



Fruit Trees in Owen Sound.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—In a recent issue of your journal I noticed a letter from Mr. McLean on Owen Sound as a fruit growing district. I can say as much with regard to that by experience as any one can. About twenty years ago I began to raise fruit trees, and also to buy them from agents; all grew and bore well except imported peaches. I then began to plant peach stones; they grew well in summer, but froze down a little in winter for several years, but began to bear in about four years, and the last three years they have borne a very heavy crop, and now they never freeze. I have also a Clinton Grape Vine; it bears well, and ripens about the end of September. We took about 200 lbs. from it last fall. We have also an Isabella beginning to bear equally well, but is later in ripening. We have also plums, pears and cherries, doing well. Our apples consist in part of the following kinds:—Northern Spy, Rhode Island Greening, Snow Apple, King of Tomkin's County, Baldwin, Keswick Codlin, Roxbury Russet, St. Lawrence, Ribston Pippin, Maiden Blush, Twenty Ounce, besides some good seedlings of which I do not know the name, and all seem to do equally well except for the bark louse, which is yearly gaining ground in this locality.

WILLIAM BROWN.

New Double Crimson Hawthorn.

This very fine variety of the English thorn is most remarkable for the intensity of color. In other respects, it is not materially different from the common double red hawthorn. We clip from the *Florist* the following account of its origin:

"The history of the sport is briefly this: About seven or eight years ago, some flowers of this intense hue were observed on a plant of the double pink thorn; and, on examination, it was found that a strong branch had started up from near the centre of the tree, with leaves as well as flowers differing from its parent. The branch was encouraged, and year by year increased in size, retaining the color and character originally observed. The parent plant is apparently about twenty-five years old, thirty feet high, and as much in diameter, measured from the outermost branches at its greatest width. There is still only one stout central branch of this deep color; the other branches, which are profusely adorned with flowers, being of the original pale pink so well known to horticulturists. When looking at the tree recently, so great was the contrast between the sport and the original, that we could not rid ourselves of the impression that the parent variety was, in this instance, paler than usual; and we asked ourselves whether the coloring matter had not been drawn from the larger surface, and intensified in this particular branch by one of those secret processes which the student of nature is often called upon to behold and wonder at, without being able to account for or explain. This may be fanciful; but here is certainly a *lusus naturæ* worthy of the attentive consideration of our vegetable physiologists."

The plant, which has only recently been brought out in England, is well deserving of extensive cultivation. There is nothing more ornamental, or more endeared to us by early memories, than the showy and rosy hawthorn of May; but the colors have always been dull. Now, we have intensity of color, which must add much to the attractions of the plant. We suppose any stock of this variety can hardly yet have reached this country, but have no doubt that our florists, with their usual enterprise, will soon introduce it to the public.—*Am. Jour. Hort.*

How to protect Trees from Insects.

THE following simple means of preserving trees from the ravages of insects, recorded in a late number of *Chambers' Journal*, was first published at Lyons by the Imperial Society of Practical Horticulture of the Rhône; it is worth a trial in this country.

"The mischief done by insects whose eggs are deposited in buds and blossoms is almost incredible. The remedy is to mix one part of vinegar with nine parts of water, and shower it from a syringe or fine-robed watering-pot over the trees, plants or flowers requiring protection. The experiments made in this way in the neighbourhood of Lyons have proved eminently successful, the trees so treated having been loaded with fruit, while others which had been let alone bore very scantily. In preparing the solution, it would be well to remember that as French vinegar is much stronger than English, the quantity of the latter should be increased." [We should think the inexpensive Pyroligneous Acid might be employed instead of vinegar, if sufficiently diluted. Ed. C.F.]

Characteristics of a Good Fruit.

To the question, what are the points of a good fruit? we answer: First, the best quality; second, durability, or the property of remaining sound after being gathered; third, size; fourth, color; fifth, form, though I regard the last two as of nearly equal importance.

So long as we raise fruit to eat, we can have no hesitation in giving the first place to its eating qualities. No combination of other properties, however valuable, can atone for any considerable deficiency in this respect. Texture, juice, flavor, aroma, join to determine the quality.

Next in importance to quality is durability, or keeping, by which I do not mean late ripening, but the property, whether early or late, of remaining sound after being gathered. A habit of decaying at the core is a very great fault in fruit; and, for market, one which can be ripened in the house is much more valuable than one which, to be eaten in perfection, must be ripened on the tree, as is the case with the Rostiezer and other pears of the Konelet family, the Early Harvest and Williams apples.

The third requisite, size, is at once obvious. One of the highest flavored new pears is Dana's Hovey, but its value would be many times multiplied could its size be doubled, and its luscious character retained. Yet, while we seek for large fruit in preference to small, we should not forget that a fruit may be too large for table use. We have but one dessert pear of the size of the Duchesse d'Angoulême, and perhaps one is enough. But whether the size is large or small, it should be uniform.

Beauty of color and form, though less important than the preceding points, are still of great value, and, all other things being equal, that fruit which possesses them will justly receive the preference. The best colored pears are those with a brilliant red cheek, next to this comes a golden or cinnamon russet, then yellow, and last green.

Beauty of form has been less regarded than color, but a moment's observation will show its importance. Some pears are so beautiful in the curves which form their outlines as at once to attract and please the eye, while others are entirely unprepossessing if not ugly. The Buerre Bosc is the most perfect example of the former; and it is not only beautiful in itself, but pleases us as being the true pear type. After the pyriform comes the Doyenne type; and between the two we have all gradations, which are desirable in proportion as they approach the former. Next to the Doyenne is the Bergamot; then comes the globular; then the ovate, tapering toward the eye; and when this is conjoined with a knobby substance, it is worst of all.—*Extract from President Wilder's Address at the Pomological Meeting.*

A LARGE GRAPE-VINE.—Mr. Stewart, Oxford, G. W., has a Clinton vine seventy feet long—that is, thirty-five feet each way from the root, running over and on an eight-foot picket fence, which hung this year with one mass of grapes from end to end. He entirely ignores the idea of cutting grape vines back to five or six feet, arguing that the leaders should not be cut at all. The vine referred to is in his garden, and has had all necessary care; and though the grapes had been somewhat injured by hail, both in bunch and berry they would compare favorably with the Clintons to be elsewhere seen.

Horticulture for the Clergy.

"Rev. Dr. Vall," says the *Pittsburg Advocate*, "for forty-six years a trustee of Amherst College, has ended an honorable and useful pastorate of thirteen years, at Palmer, with a farewell sermon, in which he spoke with an honest pride of his never having subjected his people to the inconvenience and expense of the fashionable ministerial vocation of modern times. He said that had been superseded by a system of horticulture and home exercise, which all country ministers might most advantageously adopt, with far better results as to health and study, and pastoral labor, and pecuniary expenditure, than rusticating in Adirondack mountains or among the salt marshes of Cape Ann."

We commend the above to the thoughtful attention of the clergy of Canada. Travel enlarges one's ideas, and if the traveller be observant adds greatly to one's knowledge of human nature and stock of information generally, but unfortunately travelling is an expensive luxury such as few clergymen can afford to indulge in. Gardening is universally practicable. The taste for it is intuitive, and even where it is not supposed to exist, can easily and quickly be developed. It is a source of great pleasure, and so far from being a costly recreation, may be made remunerative and profitable in a pecuniary point of view.

WASH FOR FRUIT TREES.—"J. H. W." from Sandwich, has sent us the following in reply to a recent enquiry from a correspondent respecting a wash for fruit trees:—"In THE CANADA FARMER of November 15th, W. Drone, of Kirkwall, asks whether 'lye' is a suitable wash for young trees."

"My experience as a fruit grower is, that a wash made with soft soap and rain water is far superior to any other that has yet been recommended. It produces a freshness, a healthy and vigorous growth of bark, which will tend materially to increase the vitality of the tree. I have used this successfully, and can recommend it. A white-wash brush may be used, and a plentiful supply given."

"A patent pail of soft soap will make twenty gallons of the wash."

LARGE CLUSTER OF GRAPES.—Mr. Fowler, gardener to the Earl of Stair, Castle Kennedy, produced, at a recent show in Glasgow, the most extraordinary bunch of grapes, for size and weight, that has been exhibited in modern times. It all but rivalled the famous bunch of Speechly at Welbeck. It weighed 17 lbs. 2½ ozs., and was of the White Nice variety. The same grower had enormous Black Alicante, with berries the size of Victoria Hamburg, and bunches compact and pyramidal to a fault. Trebbiano, too, was the largest and best formed bunch of the kind probably ever exhibited. Mr. Fowler also produced a bunch of the Duchess of Buccleuch variety, much larger in cluster and berry than any of this variety before exhibited. The size of bunch which Mr. Fowler induces in all the sorts under his cultural care, is something wonderful, and if he does not at all times show them quite up to the finishing stroke in point of color, it need not be wondered at.—*Florist* (London).

PROTECTING FRUIT TREES FROM MICE.—As the time of drifts and heavy snows is now upon us, it is well for those having young fruit trees to take some measure to protect them from the ravages of mice. A great many trees are gnawed and spoiled by these little pests, which a little timely care would save. I have tried several remedies, such as making an embankment of earth around the trees, treading down the snow, &c. The latter has generally proved successful, though it sometimes fails, especially where there is a thick growth of grass. My method now is to use tins, which I find a very sure as well as an economical arrangement. For small trees not over two inches in diameter, I buy sheets of tin twelve inches square at the tin-shop, and cut them into pieces six inches square. These I bend over a round piece of wood to give them form, and connect the sides as they meet, with a small piece of wire, made crane-hook fashion, and inserted in holes previously made. The tins will last a good many years if taken care of in summer, and the only work of putting them on is to spring them open and put them around the trees, then hook and slide them down to the ground.—*Cor. Maine Farmer.*