

EXPERIENCE IN PEAR CULTURE.

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We find that the pear was common in the earliest times of the Romans; it was common in Syria, Egypt, and Greece. Virgil mentions pears which he received from Canton; Pliny describes the varieties in cultivation in his time as being numerous, and mention is made by the Emperor Tiberius of most delicate and agreeable pears.

The pear is not a native of America, but was brought from other continents. We read of its growing wild in some parts of Europe, Asia and China. It was brought to great perfection by such men as Van Mons, Knight, and many others of the present day. But I am not asked for the history of the pear, but the result of my own experience with it. I shall therefore begin with the little Amire Joannette, which yielded in 1879, being planted eight years, standard, 2½ bushels, which were sold for 12½ cents per quart, or \$9.00. In 1880 my sale book gives it credit for 64 quarts, and sold for \$8.00, besides a few quarts for the use of the house. It ripens about July 15th. I keep the soil clean and rich around it.

The next in order is the Doyenne d'Ete, which ripens here about the 20th July, and sells freely for 12½ cents per quart. It grows well either as standard or dwarf, and is a most delicious little pear. The skin is clear yellow marked with small dots, and red next the sun; flesh white, melting, very sweet and juicy.

Beurre Giffard comes next, and is much larger than the former, with a greenish-yellow red next the sun. Flesh white and most delicious, and the fruit sells here for about 10c. per quart. The tree is a slender grower, but healthy, hardy and productive. It is ripe here about the last of July.

The Bartlett is a splendid pear. The tree grows upright, with straight yellow shoots. Skin smooth, yellow, with a blush on the sunny side; it is sweet, juicy, with a highly perfumed vinous flavor. It is ripe here from 25th August to 10th September, and sells for \$2.50 per bushel.

The Clapp's Favorite is my next,—a most gorgeous pale yellow pear, marbled and splashed with red and light brown. Flesh white, fine grained, juicy, melting, buttery, rich, with sweet perfume. I can see in imagination the lovely baskets of this beautiful fruit even now