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THE SHAFFER.



PERHAPS as fruit growers we are inclined to judge of all fruits too much from a commercial standpoint and to give too little prominence to varieties that are commendable for the home garden.

Every farmer in Ontario should have a fruit garden for home use, and we shall be advancing the end of our Association as much by naming the varieties suited for this purpose, as by indicating those which are most desirable for the market garden.

The Shaffer is a purple berry and a chance hybrid of the red and black raspberries. It was found on the farm of Mr. Shaffer, of Wheatland, Munroe Co., N.Y., and was introduced to the public by Mr. Chas. Green, of Rochester. The bush much resembles the red raspberry in general habit of growth, but does not send up suckers; it is propagated in the same manner as the blackcaps, viz., by striking root at the tips. It is a colossal grower, reaching up its

huge canes six feet or more, and needs to be cut back once or twice through the season to keep it in bounds, and to cause it to branch freely. The size of the berry is considerably above that of the Gregg black raspberry, and often even larger than the Cuthbert red, but if those on the table before us, grown on our own fruit farm, are a fair average, the colored plate in this issue is overdrawn. It is correct enough, however, in having some twenty berries on a single fruiting branch, and this gives some idea of its productiveness, a strong point in its favor; but our own samples do not average more than three quarters of an inch in diameter, whereas the artist has made them to measure an inch. Still it is quite possible that in more favorable seasons and in very rich soil the berries might attain the full inch, as represented. The Shaffer is undoubtedly one of the most desirable raspberries for home use, for the following reasons: (1) It is an excellent bearer, continuing in season a long time. (2) The quality is excellent, and continues to improve as long as it hangs