

Garden and Flowers

Apples at \$100 a Piece.

In this country of choice and plentiful apples, it seems strange to hear of so common a fruit being sold at an enormous price. "Stray Stories" tells of the rarity of Zanzibar apples: Of all fruits, Zanzibar apples are perhaps the rarest. Dozens of trees to-



gether will only bear a few of these apples, and the time for picking them has to be carefully selected; they must be gathered just a month before they would ripen, otherwise they will very quickly go bad.

These apples have been sold in England at \$100 apiece, and, of course, have to be specially ordered, for no fruiterer would ever dream of keeping them in stock.

Custard apples are another expensive luxury. They can be purchased at prices ranging from 75 cents to \$25 each, according to quality, and according to those whose judgment in such matters is considered to be absolutely correct, must be eaten with pepper and salt.

A gentleman not long since went into a well-known fruiterer's in Regent street and offered \$250 to the manager if he could provide enough strawberries for five people that evening.

Seventeen gardens provided the required amount of strawberries, and by 6.30 that evening the fruit was delivered at a cost of nearly \$2.50 for each strawberry.

The manager of a well-known fruiterer's establishment in the west end informed the writer that lots of people who see high-priced fruit in the window will buy it just to see "what it tastes like," and in this way these "samplers," as they are called by the trade, are a considerable source of profit to many of the high-class fruiterers.

When you are growling about your work, think of the poor fellow who has none.

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Starting a Raspberry Bed.

Wallace's Farmer says that raspberries should be set out in rows about seven feet apart and about half that distance apart in the row. Most growers prefer spring planting on rich, level, well manured land that has been fall plowed. As soon as the ground works nicely in the spring it may be thoroughly pulverized and the plants set out in furrows six inches deep. The plants should be given frequent shallow cultivation. In setting the plants the tips should be handled carefully and as much dirt as possible left around the roots, then press the soil

firmly around the roots and throw a little loose dirt over the surface to prevent evaporation. The plants would not bear much the first year. The canes which grow one year bear fruit the next. The black caps, which root from the tip of the canes, have scarcely any cane left on the bunch of roots that is planted, and with red varieties the root cutting usually used have the canes cut off close to the root and the new canes come from the buds on the roots. Raspberries thrive best in a partial shade, such as between rows of trees or elsewhere, when not fully exposed to the sun. A new bed should be started about every six years.

Rhubarb.

There are thousands of farmers' homes that are not supplied with a good quality of this excellent "pie timber," that all people just hanker after when the "between hay and grass season" arrives. The roots that are now producing a lot of little spindling stalks may be greatly improved by digging them out and dividing the same into a half dozen or more pieces, and then replanting into a richer soil,

where cultivation can be given in the spring. Don't forget the long row system, when planting all such roots.

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JAMES CRAM, Edmonton, Alta.

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