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HORTICULTURE.

(From the Albany Cultivator.)

**TRIMMING DOWN LISTS.**—Thomas Rivers, the celebrated English nurseryman, has fruited about one thousand varieties of the pear, and out of this great assemblage has selected only four for raising extensively for market on his own grounds, viz: *Bartlett*, *Beurre d'Amalis*, *Capiumont*, and *Louise Bonne of Jersey*. In this country, the Bartlett and Louise Bonne of Jersey, are not excelled for the same purpose; the other two might be profitably superceded, as they are not of first quality here.

**EARLY JOE APPLE.**—So very agreeable to the taste is this new delicious summer fruit, that we have heard Jonathan Buel of East Bloomfield, N. Y., who has long cultivated it, remark that he had seen a man eat a half peck of them at one time, by taking up one after another, before he was aware of the quantity he had consumed.

**SHORTENING-IN THE PEACH.**—We lately witnessed an interesting example of this operation performed by the frosts of winter. A tree of the Early Anne, planted about ten years ago, stood in so frosty a locality, that about one-half of each of its annual shoots were destroyed by frost every winter, this variety being more tender than most sorts. The consequence was that this tree was kept in a comparatively neat and compact form, with the bearing shoots quite evenly distributed throughout the head. Other sorts more hardy, standing side by side, and which had not been subjected to this natural shortening-in, had extended their principal branches into long and naked arms, with the fruit-bearing portions at their extremities only.

**GRAFTING WEDGES.**—In cleft-grafting, as every grafter knows, a good iron or steel wedge is wanted, to keep the slit open till the graft is inserted, and accurately adjusted. One of the largest sized cut-nails or cut-spikes, ground to a wedge upon a grindstone, has been found one of the cheapest and most convenient for this purpose, the head of the nail serving a good purpose in withdrawing the wedge.

**RECOVERING DRIED GRAFTS.**—It often happens that grafts of particular fruits are received in a dried or withered condition from being badly packed; and being supposed to be worthless, are thrown away. The writer once received in autumn a small package of a new and rare sort of apple, from a distance of some hundreds of miles, without any protection at all, and they were quite thoroughly *seasoned*. They were encased in moss, and buried a few inches beneath the surface of the earth on a dry spot of ground. By spring they had gradually imbibed moisture, and had become plump again, and on being set, every graft grew. Efforts of this kind often fail in consequence of applying the moisture too copiously and suddenly. Shoots in so withered a condition should receive it so gradually as to require some weeks at least for the completion of the process.

**SHORT LISTS.**—Samuel Walker, President of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, says that if he were confined to only one sort of pear, he would choose the *Vicar of Winsfield*, from its free growth, productiveness, fair and large fruit, and long continuance. F. R. Elliott, of Cleveland, says that were he to chose but one variety of the apple, he should take the *Belmont*. Robert Manning of Salem, Mass., gives as the three best pears, the Bartlett, Autumn Paradise, and Winter Nelis; and B. V. French, of Braintree, Mass., regards as the three most desirable apples, the Porter, Rhode Island Greening, and Baldwin.

**HOW LONG WILL BUDS KEEP?**—This inquiry is often made, how long will scions for budding keep with safety, and to what distance may they be sent? The answer must vary exceedingly with circumstances. If the growth is green and succulent, and the buds have not become matured, they are sometimes sensibly injured by being kept two or three days only; while on the other hand, if the wood is well ripened, and the buds plump and hardened, they may keep several weeks without injury. In some instances we have received buds from a distance late in summer, and being well matured we have kept a part over till spring, and set them as grafts with success.

**INFLUENCE OF GRAFT ON STOCK.**—Dr. Kittland says: "A graft of the Newtown Pippin will invariably render the bark of the stock rough and black, (the habit of the variety,) within three years after its insertion." Nurserymen, who by digging up trees, become familiar with the growth of the roots, often notice that certain sorts always have certain peculiarities, on stocks of whatever sorts. For instance, the Yellow Bellflower always has fine, fibrous, horizontal roots; the Gravenstein has large, strong descending roots; the Yellow Spanish Cherry is remarkable for its large heavy roots, whatever the stock may be.