

It has surpassed Fay's Prolific with us, but I would not say that it would do so with others. I think it should be recommended for amateur use.

Mr. Willard—I think Moore's Ruby the best red currant for table use I have ever seen, and I endorse all Mr. Hooker has said concerning it.

Mr. Hubbard—I saw this currant fruited on the government grounds at Washington, and was favorably impressed with it.—*Vick's Report of N. Y. Horticultural Society.*

The Apple Picker.

THE question whether it was advisable to use an apple picker was answered at the meeting of the N. Y. State Horticultural Society, by Dewane Bogue of Medina, who said that a grower told him that a buyer refused to buy his apples because they were gathered with a picker. Another buyer came along and paid five cents more a barrel for the same apples because they were not bruised. Mr. Harris, in giving his experience with the picker, said that with that article apples could be gathered at half the cost of hand work and with less damage to the fruit.

The Use of Coal Ashes.

EVERYTHING grows well under a mulch of coal ashes, provided that the plant leaves are not covered, and that the ashes be stirred after rains, during the growing season. Without this they pack so as to exclude the air. In planting the seeds we cover them with soil or leaf mould. We have tried coal ashes, thinking that the young seedlings might push through the easily broken inch of ashes. But very rarely has a plant appeared through such a covering, because of too close exclusion of air, some being indispensable at the moment of germination.—*Chicago News.*

A Profitable Use of Apples.

SOME of us are feeding our apples to stock. I feed them to horses, pigs and poultry. For the general purpose horse of the farmer I know from experience that apples are a valuable food. I have had horses that were in a very low condition from worms entirely freed from this trouble by the use of apples, and my horses always improve in the fall when running among apple trees, where they eat all they want. I believe that a horse not at hard work would do as well on 4 qts. of oats and a peck of apples as on a peck of oats. If this were so, it would give apples a feeding value of about 24c. per bush. Now if the windfalls and refuse apples are of any value, why should not good sound fruit be of still greater food value?

My pigs eat apples when they don't eat meal. To about 50 hens I feed 2 or 3 qts. of apples daily, crushing them a little with the food. The hens seem to fairly revel in them.—E. H. HUTCHINSON.

Value of United States Fruits.

THE census reports, which are, of course, only approximative, give the following value of orchard products in the United States: For 1886, estimated, apples, \$50,400,000; pears, \$14,130,000; peaches, \$56,135,000; grapes, \$2,118,900; strawberries, \$5,000,000; other fruits, \$10,000,000. Total, \$137,783,900. In 1880, the census report made the whole amount \$50,876,154. The gradual increase since 1850 was about the following: In 1850, \$7,723,000; in 1860, \$19,991,000; in 1870, \$47,335,000. With the only exception of the decade between 1870 and 1880, the amount has much more than doubled in each decade.

The Crandall.

MR. PARRY asked about the Crandall currant. Mr. Trowbridge was not prepossessed with it; had seen it but never fruited it: a black currant originating in Kansas. Mr. Teas—"It belongs to the black currant family, and is similar to it for cooking. I consider it valuable. Common people will be reasonably well-satisfied with it for eating. It is questionable however, whether it is a hybrid with our common fruit."

Crowing Black Walnuts.

MR. GEORGE VAN HOUTEN, who is regarded as good authority in such matters, says if the husks are removed, it is safe to count that about 1,000 nuts will make a bushel. With the husks, from 500 to 600 per bushel would be a reasonable estimate. Some years many of the nuts are abortive, while other years nearly all will grow. A fair estimate of their germinating qualities can be made by cracking a few, as nearly all plump, natural appearing kernels will grow under favorable circumstances. It is best to plant rather more nuts than trees are wanted for; like most nut-bearing trees, the walnut does not transplant easily. After being gathered, the seed should not be allowed to dry; if shipped a distance the nuts will keep from drying out with damp moss about them. In the fall they can be planted at once, and covered three or four inches deep in well-prepared ground. If planted in the spring, over winter spread the nuts two or three layers deep, mixed with earth or leaves, and covered lightly; if the ground is moist, at least part of the rains should be kept off, planting as soon as the frost is out of the ground. Good cultivation should be given for the first few years, after which but little further care.—*Town Homestead.*