

# THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST

Vol 23

1900

No 8

\*\*\* AUGUST. \*\*\*

## CHERRIES IN 1900.

**T**HE first of the tree fruits to ripen is the cherry, and its comparatively small size renders its harvesting quite a serious consideration, especially if the acreage is large. A solid block of cherry trees planted for profit is not often seen for this very reason, but where plenty of pickers are obtainable in cherry season, there is no reason why such a block should not be planted.

Fig. 1858 shows a view in the experimental plot at Maplehurst five years planted. These trees are on dry sandy loam, have been given clean cultivation and fertilized with wood ashes. The result of this treatment proves the absurdity of the common notion that the proper place for cherry trees is the fence row, and that cultivation is unnecessary. They have grown with double the vigor of trees not cultivated, many of the sweet cherry class being over 14 feet in height and 4 inches in diameter of trunk; also at this early age many of them are well laden with fruit. One of the Early Purple trees, a variety not usually very productive, has so responded to our treatment that it has been fully loaded now for two years in suc-

cession, but, ripening early in June, it is usually harvested by birds and boys.

The total number of varieties under test at Maplehurst is 62, and the different habits of growth are an interesting study. For example, Fig. 1866 shows a Morello tree a good type of the habit also of the Kentish cherries, for these differ from each other more in fruit than in tree; this class of trees forms a round head with slender branches and never attains much height. These five-year-old trees are only about 9 feet in height and 3 inches in diameter of trunk. The Montmorency is a great favorite as a market cherry in New York State, and certainly is a productive kind of pie cherry, far less subject to Curculio than the old common red. It ripens about the 1st of July, while the Early Richmond can be used for pies about the middle of June. For pies, the Early Richmond, Montmorency and Wragg or English Morello, would cover the season completely. Fig. 1859 and 1860 shows the bearing habit of the Empress Eugenie and of the May Duke, two varieties of Dukes which so nearly resemble each other that they are not