

will leave that subject to its proper time, and give our readers a few hints concerning the

#### PACKING FOR MARKET.

The experience of our growers this year will teach the lesson that it never pays to gather fruit before it is fit for use, or is in such a state that it will be in prime condition when it reaches the hands of the consumer. Some varieties of early peaches, as the Alexander and Hale's Early color beautifully long before they are fit for use, and, if shipped so, will only serve to disgust the deluded purchaser, and spoil the demand. A little experience will teach a picker just when a peach or a pear has reached full maturity, from its very appearance.

The most attractive package for peaches is the round basket, shown in the engraving. This basket is the one used in New Jersey and in Delaware where the peach is grown in such immense quantities that special peach trains are required to carry them. But it is too valuable a basket to give away with the fruit, and hence the present quarrels and difficulties between shippers and commission houses in the east, the former demanding the return of all empties, and the latter being very remiss in its performance.



As we have already stated on page 152, the twelve-quart gift basket has proved the most generally satisfactory of any we have yet tried; and it solves

all difficulties, both with the commission house and with the railway company, concerning the return of empties.

No fruit should be sent away to market without the most

#### CAREFUL ASSORTING.

We have tried several methods, as, for instance, turning out each basket on a sloping packing table, and culling out as they roll down; or setting a full basket between two empty ones, and placing the first-class in the right-hand basket and the second-class in the left-hand one, and throwing away the culls, thus handling each peach but once. Both these plans are excellent ones, but the latter is best in case of ripe peaches, pears or plums.

The most scrupulous care should be observed in making each package true to its face appearance. The practice of some shippers of hiding all the seconds under a face of first-class fruit cannot be too severely condemned, not only because it brings disrepute upon the shipper, but also because it is downright dishonesty.

A few bunches of peach leaves may be used to dress up the top of choice samples, and will serve to set off the fruit to good advantage.

#### THE MARIANNA PLUM.

Our readers will frequently meet with references to the Chickasaw plums, particularly to such varieties as the Miner, Wild Goose, Robinson, Marianna and others. It may be interesting to know that the general name is given to a type of American plums found