

they may be captured by visiting the bushes very early in the morning, and while torpid with cold brushing them off into a pail partly filled with water, on which a little coal oil has been poured.

THE RED RUSSET.

68. SIR.—Will you kindly inform me through the *HORTICULTURIST* if you know any parties who grow the Red Russet. We are trying to introduce it here. It originated on the farm of Mr. Sanborn, Hampton Falls, N.H. It is a very vigorous tree, upright, spreading and productive. Young wood, clear reddish brown fruit, large, roundish conic yellow shaded, with dull red and deep carmine in the sun, and thickly covered with grey dots, with a slight appearance of rough russet on most of the surface, stalk rather short and thick, inserted in medium cavity surrounded with russet calyx nearly closed; segments, long recurved in a narrow uneven basin. Flesh, yellow, solid, crisp, tender, with an excellent rich sub-acid flavor, somewhat resembling Baldwin. Very good, January to April.—Yours truly, F. S. FAIRFIELD, *Orono, Ont.*

We have been growing the Red Russet apple for some years at Maplehurst, and have found it a satisfactory apple for dessert purposes. The tree is a good bearer, though somewhat more subject to the borer than some other varieties. The fruit is seldom affected by scab, and is usually of even size and an especial favorite as an eating apple.

SALT AS A FERTILIZER OR FUNGICIDE.

69. SIR.—Will you please inform me as to the effect salt would have sown now broadcast in a vineyard. Whether it would act as a preventive of mildew? If so, in what quantity should it be used per acre?

Some of my neighbors have used sulphur, but the results have not been satisfactory.

Please answer as soon as convenient, as the disease has already made its appearance.—J. H. P., *Niagara Falls South.*

As a fertilizer, salt has no direct value as soda is not an essential element in plant growth. Indirectly, however, it does act upon plant growth, and chemists explain it by saying that it effects the decomposition of substances already present in the soil, as, for instance, lime and magnesia. They tell

us further that salt and lime react upon one another in the presence of porous bodies, forming carbonate of soda which is very efficacious in promoting the decay of humus. In the case of asparagus, salt may be used to good advantage as a fertilizer, though on the other hand some plants are injured by it.

Whether it would act as a preventive of mildew is an open question, as we have neither our own experience nor that of others on which to base any conclusions. Strong brine is destructive to many fungi when placed in contact with them, but how it could be used for this purpose on the grape vine we do not see, neither do we believe that it would be of any value.

As to the quantity that may be used, it should not be applied more heavily than at the rate of five or six hundred pounds to the acre.

Powdered sulphur is the best known remedy for the powdery mildew of the grape. Its effectiveness consists in the fact that at a certain temperature the flowers of sulphur emit fumes which are destructive to the powdery mildew. These fumes are formed most rapidly, when the temperature is above 77 degrees Fabr. Where the mildew is very serious, several applications need to be made during the season. It is not necessary that it should be applied directly to the affected berries, but if sown upon the ground under the vines it will suffice.

GIRDLING THE GRAPE VINE.

70. SIR.—On page 199 of the July number of the *HORTICULTURIST*, a paper is published on the "Girdling of the Grape Vine"; before doing anything in the matter I want more light on the subject—now, whether is the girdling done by cutting into the bark with a knife or by tying something around the vine—if the operation is done by cutting into the bark, should it be done any deeper than the outer bark, and if done by tying, of what material is it to be done? In northern Ontario, if girdling can be done safely without injury to the vine, it will be of great advantage. Kindly favor me with a reply at your earliest convenience.—JAS. ROSAMOND, *Almonte, July 14, 1890.*

The operation of girdling the grape vine may be done either by removing a ring of