

THE RUSSIAN APRICOT.



IN England the Apricot is esteemed as one of the choicest of stone fruits whether for jams or for dessert, and its great beauty when well grown is much extolled. The number of varieties is not great, being limited to about ten or twelve, among which the Moorpark, Breda, Peach and Royal are prominent. It is usually planted about twelve feet apart, and trained to grow fan-shape along the walls of the gardens or of the gables of cottages, and like the other plants and trees in an English garden, receives far greater attention in the culture, pruning, thinning, etc., than do the fruit trees in the majority of Canadian gardens. The most suitable soil is a rather light, sandy loam, well drained; such as is also adapted to the peach tree.

In America, the Apricot is very little grown east of the Rocky Mountains, owing to the curculio, which has a special fondness for it and usually destroys the whole crop; but west of the Rockies, where the

curculio is almost unknown, nearly all the favorite English varieties are successfully cultivated. These have very few points by which they may be distinguished from each other, and the chief reliable ones are: The color, the shape of the stone and the taste of the kernels. All may be propagated, with more or less constancy from the pits.

Owing to the tenderness of all these varieties in our country and in the Northern States, a great point has been lately made of the introduction of the Russian stock to Kansas by the Mennonites for which every known excellence is claimed for them, as, for example: freedom from curculio, borer, black-rot, blight, etc. Now all this must be taken with some caution, although we have great hopes that from these will be ultimately developed a race of apricots suitable to our climate. The writer has some twenty-four of these trees, three years planted, and although they have bloomed freely, no fruit has as yet been produced. He has, therefore, no criticism to offer