

large, heart shape, pale yellow, with red cheek, flesh firm, juicy, good. Tree vigorous and productive. This variety is in demand for canning—the yellow being preferred to the red for that purpose—and probably ranks next to the Black Tartarian for profit.

We select the above kinds most extensively grown for market here. We have little doubt that those who should confine themselves to Black Tartarian and Napoleon Bigarreau would come out with the most money. For family use, we would plant one tree each of Yellow Spanish, Coe's Transparent, Rockport, May-Duke, and Reine Hortense.—*Rural Home.*

### Cause of Black Knot in the Plum Tree

I have been trying to find out the cause of the black knot on the Plum tree, I cut the branches all off a small tree and when the young shoots came out I saw a great many small ants eating the young shoots and taking off part of the bark and when the bark was broken the Black knot started in a few days.

JAMES LITTLE.

### The Past Winter near Gifford.

To the Editor.

SIR,—I have had several honey suckle, killed last winter, one Lombardy poplar, and two or three silver leaved poplar or abele; also several apple trees. Apple trees that were ten years old have been killed all over this county, and vines killed. We think the severe winter was the cause. I have ten trees of the Northern Spy planted in 1862 and there is no fruit on them yet, although they are healthy growing trees.

T. M.

Will our correspondent inform us whether the evergreen trees in his part of the country seem to have suffered from the winter.

### Training Grape Vines.

In the July number of the Horticulturist may be found the following remarks by the Editor. "Experience has developed one sound, uniform information, viz.; that grape vines are more healthy and productive when allowed to climb upward on trees, or trellises, than if confined to stakes. But at the same time it is a little at the sacrifice of quality. We believe most of the vineyards throughout the country are failures simply because the vines are pruned too close, and all parts exposed to a scorching sun. If we could train our vines upon arbors, overhead, and allowed them to make and enjoy a cooling shade of their own, we doubt not vine culture would be more steadily encouraging."

We take the liberty to invite the Editor of the Horticulturist to visit the vineyards of Mr. Solomon White, in the Township of Toronto, County of Peel, and see that we

can train our vines upon arbors, overhead, and that trained in this form there is no sacrifice of quality whatever, but on the contrary the fruit is the finest of the variety, that can be grown in this climate.

### The Wagner Apple.

We notice very flattering accounts of this variety of apple, lately, in our exchanges. It was sent out for trial to the members of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario the past spring. It is spoken of very favorably as being a variety that has a reputation for early fruiting, for yielding handsome marketable fruit, and for health and hardihood of tree. Large orchards in Michigan have borne good crops of fruit annually.

### When to Bud.

The season for budding is from July to September, and yet the best time, the time when the operation is most likely to be successful, is variable. The best time is that in which the bud will most speedily and certainly unite with the stock, and experience has taught us that this is while the stock is in a growing state, so that the bark will separate freely from the wood, and yet when the activity of growth is somewhat diminished, which time is usually indicated by the formation of the terminal bud of the stock. At this stage also, the sap under the bark will have thickened and become viscid or sticky. This condition of the stock is the most favorable time for budding, and as a rule it will be found that Plum stocks reach it the earliest in the season; then follow Pear, Quince, Apple, Cherry and Peach stocks, in the order in which they are named.—*Canadian Fruit, Flower and Kitchen Gardener.*

### Gooseberries without Mildew.

We have just received from Mr. John Dutton, of Stratford, a sample of Gooseberries of his own growing, which are very fine indeed, and perfectly free from mildew. They are of large size and excellent flavor. These samples shew that it is quite possible to grow fine gooseberries at Stratford, and preserve them from mildew. In the note which accompanied the fruit, Mr. Dutton says, that he makes reference to them in his report to the Fruit Growers' Association. We hope he explains fully his mode of treatment, so that the fruit growers elsewhere may attain to the same perfection.

### Cutting down Asparagus.

Mr. Sargent writes.—"The earliest, best and largest asparagus in this neighborhood, is in the garden of a slovenly cultivator, who cuts all his spears or seed stems down immediately after the asparagus season is over—repeats this process once or twice during the summer, thus never having any seeds; in

fact, at this moment his beds are as smooth as the back of your hands. And this is not only their usual appearance, but this has been his habit for five or ten years. Now if my neighbor's course is correct, all other cultivators of asparagus are entirely wrong.

"I should like to hear what you have got to say about this. I am aware the ripening of seed somewhat diminishes the vitality of the plant. All growers of plants are told not to let them seed; but on the other hand, your theory about strengthening lawns by occasionally letting the grass grow to kill out the weeds, on the principle that the longer and stronger the tops of grass, the longer and stronger the roots, would be entirely opposed to my neighbor's theory of practice with his asparagus."

This very suggestive note of Mr. Sargent's may be of great value to cultivators, if they will give it careful study, in connection with known laws of plant life.

First, there is no doubt, for this has been proved over and over again, that if we cut away every spear of asparagus as soon as it appears above the ground, never allowing one to appear above the ground, the plant would be weakened; and if the same course be pursued the second year, it would be entirely destroyed. This plan is successfully pursued in the destruction of Canada Thistle, Horse Nettle, and other terrible pests.

Secondly, it is also well known that after the time of flowering, there is a terrible strain on the vital functions of the whole plant, root and branch. After flowering the Mignonette produces seeds and dies, but if every flower be picked off as it appears, the Mignonette becomes a perennial, and there appears no limit to its duration. The strength of the root is, therefore, assisted by non-flowering or fruiting. This accords with Mr. Sargent's observations on the asparagus.

But we must not forget our first point. Remembering the first and second position together, it would seem to be a good thing to let asparagus grow up to the time of flowering, and then to cut the stems entirely away. Mr. Sargent also suggests a danger which may occur in lawn management. In order to strengthen the roots, and to smother out fine growing weeds, one might let their lawns go uncut for one season; but the grass should be cut before flowering, or the exhaustion will be greater than the gain. Agriculturists also may reap a lesson. If they wish to take hay a second year from the same roots, the grass should be cut as early as possible the first season.—*Gardener's Monthly.*

### Apple Crop in the United States.

According to the monthly report of the department of Agriculture we notice that the apple crop promises to be above an average.

In New England, all the States, except