

Growing Plums in Manitoba.

Weaver; tree strong hardy grower, but discarded long ago on account of fruit ripening too late.

Desota; this tree was quite hardy with us but had also to be thrown out on account of the late ripening and qualities of the fruit.

Wood; very hardy, fruit medium size almost round, a prolific bearer, season early September.

Bixby; fairly hardy, fruit medium, color yellow, flesh juicy, tender, sweet, no astringency, quality good, season early September.

Odegard; very hardy, medium size color red, fruit oblong, quality fair, season second week in August. The strongest point about this variety is its early ripening it being the first of all to ripen its fruit on our grounds. The tree is of slow growth and dwarf habit, specimens on our grounds eighteen years old are only now six feet in height.

Surprise; fairly hardy, this is one of the newer varieties originated at Sleepy Eye Minn., is of large size, bright red color, good quality, it will keep longer after being ripe than any of our plums, season mid September.

In planting out any of the hardy improved plums it is important that they be grafted on native plum stock. In many of the nurseries of the south and east the Myrobalan and Marianna stocks are used. The improved native varieties budded or grafted on these stocks make fine trees for the nursery, but the union is not a good one, and the roots will usually die the first hard winter. These stocks are imported by nurserymen from France and Texas, they can be bought cheaply, and are absolutely worthless for Manitoba conditions, but if budded or grafted on our hardy native stocks they will make long lived hardy and fruitful trees, which will be a source of profit to the owner. It is often desired to remove or transplant some wild variety from their native thicket. This is not usually a very successful operation, and as the plum does not come true from seed, probably the easiest and best way to get true trees of a desirable wild variety is by root cuttings. To do this uncover the lateral roots of the wild plum tree in the late fall, cut them into lengths about six inches long, heel them in the ground for the winter and plant out in the spring. Trees from these roots cuttings will be true to name and being of their own roots all suckers from them will be true to name, while suckers from grafted trees are of little or no value. The plum is our most valuable