

## YARMOUTH GARDENS.

especial advantage over their Ontario brothers, in comparative immunity from Codling moth. In orchards at Berwick it is estimated that not more than ten barrels in one hundred are affected, while in some of our Ontario orchards, this season, forty out of one hundred is not too high an estimate.

The best Nova Scotia orchards are the cultivated ones, and those which also get an occasional dressing of pot-ash. Mr. Chute, of Berwick, says he seldom crops an orchard after it is over ten years of age, but cultivates and manures his orchard as the only crop.

Apple packing is commonly done in the orchard as the picking progresses, but some bring all apples to a central packing house. No. 1 are large perfect apples, No. 2 are small perfect apples, but no attempt at grading to definite sizes has yet been made.

It would certainly be well if Nova Scotia and Ontario could agree in this matter, so that grade No. 1 would mean everywhere apples not less than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, excepting possibly the Fameuse, which should be allowed No. 1 not less than  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches. No. 2

would then mean apples below these sizes respectively, or otherwise inferior.

The prices of winter apples are from two and a-half to three dollars a barrel, or about the same as in Ontario, and the buyers have little advantage over us, having about 15 cents a barrel to get them to the seaport of Halifax, while we have from 30 to 45 to Montreal, the ocean freights being about the same.

Apple barrels are cheaper than ours, the common kind being made of spruce, fir or pine, with half-rounds of young birch trees for hoops, the price being about 18 cents each. The size is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  bushels, the old American pony barrel, but this will soon have to be discarded, for in 1900 the new Dominion regulations will compel the use of a standard barrel.

Plums, grapes and even peaches are grown to some extent in the Annapolis valley, but the black-knot has largely cleared out the former. When properly looked after, such varieties as Bradshaw, Arctic, Lombard and the Japans, Burbank and Abundance, have proved very successful.



### THE MEALY BUG. —

What is known as the Mealy bug is a flat, tender, yellowish insect, of the form shown in the engraving, and is covered with a white, mealy substance, from which the common name is derived. It is especially troublesome to *Coleus*, *strobilanthes* *Dyerianus*, and many soft-wooded plants. It is not difficult to eradicate. Remove and destroy all that may be found, then syringe the plant two or three times a week with soapsuds to which has been

added a little kerosene, say two tablespoonfuls to a gallon of suds.—*Parks' Floral Guide*.

HENS AND APPLES. — L. Cook, of Mass., says he enclosed a half dozen unproductive canker worm infested apple trees as a chicken yard, and as a result the insects were cleared and the trees produced good crops of fine fruit. R. N. Y. says, "The hen has a golden claw. She is a professor of Agriculture too, and teaches clean culture and lots of it, with high feeding for a fruit orchard."