

leaves the soil high and at the same time in good shape for drainage; in this way the soil has time to settle and pack before the winter's severity, and frost at the root.

Vineyards and orchards worked in this

way very successfully resisted that disastrous frost of the winter of 1898, which caused such loss of plant life in many orchards and vineyards.

Winona.

JUNIOR.

THE BEN DAVIS IN NOVA SCOTIA.

SIR,—Perhaps the discussion as to the thrift and hardiness of the Ben Davis has already been sufficiently extended, but, since the quotation from the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association's report, given on page 63 of the February Horticulturist, has implicated me somewhat, may I give my own opinion of the matter. In the first place I do not see how any one could draw the conclusion from what was given in the report above cited that the Ben Davis was either "delicate" or "of short duration." It is stated that it is slow growing, but Mr. Donaldson's objection was that the Gravenstein would "outgrow the Ben Davis," not so much because it was a more rapid grower but because of its well known habit of making a comparatively few large branches instead of dividing up into a number of smaller branches as is the habit of the Ben Davis. But this is a question entirely aside from the one of hardiness and thrift. As to these latter points my own opinion, formed from observing this variety both here and in the west, is that there is no other sort which is more thrifty growing or more free from disease. And the only objection which can be urged against planting it here is the one given by Mr. Parker, that we can grow better varieties. Yet, so far, the Ben Davis has given good profits to those who have grown it, and since it is such a healthy tree, it will make capital stocks on which to top-graft other sorts when the Ben Davis has been superseded by some other variety with more juice and less wood in its fruit.

F. C. SEARS.

Wolfville, Nova Scotia.

SIR,—When I saw Rev. Father Burke's article in the December number of the Horticulturist I intended writing a correction of the views he attributed to me regarding the Ben Davis apple in Nova Scotia and P. E. I., but on second thought decided to put myself right at the forthcoming meeting of the P. E. I. Fruit Growers' Association. This I did so far as stating my opinions regarding the Ben Davis for propagation in Prince Edward Island. The publication of Mr. Parker's letter in your February number seems to show that a misapprehension will not down until it is plainly corrected. My remark to Father Burke had regard *only* to the character of the variety in question as a *fast grower* which was based, as far as Nova Scotia opinion was concerned, on the discussion on page 97 of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' report for 1898. I certainly did not say that the Ben Davis was regarded as delicate either in Nova Scotia or Prince Edward Island.

The durability of the tree as the producer of marketable apples in the Lower Provinces is a point which was raised by Prof. Craig in his address at the Nova Scotia Exhibition of 1899, and calls for careful consideration. Partizanship for any variety based on insufficient experience should be avoided.

D. FERGUSON.

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A cheap whitewash paint for outdoors is made by using just enough water to moisten the slaked lime, and then adding kerosene oil to thin it to a consistency for easy application.