

Jonathan, from 12s. 6d. to 17s. ; King, from 13s. to 16s. ; Spitzenburg, from 12s. to 17s. 6d. ; Spy, from 14s. to 16s. 6d. ; Vandevere, from 10s. to 11s. 6d.

QUESTION DRAWER.

NEW DISASTERS.

DEAR SIR,—The present year's experience has introduced me to two fresh and unexpected disasters—one connected with plums, and the other with grapes; both, however, being some insect or disease which causes the premature death and removal of the leaves. With the (1) plums this commences before the fruit is ripe, and the destruction was not so complete as altogether to prevent its ripening. Although in two or three cases very few leaves being left, and the fruit at the time quite green, I considered it advisable to remove it rather than endanger the life of the trees. With (2) grapes, the Delaware was the greatest sufferer, while Brant, Rogers' 9 and 15, and Clinton did not altogether escape. Of the Delawares not a single bunch ripened or a single berry ever turned colour out of a crop of between 100 and 200 pounds, and I may also say that there was not a leaf on any of the vines, old, young, or seedlings, long before there was any frost to injure them. I noticed a small, light-colored insect under the leaves, and tried Paris green without effect; afterwards wings grew on these insects, and they infested the vines like a swarm of gnats. I suspect them to be thrip, but don't know. On the plums I saw no insect, but noticed dark spots on the leaves, and they became so brittle that at the slightest touch they fell off the trees. Although my vines and trees were loaded with fruit, overbearing could not have been the cause in either case,

for I had both vines and trees that had never borne fruit affected in the same way.

If you can point out a remedy for these disasters you will confer a favor on

Yours truly,

A. HOOD.

Barrie, 9th Nov., 1885.

REPLY.—(1). Plum trees are very apt to loose their leaves prematurely under the following circumstances:—(a) When growing in poor soil, (b) when growing in wet or insufficiently drained ground, (c) in very dry weather or protracted drouth, and (d) if the soil be sandy. The remedies are to plant in a rich, well drained clay soil, and to keep it rich by liberal manuring, and a yearly application of a liberal supply of salt on the surface of the ground, from two quarts to half a bushel, every spring, according to the size of the tree.

(2). Your insect is probably the grape-vine leaf-hopper, *Erythroneura vitis*. They live over winter in the winged state under the dead leaves or such other rubbish as they may find. In the early summer they lay their eggs on the young vine leaves. When the larvæ hatch out they resemble the perfect insect, except that they have no wings. They feed on the young leaves by puncturing them with their sharp proboscis, through which they suck up the juices. The injury appears on the upper surface of the leaf in the form of yellow or brownish spots, which increase in size with the growth of the insects, at length involving the whole leaf, which looks as if scorched, and at length drop from the vine. This work