

The Early Harvest is a very desirable early fruit for home use, but unless highly cultivated the fruit is often imperfect, making it unprofitable for market purposes. The Sweet Bough is a fine, early apple; it is white, tender, juicy and rich, but with me has not proved very productive. The Red Astrachan is an exceedingly beautiful apple and perfectly hardy; the fruit is nice, but like the Duchess, its season is short and must be gathered and used early, otherwise it becomes mealy. The tree is perfectly hardy and productive.

In early winter fruit, the Fameuse has no superior; fruit of medium size, and deep crimson when grown in the sun, flesh snowy white, tender and of delicious flavor; the tree is a vigorous grower, bears at an early age, and quite abundant, and it deserves more extensive cultivation than it has hitherto received. The Emperor Alexander is another of our early winter varieties; fruit large with a nice crimson blush, and fine appearance; flesh not so fine as the Fameuse, but having a nice, pleasant flavor; notwithstanding its deserved popularity, I think it is only entitled to second place among our early winter fruits. Sops of Wine is cultivated to considerable extent, and is quite equal to the Emperor in every respect.

Prominent among our list of late winter fruit, are to be found the Golden Russett of Western New York, Yellow Bellflower, or Bishop Pippin, Northern Spy, Pomme Gris, Ben Davis, Strawberry Pearmain, Talman Sweet, Nonpareil, Rhode Island Greening and American Baldwin. The Golden Russett I have found to be a most desirable winter fruit, keeping until June in perfect condition. Flesh firm and crisp, yellowish white, flavor mild and pleasant. The tree is a vigorous grower and fairly prolific; should be extensively cultivated.

The Bishop Pippin is large, of a superior quality, oblong, and quite irregular in its formation. The flesh is tender, juicy and crisp, with a sprightly acid flavor. The tree with me has thus far proved a very vigorous grower, and perfectly hardy, but rather a shy bearer, shedding its fruit to a large extent when about the size of plums. In Nova Scotia the tree is immensely productive and is one of the standard fruit growers. It is to be found in every orchard in that Province.

The Northern Spy with us is a hardy, thrifty and upright grower, moderately productive, but very tardy in coming into bearing, requires high cultivation and quite severe pruning in the centre of the tree to give it a spreading form. The fruit is of the highest order, peculiarly fragrant and delicious, and retains its freshness like an autumn apple. It is of good size, pale yellow in the shade, with stripes of purplish red next the sun; the flesh is white, fine grained, and very tender and juicy. Those who are willing to wait from ten to fifteen years for a splendid sample of fruit should plant at once. One need not expect good fruit sooner. No orchard is complete without a number of trees of this variety.

The Pomme Gris, so far as my knowledge extends, is not very extensively cultivated in the Province, but richly deserves a place in all well stocked orchards, on account of its late keeping qualities and excellent flavor. In size it is below medium, skin rough covered with russett. Nice from January to June.

Ben Davis has been but recently introduced, but thus far has given good satisfaction; the fruit is striped with red, and bright red next the sun, rather above the medium in size.

The Strawberry Pearmain, introduced by the Nova Scotia nurseries, is one of our finest fruits. In size, large, pale yellow in the shade, with a beautiful crimson blush next the sun; skin beautifully dotted resembling a strawberry in appearance. The fruit is of the highest excellence, retaining a peculiar freshness and delicacy until late in May. The tree is a vigorous grower and perfectly hardy. No orchardist should be without it.

Talman Sweet is a good keeper and pleasant flavor; not much for a market apple, but nice to have a tree or two for house use. The Nonpareil is a good winter fruit, medium in size and of good quality. Rhode Island Greening is giving good satisfaction as a late keeper; it is among the very best, and is a choice dessert fruit when well cultivated; the tree is productive and a thrifty grower. The Baldwin succeeds well and gives good satisfaction.

With reference to the culture I have found that apples, like all other crops, are greatly benefited by constant care and good cultivation; indeed I am convinced that orchard culture cannot be a success without judicious pruning and good culti-

vation. I am happy to state that I am not alone in this respect, as there are thousands of our orchardists who have by experience in the variety of methods learned that their efforts in that direction can only be crowned by success when their orchards are carefully attended to by proper pruning and good cultivation.

I notice that very many of our farmers in planting out their young orchards are placing the trees from 8 to 15 feet apart each way. In my opinion this is a great mistake. I have invariably planted them 33 feet apart each way, and hope at no very distant day to see their branches sufficiently close to each other for the cultivation of first-class fruit. Besides it gives the advantage of easy cultivation. From 8 to 15 feet may answer when they are quite small, but after some ten or fifteen years have elapsed (if the trees grow as they should) they would present much the appearance of a thicket of brushwood, with branches woven and interwoven so as to entirely exclude the sunshine, that is so essential to bring all kinds of fruit to the highest point of perfection.

In the Province of Nova Scotia, where they have given the subject of fruit culture much consideration and have been very successful fruit growers, I find that it is the practice to plant their trees from 25 to 33 feet apart. I am aware that there are many advocates of the close planting system in the Province, but at the risk of incurring their friendly criticisms I protest against it.

Little is being done to extend the cultivation of the crab apple, as it is not considered profitable, the present supply being quite in excess of the demand. The Golden or Wax crab, Transcendent, Siberian, etc., are among the varieties grown.

As yet but little has been done in pear culture. Some of the hardier sorts however have been introduced and the result is awaited with interest. Probably the climate of our Province will not prove so congenial to their growth as that of our sister Province of Nova Scotia, where they grow to great perfection.

The culture of small fruit is largely on the increase. Some ten years ago the culture of strawberries was attempted by D. P. Wetmore, Esq., of Clifton, for market purposes, and so successful has his attempt proved, that whereas in 1871 we were importing all the cultivated strawberries made use of by our people from the United States, we are now supplying our markets and shipping large quantities to Halifax, Quebec and Boston. Many of our farmers have gone into the cultivation of small fruit, encouraged to do so by the success attending Mr. Wetmore's efforts. Their plantations are gradually extended from year to year, with ready markets for all that is produced. The principal varieties cultivated are the Wilson's Albany, Charles Downing, Col. Cheney, and Downer's Prolific. The interest in their cultivation, as also of raspberries, gooseberries, etc., is increasing.

#### November in the Garden.

There is less to be done in the garden this month than in any of the fall months. Nature seems to have commenced her long sleep, to awake with renewed vitality in the spring. There are, however, some things even now to be done. Not only have we to preserve the fruits of the past season, but we can do much in preparing for the future by being beforehand in your spring labor. Digging, or, better still, trenching. No vacant spot should be neglected now, if it has been left undone in October. Throwing up the land in rough ridges makes it more fertile and friable. There is latent richness in almost every soil that can be made available.

Asparagus beds should be prepared for winter by giving a good covering of stable manure, the coarser part to be raked off in the spring, and that remaining to be forked into the soil. The plants are hastened in growth and improved in flavor by a top-dressing of salt. Lettuce and radish may still be sown in a cold frame for an early spring supply, though October would have been more suitable. A great benefit from turning the soil in October or November is the destruction of many injurious insects, especially about the roots of fruit trees, bushes and vines. It will kill many, and thereby prevent the increase of many more. Their winter quarters are broken up by the operation, and many of them killed and frozen and exposed to the birds, their great exterminators.

Pruning.—The best season for pruning is summer; but it may have been neglected, or even if attended to at the proper season, there may be some branches to be cut away. The object of pruning in the fall is to cause branches to push out with

greater vigor in the spring. The time for fall pruning is when the leaves have fallen. If this month be mild the pruning-knife may be used even now. If it be necessary to saw off large branches, smooth the scar and paint it, in order to keep the wet from penetrating it and causing rot. Hedges should also be attended to. Branches that are straggling or too forward may be pruned with a knife—not with shears.

Unhealthy Orchards.—One cause of unthrifty trees is the poverty of the soil. This may be remedied by a liberal topdressing. A more efficacious method of supplying the trees with food is the following: Dig a circle round the tree about two spades deep, and from four to eight feet from the stem. Fill this circle with rich compost. This will supply the root at once with the needed food. We have often practised this method of feeding fruit trees, especially currants and gooseberries, and found the improvement the following season. We generally add over the compost and round the tree, coal or sea. To this enriching of the soil should be added a pruning out of all decaying branches, scraping off the old, loose bark and moss, and washing the trees with a solution of soft-soap and sulphur.

Planting Trees.—Planting in autumn or spring has each its advocates, as each season has its advantages and disadvantages. The careful transplanting is, however, of greater importance than the season. If the weather remains mild and the ground in good condition, trees may be still transplanted. All newly-planted trees should be protected by having a mound of earth placed around them to some height. This is a preservative from mice, from frost, and from being disturbed by winter and spring winds. Gooseberries, currants and raspberry bushes may be transplanted even as late as this month in preference to waiting until spring.

Preserving Grape Vines.—For the winter or annual preserving of grape vines the best time is as soon as the wood is ripened in the fall. They should be protected sufficiently before the frost.

The Window Garden.—Plants for the window should have been taken up before the first of last month. Watering them is a very important operation. Plants are often injured by injudicious watering. If the plant be in vigorous growth there is but little danger of giving it too much watering. If the plant has been out back or lost its leaves water should be given sparingly. The insect that is most injurious to house-plants is the aphid, or plant louse. The plants infested with them should be immersed once or twice a week in tobacco water, made to a strength having the color of strong tea; or when the plants are large they should be syringed with it instead of being immersed.

Bulbs.—If the weather continues mild and the soil be in good condition, bulbs, the planting of which has been neglected in October, may still be planted, and the beds should be protected by a coating of forest leaves before the ground be frozen.

Squash Seed.—The seed of the squash continues to ripen after the squash is removed from the vine, and it is better to leave them in the squash for a couple of months before removing so that they may be thoroughly ripened. They should be cleaned without water, if possible, and thoroughly dried. Seed so preserved will keep its vitality for four or five years.

Indian Corn for seed should be carefully selected and preserved. The necessity of this has been exemplified this season. The Ohio Board of Agriculture estimates the loss in the corn crop in that State on account of defective seed at 40,000,000 bushels. The loss in the corn crop of Illinois from the same cause is put at 60,000,000 bushels. This proves that too much care cannot be given to selecting and preparing seed corn.

PETROLEUM ON TREES AND BUSHES.—Dr. H. Gibbons, at a recent meeting of the California Academy of Sciences, said that since he put petroleum on the trees in his garden they had grown better and faster than ever before, and given better roses than before. The petroleum seems to kill the scale insect. The handsomest rose he exhibited was from a bush which looked nearly dead a short time before. The petroleum was mixed with castor oil. It is applied sparingly, and great care is taken that it does not run down the roots. Perhaps in a crude state the petroleum would be bad, even on the stalks; but mixed with the castor oil it appears to be advantageous to the plant.