

## ❖ Question Drawer. ❖

### Ornithogalum.

*Reply to Question 1041, by W. E. Saunders, London, Ont.*

Ornithogalum Arabicum may be forced in the house for winter bloom by the same treatment as that given to the hyacinth. It requires a longer season of active growth, and the flower is fully six weeks later than that of the hyacinth, but ordinarily good treatment should suffice. I have not always been successful with it, and think that possibly it may be injured by delay in planting. Good bulbs, planted early, have usually succeeded. It is a striking plant in bloom, the black centre of the flower giving it an unusual appearance; but the pot needs to stand on the floor, as the flower stem is about two feet long beneath the umbel.

*Reply by Mr. E. A. Bog, Secretary Cambellford Horticultural Society.*

SIR,—In answer to Mr. Dickson's enquiry No. 1041, I may say that I have forced the Ornithogalum Arabicum with great success. My treatment is as follows: "Pot the bulb in a 4 or 5 inch pot, first week in October. Bury the pot in the garden with about a foot of soil over it, leave it there until end of November; then bring it into the house and put it in a hot, sunny window, give plenty of water, plant food twice a week; will bloom in February or March. I had three magnificent specimens last winter, which were the admiration of everyone who saw them. The bulbs I had were imported *direct* from Holland. My object in burying the pot in the garden is that the top grows very quickly, before the roots start; burying it prevents injury to the top and does not grow so quickly.

### Apples for Profit.

**1042.** SIR,—As I am thinking of planting from eight to ten acres of winter apples, I would like your advice as to Ontario, Cranberry, Ben Davis and York Imperial, and a few others.

A. B., Picton, Ont.

Questions concerning the best varieties to plant in a certain section can only be answered in a general way, because those most desirable this year may be quite displaced by new varieties in a few years. There can be little said, however, against the varieties above mentioned. Ontario is a great favorite with those who grow it, as a commercial apple, because it is so clean, so uniform in size, so regular in bearing, and so well colored. Its chief fault seems to be over-bearing, which is inclined to weaken the vitality of the tree, and shorten its life.

The Cranberry Pippin is a favorite export apple with the writer, for on rich sandy and clay loam, the fruit is remarkably fine. It is larger and better colored than Ben Davis, carries well to a distant market, and yellows up about Christmas so as to set off its red stripes to the best advantage. But it is a very fastidious variety, if we may so speak of an apple, for unless soil and climatic conditions suit, it is apt to bear a good many blemished or wasty samples.

Ben Davis is reliable, and pays; and, until an apple of the same season, productiveness, and good appearance, but of better quality, appears, we are obliged to accept it in spite of its poor quality.

York Imperial has a high reputation, but has not been tested in Canada, so far as we know.

We would be inclined to add Blenheim and Wealthy to the list; for both