

not fruited yet. Among the sour cherries none have been more profitable than Montmorency Ordinaire, and English Morello. The Early Richmond bore heavily when young, but now trees that are 12 or 15 years old, healthy and thrifty, blossom full and bear but little fruit. For five or six years after they came in bearing, the Elkhorns were my most profitable cherry, but lately they are dying out without any apparent cause. The May Duke seems a short-lived tree. The fruit is better for family use than for market; because the crop ripens so unevenly, thus necessitating several pickings.

PACKAGES.—Until recently I used five and ten-pound baskets, now I use a crate containing shallow boxes which are filled from the bottom, thus expediting packing so that the stems are covered when the package is opened for inspection.

GENERAL REMARKS.—Sweet cherries here are not so sure a crop as the sour, but the fruit usually sells for a higher price. The main causes of loss of crop are cold storms or frost while in bloom, and rot. Moist, hot weather will sometimes destroy an entire crop three days before it is fit for market. I have known cherries to be perfectly sound when picked in the morning, appear streaked when shipped at evening, and nearly all rotten the next morning in market. The English Morello, and perhaps some other sour cherry trees, are subject to black knot. It appears to be identical with that on the plum tree. The free use of the pruning-knife has been my only treatment. So far it has been successful, as I have lost no trees, and the disease is nearly eradicated.—R. N. Y.

Slatted Boxes.—The boxes here illustrated are the cheapest ones we make, says A. I Root, in *Handling Farm Produce*, and the ones that sell best.

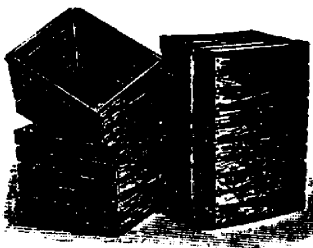


FIG. 502.—SLATTED BOXES.

For the ends we use six slats instead of boards crosswise, thus making them open on the ends as well as the sides. These are used for tomatoes, apples, cucumbers, etc. In fact, there is no fruit or vegetable of about this size or larger that could not be handled in these crates. They are as cheap to ship garden stuff to market in as the ordinary barrels and crates, besides being much lighter and neater. The above cut shows the manner in which the boxes are packed for shipment.

Peaches for shipment should be permitted to become fully grown before being taken from the tree, but not mellow. They should be packed either in third bushel boxes or baskets, such as are used in Michigan, holding about half a peck, with tarleton stitched over them, the top protected by a cover made of slats, with strips to rest upon the ends of the baskets. This package can be piled one upon another as high as the top of the car, and is a very handy family sized basket.