

QUESTION AND ANSWER DEPARTMENT

Lowland Raspberry--Red Canada

1. In a recent issue, I saw the apple, Lowland Raspberry, recommended by an Ontario reader. In British Columbia, this variety is known as Liveland Raspberry, sometimes as Lievland Raspberry. Which is correct?

2. The variety known here as Canada Red seems to be known elsewhere as Steele's Red Winter, Pomme de Fer, Roseau, etc. I would like to know by whom the latter name was given.—Pommier, Okanagan Valley, B.C.

1. The Lowland Raspberry is the name for this variety that is recognized by the American Pomological Society, whose decision is taken as authoritative. It is accepted also by Beach in the "Apples of New York." Woolverton's work, the "Fruits of Ontario," gives preference to the name, "Livland Raspberry." Like most varieties of apples, this one has a number of synonymous names.

2. According to Plumb in THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST, for 1895, and to Beach in the "Apples of New York," the Canada Red of Ontario is distinct from the Red Canada of western New York and some other fruit districts of the United States. The latter is known also as Steele's Red Winter. Plumb calls the Canada Red of Ontario, "Baltimore," and Beach, "Roseau." Beach describes Roseau as "A variety, known in portions of Ontario under the name of Red Canada or Canada Red, which is said to be quite different from the Red Canada of western New York. Waugh identifies this variety as the Roseau of Downing, and remarks that it is really an important apple. He states that it is known in some parts of Vermont as the Winesap and that it is the Pomme de Fer of Quebec. Plumb gives Flushing Spitzenburg as its correct name and calls it identical with the variety described by Downing under the name Baltimore. We have not had an opportunity of verifying the conclusions of either Waugh or Plumb with regard to this matter."

The following notes have been received from Mr. W. T. Macoun, Horticulturist, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa:

"We have adopted the name Lowland Raspberry, following the nomenclature of the American Pomological Society. It is one of the best summer apples, if not the best, we have grown, and being very hardy, is especially desirable in the colder districts. Following are descriptions of Lowland Raspberry and Canada Red apples made by the writer:

"Lowland Raspberry (Livland Raspberry).—This variety is a native of Russia, and has been grown at the Central

Experimental Farm since 1888. The tree is very hardy, and is a strong, moderately upright grower and a medium to good bearer. Fruit medium to large; roundish to oblate conic, angular; cavity medium depth, narrow; stem medium length to short, moderately stout; basin shallow, narrow, slightly wrinkled; calyx closed or partly open; pale yellow, waxy, more or less blotched, splashed and washed with bright red; dots few, pale yellow, indistinct; skin moderately thick, tender; flesh, white tinged with red, crisp, tender, juicy; core, medium to large, open; subacid, pleasant, good flavor; quality very good; season mid to late August. One of the best summer apples, especially for home use, but drops badly and ripens unevenly. Preferable to Red Astrachan in colder districts.

"Roseau (Canada Red, Pomme de Fer).—Origin unknown. Fruit medium to large, oblate, slightly conical; skin yellow, well splashed and washed with deep, rather dull red; dots fairly numerous, large, yellow, prominent; cavity deep, narrow; stem short, slender; basin narrow, shallow, slightly wrinkled; calyx small, partly open; flesh yellowish, tender, moderately juicy, mildly subacid with a pleasant but not high flavor; core of medium size; quality good; season midwinter to late winter. Tree a strong grower and has proved productive in some places, while a shy bearer in others."

Medicinal Plants

I wish to secure some information about medicinal plants that may be grown successfully in Ontario. Can Belladonna or Hyoscyamus be grown here? They are grown in Great Britain and Germany. How about Rosmarinus, Sassafras, Hamamelis, Lactuca, Mentha viridis, Artemisia, Valeriana, Conium and Sambucus?—J.E.K., Lanark Co., Ont.

Atropa Belladonna grows in Europe and in Asia as far as India. It can be grown in Ontario. *Hyoscyamus niger* grows wild in Europe, Western Asia and the Himalayas. It has been naturalized in America and may be grown from seeds. The rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) is a shrub indigenous to the Mediterranean region and will grow in Ontario in well drained soil if protected. The tree, *Sassafras officinalis*, grows from Ontario to Florida and may be propagated by seed, suckers or root cuttings. Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis Virginiana*) also grows from Canada to Florida. It prefers a moist sandy or peaty soil and is propagated by seeds which germinate the second year or by layers. Spearmint (*Mentha spicata*),

formerly known as *M. viridis*), is native to Europe and Asia. It will grow in Canada and is propagated by perennial root stalks. The question does not specify the species of *Lactuca*. The one that gives the sedative, lactucarium, is *Lactuca virosa*, native to Europe. Some wild American species also are gathered for medicinal purposes. The common garden lettuce belongs to this genus. The shrubby herb, wormwood (*Artemisia Absinthium*) is native to Europe. It is found here in old gardens and is propagated mostly by division. The medicinal valeriana is extracted from the roots of the *Valeriana officinalis*. It is native to Europe and northern Asia but it will grow anywhere. *Conium maculatum* is a European herb that has run wild in eastern North America. The European elder (*Sambucus nigra*) is a small tree and may be grown successfully in this province.

Yucca Filamentosa

Kindly give some information about the the care of the yucca.—W.M., Oshawa, Ont.

We presume that the yucca referred to is the *Yucca filamentosa*, which appears to be one of the hardiest species. The plants at the Central Experimental Farm bloom almost every year and it is rather surprising that the one in question has not bloomed. Yuccas require a rather warm soil, well drained. A sandy loam soil should be suitable if there is good drainage. It is a good practice to throw a few evergreen boughs over the yuccas in autumn to protect them from changes of temperature in winter. A box turned over them is also a good thing as it will often save many of the leaves and the plants will be stronger and more likely to bloom. We notice that some of the plants of the yucca do not bloom as freely as others, and it is possible that a new plant would bloom in a reasonable time.—W. T. Macoun.

Broad Beans

Why are my broad beans always a failure? They grow to be large plants, blossom, and then the leaves blight and become black. The pods never form.—R. T. W., Thorndale, Ont.

The broad bean or horse bean is affected with a blight disease in some parts of Canada. It is more injurious in the drier parts of Canada than in the maritime provinces where the air is moister. In some parts of the country the horse bean is not at all reliable on account of this disease. So far as I know, no remedies have been tried for controlling it.—W. T. Macoun, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.