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THE JAPANESE PLUMS

ALTHOUGH only introduced into America some thirty years, these plums have become very widely disseminated, receiving probably a larger place in our orchards than their real merits deserve.

Many varieties of them have been introduced and pushed upon the attention of the unsuspecting fruit grower, who has too often found in them a sad disappointment. The Wickson for example has been much boomed, and truly it is a large fine variety; but alas! so far in our orchard, and we have planted about 100 trees, it has proved itself most unproductive.

Some of us were discussing the Japan plums at the Industrial, where Mr. John Mitchell, of Clarksburg, Ont., showed a fine collection; and the general agreement was that the following four varieties were the choice of all the Japans to cover the season, viz., Red June, Abundance, Burbank and Chabot.

Mr. S. D. Willard, of Geneva, New York, speaking before Western New York Fruit Growers, said of these Japans, that owing to their early blossoming his crop of Abundance was nearly ruined by spring frosts, when, hearing of the Burbank, he had them all top-worked to the latter variety. "I like," he said, "the Abundance to eat out of hand, but I do not think it is as good a handler and shipper as the Burbank and some of the

others. We have had a good many Burbanks. Some seasons, we have had four or five thousand baskets. A few years ago when looking up something better, if we could, we ran on to the Red June and in conference with a man from Lake Michigan, I learned that side by side with the Burbank, when the spring frost had done injury to the buds of the Burbank, the Red June would come out in good shape. Following up that idea in connection with the fact that it is the earliest of all plums to ripen that I know of, we have planted and fruited them quite largely. We have had them ripe and in good shipping condition on the 21st of July. I made up my mind it was a good plum for the orchard man, and we have found it so. We had something over a thousand baskets of them last year, (1901), and they brought a higher price per basket than any other plums we shipped, except some of the old varieties that came on the market after the other varieties were out of the way."

We have received the following replies to inquiries regarding the behavior of the Red June in various sections of Ontario:—

T. H. RACE, Mitchell:—The only varieties among the Japan plums that I have tried on my grounds here are the *Prunus Simoni*, Wickson, Abundance, and Burbank. The first two I have discarded; the third I have