

My orchard of over six hundred fruit trees, planted some every year since '78, is doing first-class. I have over forty different kinds of apples, about seventy-five plum trees, some of them bearing well, also Early Richmond cherry. I believe I can grow any apple tree here that can be grown in Canada. If you could see them in bloom in summer you would be surprised. I have the best trees money can get, and I care for them; that is the only secret of success. Strawberries and all small fruits do well; they cannot be beaten anywhere. I do not believe I have lost a bud or an inch of young wood this winter on any of my trees. I have the Russian Apricot, Quinces, Russian Mulberry, Black Walnut, and Butternut; also ten or twelve kinds of Grapes.

THOMAS COLLINSON.

Please to tell us what kinds of Grapes, and when they ripen.—ED. CAN. HORT.

#### HEATING GREENHOUSES.

Please give your views on heating greenhouses by steam. Which is best, cheapest, and safest—hot water or steam.

GRAINGER & DUKE.

Deer Park, Ont.

REPLY.—Your Editor has not had sufficient experience in the use of steam for heating greenhouses to be able to express a decided opinion. There seems to be a conflict of opinion on this subject among those best competent to decide. The first cost of boiler and piping for steam heating, should be less than for heating by hot water. The cost of fuel for maintaining heat would be about the same in either case. In large establishments

steam has the advantage of water in the matter of the speed with which the temperature can be increased upon a sudden falling of the thermometer out of doors. In a small greenhouse, where the distance the water has to travel is not great, this question of speed becomes of less importance. In steam heating the pipes will cool quickly the moment steam ceases to be generated. In hot water the circulation will continue as long as the water in the boiler is warmer than that in the return pipes. Steam heating will require some watchfulness and judgment on the part of the manager to see that all is in perfect working order continually. The conclusion on the whole is this, we would heat a small private greenhouse with hot water, as at present advised, but a large commercial establishment, if we were now starting one, with steam.

#### THE WINDSOR BEAN.

I shall be glad if you could, through the magazine, give any hints as to growing the broad or Windsor Bean. I and others in my household are very fond of it, but have not had much success with it out here. New Zealand Spinach too, which in England I found very profitable and nice, I am unable as yet to get to grow. Perhaps the seed of the latter may have been at fault.

A.

Hamilton, Ont.

REPLY.—Our soil being a sandy loam we have always found some difficulty with these beans, especially if the season was hot and dry. They flourish best in a rich clay loam, or even a heavy clay soil that has been