

of the country, particularly west of this, it thrives well, and bears abundantly. I have occasionally seen as fine peaches as could be desired, grown in this neighbourhood. I am of opinion that if none but the following or similar early sorts were grown, there is every reason to believe that the cultivation of this delicious fruit might be attended with more success:—Early Tiltolton, Early York, Early Crawford, Large Early Red Rarripe, Yellow Allberge, Royal George.

It was intended to have noticed briefly what may be called the minor fruits—such as vines, strawberries, &c.—but this communication having extended itself to a greater length than was anticipated, I will postpone their notice, and that of ornamental trees, shrubs, &c., to a future number.

The pruning of orchards should be done in March or early in April. Young trees require but little pruning; it is enough to keep the heads in proper shape, and to remove branches that cross or interfere with others. All suckers and side-shoots should be removed. Old trees, the heads of which have grown dense with branches, should be thinned out, to admit the sun and air. This improves very much the size and flavour of the fruit. In doing this, a pruning saw should be used. The limbs should be cut close to the tree, and the cut smoothed over with a sharp knife. No pruning should be done, if it can be avoided, after the sap has commenced flowing. The plum, cherry, and other trees, apt to give out gum, which is termed “bleeding,” should not be pruned till midsummer.

In conclusion: it is difficult to persuade a great number of persons, that for transplanting, trees are not the better for being *too large*. Many insist that the larger the better; but my experience, and that of every observing cultivator, has convinced me that this is highly injudicious. Apple trees about six feet high, and three, or at most four years from the graft, are the most suitable for transplanting. Pears and plums the same. Cherries, two or at most three years from the inoculation, and peaches one year. Having been planted, they should be carefully tied to a stake, to prevent them being blown about by the wind, and the land—or at least the land about the trees—cultivated and occasionally manured for four or five years. This system will ensure healthy, handsome trees, and bring them rapidly forward into a productive state.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE LESLIE.

CULTIVATION OF THE GOOSEBERRY.

To the Editors of the Canadian Agriculturist.

GENTLEMEN,—I send you the following brief observations on the cultivation of the gooseberry, in reply to the inquiries of “*An Amateur*.”

The gooseberry in Canada is not one of those fruits that will grow and bear good crops except a good deal of pains be taken to prepare the soil, which ought to be a deep, rich loam. It is generally found that the gooseberry will do best in a situation that is partially shaded from the mid-day sun; at the same time, it will not do to be planted under the drop of trees. They require regular pruning; cutting the young wood well in, and leaving the centre of the bush free and open to admit light and air;

which will be a great means of preventing the fruit from being attacked with the mildew. The gooseberry is also subject to the attacks of the green caterpillar; the only safe cure for which is to gather them off carefully with the hand, and repeat the operation every morning until you clear them off. There are a great many varieties of the gooseberry cultivated in England; some of the sorts attain to a very large size. The *Roaring Lion* has been known to weigh over an ounce and a half. But the kinds best adapted for Western Canada are those of a medium size. The following varieties I consider suitable for a small garden:—

Red—Warrington, Crown Bob, British Hero. *Green*—Large Green Hairy, Green Bottle. *White*—White Smith, White Honey. *Yellow*—Golden Yellow, Rilton Hero, Britannia.

JAMES FLEMING.

Toronto, March 16, 1849.

FORMATION OF HOT-BEDS.

Thinking that a few directions on this subject might be useful to some of our subscribers at this season of the year, we copy the following practical instructions from Mrs. Loudon's interesting work on Gardening for Ladies.

Many kinds of manure may be used in making hot-beds, but the principal materials in use in most gardens are stable manure, dead leaves and tan:—

The first of these, which is by far the most general, consists partly of horse-dung, and partly of what gardeners call long litter, that is, straw moistened and discoloured, but not decayed. The manure is generally in this state when it is purchased, or taken from the stable, for the purpose of making a hot-bed.

The necessary quantity of manure is procured, at the rate of one cart load, or from twelve to fifteen large wheel-barrowfuls, to every light, (as the gardeners call the sashes of the frames,) each light being about three feet wide; and this manure is laid in a heap to ferment. In about a week the manure should be turned over with a dung-fork, and well shaken together; this operation being repeated two or three, or more times, at intervals of two or three days, till the whole mass is become of one colour, and the straws are sufficiently decomposed to be torn to pieces with the fork.

The size of the hot-bed must depend principally on the size of the frame which is to cover it; observing that the bed must be from six inches to a foot wider than the frame every way. The manure must then be spread in layers, each layer being beaten down with the back of the fork, till the bed is about three feet and a half high. The surface of the ground on which the hot-bed is built, is generally raised about six inches above the general surface of the garden; and it is advisable to lay some earth round the bottom of the bed, nearly a foot wide, that it may receive the juices of the manure that will drain from the bed. As soon as the bed is made, the frame is put on, and the sashes kept quite close, till a steam appears upon the glass, when the bed is considered in a fit state to be covered three or four inches deep with mould; observing, if the bed has settled unequally, to level the surface of the manure before covering it with earth. The seeds to be raised may