

usual plan is to dig them thickly in a bed of earth in the fall—so that the freezing may assist in cracking the shells. Then in spring-time they are dug up and the cracking completed, one by one, with a hammer and block. The seeds are then sown in prepared ground about the time of planting Indian corn, or somewhat earlier.

Ashes for Strawberries.

705. SIR,—Would you please tell me, in the *HORTICULTURIST*, if ashes is a good fertilizer for strawberries?

G. S. SPAFFORD, *Warkworth.*

Yes, especially on sandy soil. The potash of wood ashes is an excellent fertilizer for all fruit trees and fruit plants.

Kentish Fillbasket.

706. SIR,—Could you tell me anything about the Kentish Fillbasket? What are its good points?

ISAAC GRAHAM, *Talbotville, Elgin Co.*

This is an old English fall apple, of great size, and considerable value for cooking purposes. It is a good market apple, and the tree is fairly productive. We do not think, however, it is generally considered as valuable as Gravenstein or Blenheim Orange, of about the same season. In our reports of apples adapted to the various sections of Ontario, no one seems to recommend this apple for the commercial orchard. We should be glad to hear the opinions of our readers upon its merits.

Time of Pruning Maples.

707. SIR,—Your Journal should be in the hands of every fruit grower—for to grow fruit properly we need all the information we can get. When is the best time to prune sugar maples? I propose to do it when the buds are bursting, and then paint the wounds with hot coal-tar.

W. L. SEARLE, *Clinton.*

Probably a better plan would be to prune soon after the fall of the leaf in autumn. The cut surface would then dry up before spring, so that little if any bleeding would follow. A coat of paint should be applied to all large wounds.

Care of Fruit Spurs.

708. SIR,—I notice apples are often gathered before they are ripe, and the fruit spurs for another year, broken off with them. In such a case how can the fruit grower expect a full crop till new fruit spurs have grown?

W. L. S.

There is no doubt that most fruit growers are very thoughtless in this respect, and many do not even observe that the spurs along the branches have fruit-bearing buds for next year, and they often destroy them by careless pruning.