



ABOUT JAPAN PLUMS—ARE THEY HARDY?

I AM frequently asked the question, "What about Japan plums, are they valuable and hardy enough for Canada?" There is no question about their value if they are hardy, at least many of them. They are early, of good quality, and much less subject to rot and fungus disease than our varieties and European varieties. I have been a little skeptical about their succeeding farther north than our peach belt, as my own experience with them has been that when the fruit buds of the peach were destroyed by extreme cold, they were also injured, though I know the trees will stand more frost than the peach, without killing back. I have lately received a communication from Dr. A. B. Dennis, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa (a gentleman who is testing a large number of varieties of plums there), upon this subject, and as I think it will be of interest to the readers of the HORTICULTURIST, I will give you some extracts from it. He says, "Among the best commercial plums here of the Japs are Burbank, Normand, Botton, Ogon, Chabot, etc. I have not found any of these plums extremely tender except the Kelsey, which killed down to the ground. The thermometer has been down to 28 below zero, and yet trees were laden. I am aware Prof. Budd has persisted in stating the Japan plums will not do in any part of Iowa, but my experience has demonstrated that some

of them are valuable in our severe climate. We are considerably out of the peach belt, and but very few ever fruit here except a few hardy seedlings. Some of my Jap trees are eight years old, yet all are as healthy as my natives. Prof. Budd assured me ten years ago that Japan plums were tender as weeds, so I commenced with one or two trees, and when it went 20 below zero, and these little trees were laden with fruit it surprised me. One winter it went 30 below, and killed many of Prof. Budd's Russian sorts, and not even a tree of the Japs were killed nor were the fruit buds injured. Of course I can not say what they will do with you, but the facts I state and the 25 bushels of plums of Japan type raised the past season, speak better than I can write."

From this letter I am encouraged to believe that these valuable plums may be grown over a large portion of Ontario. We are having them tested at some of our Experimental Stations, and I trust others who have tested them will give us their experience through the HORTICULTURIST, so we may know their true value and where they will succeed, in the near future. In the meantime planters living within the peach belt need not hesitate to plant largely of them.

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