

Horticulture.

SELECTION OF GOOD FRUITS.

We extract the following interesting remarks on fruit culture and selection of varieties, by that experienced New-England cultivator, Samuel Walker, Esq., of Roxbury, now President of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, from the Report of the American Institute.—*Horticulturist*.

In submitting the following list of the best American varieties of apples, pears and plums, in juxtaposition with the best European varieties, it is not my intention to make any invidious comparison; on trial—the truth, the whole truth, will be amply sufficient for any purpose. I shall therefore leave the result to the hands of the best judges—the cultivators—simply stating that I shall select the best varieties from the catalogues of the New and the Old World.

APPLES.

<i>American Varieties.</i>	<i>European Varieties.</i>
1. Early Harvest.	1. Early Red Margaret.
2. Williams' Apple.	2. Red Astrachan.
3. Benoni.	3. Sops of Wine.
4. Porter.	4. Gravenstein.
5. Pomme de Neige.	5. Ross Nonpareil.
6. Baldwin.	6. Dutch Mignonne.
7. Yellow Belle Fleur.	7. Ribston Pippin.
8. Newtown Pippin (green).	8. Cornish Gillyflower.
9. Rhode Island Greening.	9. Herefordshire Pearmain.
10. American Golden Russet.	10. English Golden Russet.

I will not carry out the comparisons further, but submit a list of American varieties, all of which are deserving of extensive cultivation, viz.:—

Large Yellow Bough, Chandler, Fall Harvey, Jonathan, Minister, Hubbardston, Nonsuch, Rambo, River, St. Lawrence (Corse's), Northern Spy, Espous Spitzemburg, Summer Queen, and Ladies' Sweeting.

PEARS.

<i>American Varieties.</i>	<i>European Varieties.</i>
1. Bloodgood.	1. Citron des Carmes.
2. Dearborn's Seedling.	2. Passans du Portugal.
3. Pratt.	3. Williams' Bonchretien.
4. Knight's Seedling.	4. Flemish Beauty.
5. Tyson.	5. Rostizer.
6. Seckel.	6. Fondante d'Automne.
7. Cushing.	7. Bezi de la Motte.
8. Heathcot.	8. Doyenne Blanc.
9. Andrews.	9. Louise Bonne de Jersey.
10. Buffum.	10. Doyenne Gris.
11. Dix.	11. Beurre Diel.
12. Lawrence.	12. Duchesse d'Angoulême.
13. Columbia.	13. Glout Moreau.

In addition to the above, I will add a list of European varieties of great merit, viz.:—

Beurre d'Arenberg, Beurre d'Anjou, Beurre Rose, Eyewood, Henry IV., Van Mons Leon Le Clere, Marie Louise, Winter Nelis, Paradise d'Automne, Passe Colmar, St. C. islain, Vicar of Winkfield, Urbaniste, and Echasserie. For baking—Belmont, Black Worcester, Catillac, and Uvedale's St. Germain.

PLUMS.

<i>American Varieties.</i>	<i>European Varieties.</i>
1. Jefferson.	1. Green Gage.
2. Columbia.	2. Purple Gage.
3. Washington.	3. Cox's Golden Drop.

To this lot of plums, I will add the following American varieties, as worthy of a place in every good collection, viz.:—

Purple Favorite, Huling's Superb, Imperial Gage, Lawrence Favorite, Bleeker's Gage, and Bingham.

CHERRIES.—The best varieties of American and European cherries are very dissimilar. I shall therefore submit a list of such varieties as I consider of the best quality, viz.:—

American varieties.—Sparhawk's Honey, Downer's Late, Sweet Montmorency, Manning's Mottled, Downing's Red Cheek.

European varieties.—Black Eagle, Black Heart, Black Tartarian, Downton, Knight's Early Black, Bigarreau,

Bigarreau Holland, Elton, Florence, Belle de Choisy, May Duke, and the Late Duke.

By the foregoing statement, it will be perceived that among the well established apples and plums in this country, a majority are the products of America. Of pears and cherries, the greater number have been imported from Europe.

I will now proceed to the second part of my subject, and notwithstanding my esteemable friend, Thomas Bridgman, Esq., has with ability and good judgment, brought the subject of seedlings under the notice of the managers, yet I shall not refrain to state all I intended to do before I received Mr. Bridgman's able report.

I am aware when a word of caution is to be spoken, or an error pointed out, that it should be done with candor and kindness; in that spirit the following remarks are submitted:

SEEDLING FRUITS.—My object is to point out an error, may I not rather say, a weakness, on the part of some cultivators of fruits, to overrate their own productions, more especially so when they raise a seedling apple, pear, plum, peach or cherry, having any pretension to merit. If their production is of the best quality, and possesses but a single point of superiority, say only a shade of color, or a slight increase of size, in addition to the good qualities of the most choice variety of that class of fruit in the present catalogues, that alone will commend it to other persons, and they will mete out its praise in due season.

No seedling should be recommended for extensive cultivation until it shall have been proved to be superior in some respects to the variety it most resembles. For instance, if any person should raise a seedling plum one-fourth larger, and equal or superior in flavor, more beautiful in its appearance, and more productive than the Green Gage, then the new variety would soon find its way into every good collection of plums. The same remarks will apply to the Newtown Pippin apple. The person who shall be so fortunate as to raise a seedling apple of equal flavor, better color, and a tree more thrifty and productive than the Green Newtown Pippin, will have accomplished something worthy of record and a name. But cultivators, like young fond mothers, are apt to consider their production to be a "non-such;" time, alas! often convinces them of their mistake; and when too late, they find they have only deceived themselves.—*Albany Cultivator*.

PLANTING STRAWBERRIES.—As a general rule, the spring of the year has been found much the best season for planting out beds of the strawberry. But it often becomes necessary to perform the operation during summer, or early in autumn. If, at this season, the weather should prove quite dry, a regular and abundant watering for several days does not always prevent the loss of a considerable portion of the plants. To obviate this difficulty, the writer has adopted the following very simple treatment, which has been quite successful even at midsummer, and in the midst of the recent extraordinary drouth. Nearly all the leaves are pinched off from the plants, except the central and half developed ones; the roots are dipped in a vessel of soft mud, giving them a thick coating; when set out, the earth is well settled about them by means of a copious watering; and then about two inches of rotted manure spread upon the surface. This will keep the soil sufficiently moist with one daily watering, if the weather be very dry, and much less frequently if it be moist.

DIFFUSION OF SEEDS.—In boring for water at a spot near Kingston-on-Thames, some earth was brought up from a depth of three hundred and sixty feet. This was carefully covered with a hand-glass, to prevent the possibility of the seeds being deposited on it, yet in a short time plants vegetated from it.