matter of curiosity, and Mr. Vail having afterwards procured a tree of it, named the plant Vail's Seedling.

This so-called seedling is identical with Mr. MacDonald's, and differs from Coe's *Golden Drop* in the pit, in the insertion of the stem, in the growth of the tree and in the foliage—inasmuch as the pit is of lunate form and larger, and the stem is placed a little to one side of the plum. While the tree is more robust in growth and attains a larger size than the *Golden Drop*, and its foliage is larger and with a glossy waxen looking surface, somewhat like that of the *Quackenbos* or *Glass' Seedling*. It is equally fruitful and of as good size and quality and of the same season of ripening as the *Golden Drop*.

Then as to the small wrinkled variety, I cannot name it. It appears to be either a *Damson*, or a dwarfed specimen—through disease—of the *Lombard*, or some other variety. The pit and the stem-end somewhat resembles the *Lombard*; but I think it has been submitted by Mr. MacDonald by way of a conundrum, as it appears to be of little or no value.