

using ordinary potting soil, and giving good drainage. When potted, water thoroughly, and remove to a cellar, or place under the stage of the greenhouse. Allow them to remain there until the pots become filled with roots and the shoots begin to appear, when they should be removed to a light, sunny situation. As the plants increase in growth, water should be more freely given, and once a week they should have a watering of liquid manure. When the flowering season is over, place the plants under the greenhouse stage or remove them to the cellar, gradually decreasing the supply of water; plant them out in a well prepared border about the first of May. If necessary, divide the plants before planting out. This plant can also be propagated by cuttings of the young shoots, when they become sufficiently hardened; but for amateurs propagation by division is the simplest and easiest mode of increase.

The generic name, *Dielytra*, is derived from *dis*, double, and *elytron*, a sheath, in allusion to the two sheath like spurs at the base of the flowers; and the specific name in allusion to the showy and remarkable appearance of the plant when in bloom.—*Vick's Magazine*.

STONE'S HARDY BLACKBERRY.

B. F. Adams writes to the *Western Farmer* that he planted an acre of the Snyder and Stone's Hardy blackberries, and that about twenty per cent. of the Snyder were killed by the following winter, but not one of the Stone's Hardy.

J. S. Stickney says that he thinks he can safely recommend Stone's Hardy. He had visited Mr. Stone's grounds the past season, and saw the Snyder and Stone's Hardy growing side by side; both were loaded with fruit, but

the Hardy seemed to have the heaviest crop, the canes of plants over two and three years old were black with fruit. The wood of the Hardy was short jointed and quite stocky. He had more confidence in the Stone's Hardy than in the Snyder, and considered the quality of the fruit of the Stone's Hardy was better than that of the Snyder.

Mr. M. L. Tibbett, of Minnesota, says: "The Stone's Hardy Blackberry came through last winter without injury unprotected, though the mercury was down to *forty* degrees below zero several times; it is evidently an iron-clad."

KIEFFER'S HYBRID PEAR.

As the Kieffer has come to stay, and is sure to be extensively planted, a few words on its demands and characteristics may not be out of place. If grown in an indifferent situation, on poor soil, with little or no manure, and improperly gathered and ripened, it undoubtedly will disappoint the grower. On the other hand, give the Kieffer a fair situation, plenty of plant food, and it will yield an elegant fruit. Its tendency is to overbear, and often it should be effectively thinned. It may not possess the highest excellence of quality, neither does the Baldwin apple nor the Concord grape: but a pear like the Kieffer that comes into bearing young, and produces big crops of quick-selling fruit, is bound to be popular.

The past Fall, in our Philadelphia markets, the Kieffer wholesaled for from \$5 to \$10 a bushel, and retailed from 10 cents to 50 cents each. As Downing aptly says: "To have it in perfection, it should be gathered when fully grown, and ripened in the house." I can readily see how there may be differences of opinion regarding the quality of the Kieffer, for a poor Kieffer certainly is poor