

years these plums have been grown and improved under special cultivation and selection by the gardeners of Europe and Asia, and where these succeed as they do in the southern parts of this Province, there is no reason why they should not be planted freely for commercial purposes. For convenience sake they have been divided into several subclasses, as for example: (1) The Gages, roundish plums, green or yellow in color, with green flesh, including Reine Claude, Green and Imperial Gage, Washington and General Hand; (2) the Prunes, oval plums, blue purple in color and rather firm, greenish yellow flesh, including the German Prunes and Prune d' Agen; (3) the blue plums with large oval fruit, dark blue in color, with firm yellow flesh, including such varieties as Kingston, Quackenbos, Shipper and Arctic; and (4) the Red plums, of which the fruit is obovate, purplish with thin skin and soft juicy flesh, as Bradshaw, Victoria, Pond, Duane and Lombard.

Of course the above distinctions are more or less arbitrary, for, in these days of cross breeding, classes are being more and more obliterated and individuality alone seems to remain for study. For the home garden a large assortment of these plums is most interesting and desirable, but for the commercial orchard it is best to make the list as limited as possible and to plant only three or four of the very best varieties. The time to decide upon what varieties are most profitable for one to grow is just now in plum season when the fruit is being harvested and sold.

#### PICKING AND MARKET PLUMS

**P**LUMS need to be handled a little on the green side, especially the "Red Plums," such as Bradshaw, which quickly become too ripe to ship, and indeed they cannot well be sent to very distant markets. The Prunes are much better shippers, and this class of plums is being forwarded by

steamer from Collingwood for distribution to towns on the north shore of Lake Huron and points farther west.

Plums in Ontario have usually been packed in a basket containing eleven quarts, but since new sizes have been introduced this basket will be discarded for one holding twelve imperial quarts, which is rather large for plums. A very suitable standard sized basket for choice plums is the 6 $\frac{2}{3}$  quart basket, which also holds about nine pounds, and will soon become a favorite basket for all kinds of choice tenderfruit in our markets.

#### TOO MANY VARIETIES OF PLUMS GROWN

**I**T IS an old saying, that you should not put out all your eggs in one basket, for an accident might cause the loss of all, and no doubt this applies to plums as well as to eggs; and yet the more common mistake is the planting of too many varieties. Not knowing anything about them the young planter is guided almost entirely by the agent or by the nurseryman's catalogue, from which it would seem desirable to plant the whole list, for all of them are lauded most highly. Just here the work of our fruit stations comes in, to determine the varieties best suited to each section for home use and for market, and the reports from the experimenters will prove more valuable each year.

Mr. L. L. Hagar has 2800 bearing plum trees, and has planted such varieties as Washington, Bradshaw, Yellow Egg, Quackenbos, Reine Claude, etc. The first two varieties have been favorites with him, but this year the Washington nearly all dropped off. The Bradshaws were too full, and needed thinning by nearly one-half. On the whole, the Bradshaw has been a favorite variety for profit in Mr. Hagar's orchard.

"My principal varieties for profit are Bradshaw, Reine Claude, Quackenbos, and Gueii," said Mr. Albert Smith, "and these