

usibility, whose is written upon, gh our country ds of dollars a at they should of cheap surplus cked off in every en palmed off on a fair price and be disappointed fe by having in-

about this plant. your dwelling, and more fruit ou can take care and of the fruit. e day, before the dry enough to spring work, in ample and other ur farm. Cut off rt of the tops; grow the better

SES. The Prim- a, shady border. finest samples ver seen of the eties were on the -inch spaces, so between wall trees Here the white, the yellow, and or champagne, hen called, were r glory, and we them so fine nor of the purple or primrose double ore nor since, ther unexpected s that primroses d quarters flower these in warmer sites. We have d the same thing o the earlier vari- e common single The purple and are far earlier ellow strains, and r on north and rs are as early s the same sorts n and western e purple is, how- siderably earlier ised about four e ground than thus giving fresh t the coldest air is found on e, or within a few t.

PELMA (Bird's- t). Perhaps we more willing to ur borders with ur native flowers ven, which we ate from our s common weeds alized how high- many of them a, for instance, is e in this country It is one of the some flowers, an gh all the shades es are deeply d- the plant very t is a perennial, in the woods and s. It blossoms hich time the hel if the locality ay, however, be dens, if planted ule.—*The Flower*

Root Pruning.

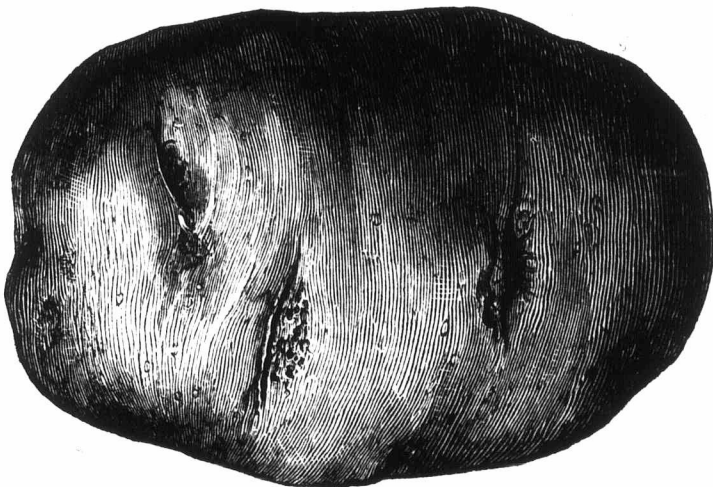
For promoting the fertility of fruit trees, root-pruning is an operation now generally resorted to. If properly carried out, it is perhaps the most certain way to reduce a luxuriant tree to a fruitful state. We wish to emphasize the word *properly*, because it is quite as possible by root pruning to reduce a tree to a state of permanent sterility as to make it fruitful. Fruitfulness in trees of luxuriant habit, such as apples, pears, and plums, and, in fact, in all other trees, depends upon that balance of force between the roots and branches which, while it insures sufficient force in the branch, at the same time promotes the complete maturation of the wood, and thus the formation of flower buds. To hit the happy medium, to so balance the forces of the tree that fertility shall be attained without merging either into luxuriance or weakness, constitutes the success of the careful cultivator. If, however, trees are planted and, as is frequently the case with the amateur cultivator, are allowed to grow on and on for years, with the expectation that they will grow into fruit, the cultivator must not be surprised, if root pruning is resorted to, and not very carefully carried out, to find his tree thrown into a state of unfruitfulness. Sterne, in fact, until such time as sufficient force is again accumulated to form healthy growth. Fortunately, however, our leading nurserymen are so particular in the stocks they make use of, and resort so systematically to root pruning and transplanting, that it is only by bad management after the plant leaves the nursery that the balance of force will be disturbed. Such disappointments, however, do occur, and generally result from mistaken kindness in using rich soils and manures. When the luxuriant habit is induced, the wood formed is too strong and sappy to form flower buds, and hence barrenness is the result. This may arise from over rich soil, or from one or more roots rushing away deep into the subsoil, where they suck up such crude matter that growth is promoted late into the autumn instead of being brought into the maturing state not later than the middle of August. With the luxuriant tree, and when the luxuriance is the result of over-feeding for a series of years, the best plan will be found to lift it out carefully from the place in which it has been growing, to shorten in the strongest roots, and to plant it again almost upon the surface of the ground, using a little fresh soil around the roots, and mulching the surface of the ground with some spent dung or leaf mould. Carefully staked to prevent wind-waving, and the branches judiciously thinned out in early spring, and those retained shortened back, such a tree will be moderated in its growth the following season, and will almost invariably produce abundance of fruit buds. But if the check is too great, sterility may be the result for a year or two, which sterility will be more quickly overcome by liberal treatment.

So far, the treatment of unfruitful trees may be said to be confined to those only recently planted. When trees of more mature years are barren, then more cautious treatment must be resorted to. For example, nothing is more common than for pear or plum trees, of large size, when trained against a wall, to be entirely fruitless. To take up such trees and replant them would not generally be the right thing to do, because being of mature growth, the check of complete removal might be too great. In such cases the best thing is to commence at the extreme point of the roots, and to lift them, according to the size of the tree, to within two, four or six feet of the main stem, and then to re-lay the roots near to the surface of the ground; or, in case of wall trees, half the roots may be taken up one season, following them to the very base of the stem, and the remaining portion, if necessary, the following season. Such treatment cautiously carried out will generally restore the balance of force, and with it fruitfulness will ensue. Now come we to the ordinary trees—such as are prepared by root pruning before they are sent out from the nursery, and may be said to have been reduced to a moderate and healthy state of growth. These, sometimes, if transferred to a rich soil, may start after

a time into an over-luxuriant habit. In such a case it is customary to check them by root pruning, simply by digging round one side of the tree this year, and cutting off some of the stronger and more perpendicular roots, and treating the other portion in the same manner the following year. Early autumn, while there is yet some heat in the ground, is the best time for root pruning, as the warmth enables the wounds to heal quickly, and also to throw out fresh feeders so as to become re-established before the active growth of spring commences. Trees thus managed, with bi-annual attention to root pruning, may be easily kept in a constantly fruitful state, and for small gardens nothing looks so neat as bush or pyramidal trees so managed.—*R., in Garden.*

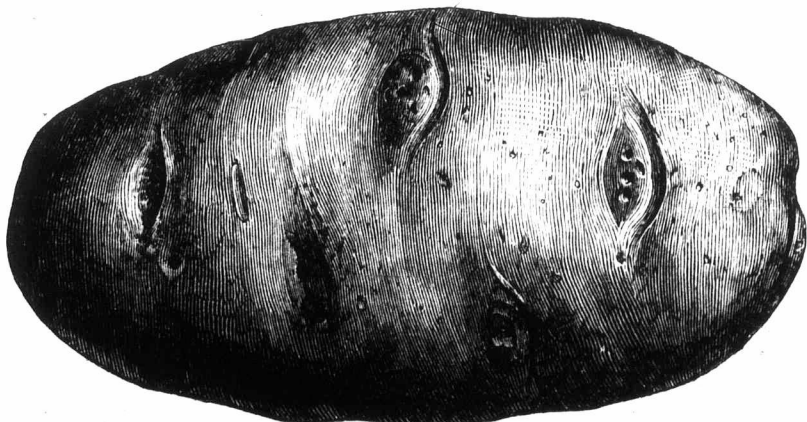
Potatoes.

The question has been asked by more than one of our subscribers, what are the best kinds of potatoes to plant. We are unable to answer this to suit



EARLY OHIO.

every person and every locality. It 1875 we thought the Late Rose better than the Early Rose; we planted more extensively the latter variety in 1876, and found those that had the Early Rose had a better crop. No doubt the season caused this. Of the much-lauded Compton's Surprise that were to branch and grow again, we think but little. If they grow too near the surface they often become



BURBANK'S SEEDLING.

bare and turn green; the eyes are too deeply indented; they waste too much in cooking. The quality is excellent, but we would not commend them. The Alpha are commended by many, but we think but little of them from the last two years' experience. The much-lauded Excelsior we found to exceed all others for rotting, although they had been much recommended. The last-named three were leading varieties of the most noted American potato dealers. There is a difficulty about all new varieties of seed; they are generally landed too highly. It is difficult to tell, without actual trial, which are best. We by all means advise you to plant your main crop of whatever variety has yielded best in your neighborhood; and if for sale, the variety that will sell best in your market. The Early Rose will be most generally planted, although many that have tried the Early Vermont will prefer them. Brownell's Beauty is a good potato. Many like the Snowflake. There are many other varieties introduced by different seedsmen; many are seen abandoned. Of the new varieties advertised this year we give the following description from Mr. J. H.

Gregory's Catalogue, of Marblehead, Massachusetts. Mr. Gregory, we consider, has as good a reputation as any seedsman in the States on vegetables and potatoes; he introduced some good cabbages and squash, lettuces, &c., &c.

BURBANK'S SEEDLING

Is a seedling of Early Rose, but is of Massachusetts origin. Unlike its parent, it is white skinned. The remarkable productiveness of this new seedling will be seen in the fact that the first year from the seed ball the yield was three pounds three ounces, all large sized potatoes! Since then it has yielded 36 pounds to a rod of row, has averaged a bushel to nine hills, and 435 bushels to the acre. Planted side by side with Early Rose, New York Late Rose, Peerless and Brownell's Beauty, it has excelled them in yield. In beauty of form it is unexcelled, the proportions being all that can be desired, and is never hollow hearted. It has the good characteristic of yielding almost no small potatoes; while but five-sixths of the Early Rose,

growing side by side, were of market size; of the Burbank forty-nine fiftieths were marketable. Hardly a rotten potato has been found thus far in its history, while standard varieties growing side by side under precisely similar circumstances have rotted badly. It has but few eyes, which are sunk but a little below the surface. In quality it is fine grained, of excellent flavor either boiled or baked, is dry and floury; in fine, is all that can be desired. It ranks between the very early and very late varieties.

In brief, the argument for sending out the new seedling is as follows: 1st, its exceptionally great productiveness; 2nd, the first-class quality of the potato; 3rd, the capital trait for market, that it produces almost none of unmarketable size; 4th, its hardy vigor; 5th, it does not grow hollow-hearted even when weighing over a pound to a single potato; 6th, the proportions and appearance are so attractive it will draw the attention of marketmen.

THE EARLY OHIO.

One of our Canadian seed potato growers has informed us that he has found the Early Ohio much superior to the Early or Late Rose or the Vermont Beauty. Mr. Gregory also introduced this potato, and has a lot of certificates showing its superiority. The following we quote from his Catalogue:—

I have received from kind friends, on an average, about fifty new seedlings a year. To all of these I have given a careful and conscientious trial of their merits, on my experimental grounds, planting them with note-book in hand, and following their growth and development, with note-book, throughout the season. Among such a multitude of varieties, I have found many that were almost decided acquisitions, but were either similar to varieties already well known, yielded too many small potatoes, or potatoes that were prongy, ran to too sharp a point, or were in some other way badly shaped for market; had too many or too deeply sunken eyes; were of poor quality or too prone to rot. Ultimately I have found but three out of over two hundred seedlings that have proved themselves to be decided acquisitions. This is one of the numerous seedlings of the Early Rose, but while almost all of these are so like their parent as to be undistinguishable from it, the *Early Ohio*, while in color like the Early Rose, is, in shape, distinct, being round-oblong instead of oval-oblong, so that side by side it is readily distinguishable. On the largest specimens, the cluster of eyes at the seed end is located slightly one side of the longer axis. Quality excellent. Grown side by side with the Early Rose, it proved a week earlier, while the yield was a third greater.

The result of a careful trial of its merits, side by side with all the new seedlings now before the public, besides over thirty new varieties sent me from various localities in New England, the Middle and Western States, each of which being sent as a new seedling of special promise, leaves the Ohio in the same high rank it previously held: 1st, as decidedly earlier than Early Rose, and 2nd, as emphatically a better cropper than any other variety equally early, and equalled by but two of the latter varieties.