

pear to be the leading kinds, of which we think the Crimson Cluster likely to prove the most profitable and satisfactory in Nova Scotia. The descriptions are chiefly taken from the advertisements of seedsmen in the United States:—

KING OF THE TOMATOES.—A new and superior variety of this valuable esculent, combining more good qualities than any other variety in cultivation. Plant, strong and vigorous; fruit, above medium size, grows in clusters; form round, somewhat flattened at the ends, seldom creased or wrinkled; color, a deep, rich red, very showy, and attractive in appearance; flesh, very solid, with but few seeds, of fine flavor; very productive, ripens with the Tilden. Its great beauty, and remarkable keeping properties make it a most desirable market variety, while its solidity and agreeable flavor make it equally desirable for canning.

GENERAL GRANT.—Size, above the medium, three to four inches in diameter, growing in clusters; form, round, slightly flattened, very regular, symmetrical, and rarely ribbed or wrinkled; color, brilliant, glossy crimson; flesh, unusually firm, solid, and free from water; weighing from ten to twenty pounds more per bushel than any other variety; skin, remarkably fine, smooth and shining, coloring well up to the stem; very productive, and of the finest flavor, bears carriage well, and keeps in good condition a long time after being gathered.

Another advertiser thus describes General Grant:—

We take great pleasure in announcing to the public that we have secured the entire stock of this justly celebrated Tomato. It originated in the garden of an amateur, who, after growing it for a number of years, in connection with all the leading sorts, became convinced that it was far superior to any other, and that it should be widely disseminated; and for this purpose it was put into our hands. In consideration of the many disappointments experienced in the introduction of new varieties, we have given it a thorough trial of two years; and it has far exceeded our expectations—ever attracting great attention wherever exhibited, taking the first prize above all others at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society's Exhibition, the past two years. We feel the fullest confidence that too much cannot be said in its praise. We believe it the nearest approach to perfection of anything of the kind yet offered, combining more superior qualities.

Size about medium, three to four inches in diameter, growing in clusters. Form round, slightly flattened, very regular, symmetrical and rarely ribbed or wrinkled; color brilliant glossy crimson; flesh unusually firm, solid and free from water, weighing from ten to twenty pounds more per bushel than other varieties; skin remarkably fine, smooth and shining, coloring well up to the stem—a quality very desirable to those preparing them for the table. Very productive, and of the finest flavor; bears well, and keeps in good condition a long time after being gathered, retaining its goodness, and free from wilting. It will be found to ripen uniformly, and as early as, if not earlier than, other varieties. Our whole stock of seed has been grown for us by Mr. C. N. Brackett, Chairman of the Vegetable Committee of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and saved only from the most perfect

fruit; and we are warranted in saying that it cannot fail to give satisfaction in every instance.

BOSTON MARKET.—An improved variety of the "Large Smooth Red;" very productive, showy, and of superior quality. It is extensively grown by the market gardeners in the vicinity of Boston, who esteem it above all others as a market variety. Our Seed was selected from the stock of one of the most successful growers in New England.

ORANGFIELD PROLIFIC.—An English variety of great merit; the earliest and one of the most productive varieties in cultivation, a week earlier than any other variety. The dwarf and compact growth of the plant makes it particularly desirable for forcing.

This variety would seem to be well worth trying here, where our seasons are too short for the late kinds.

CRIMSON CLUSTER TOMATO.—This variety grows in clusters of from 15 to 30, each cluster weighing from 4 to 6 pounds. Fruit, of first quality and very early, perfectly smooth, of average size, and of a scarlet crimson color, delicately tinted with specks of pure golden yellow. It ripens its whole cluster at once.

In reference to the Crimson Cluster, we find the following remarks in the *Horticulturist*:—

"This is the vegetable novelty of the season, entirely distinct from all other varieties, in the fruit being formed in clusters, having from fifteen to thirty of the average size of tomatoes in each; each bunch or cluster averaging from four to six pounds, resembling in form a bunch of grapes, but with "berries" of mammoth proportions.

"The fruit is perfectly smooth, of a scarlet crimson color, delicately tinted with specks of golden yellow. Independently of its value as a vegetable, it is a highly ornamental plant trained against a trellis or wall, so as to display its immense grape-like clusters of crimson fruit.

"It was originated in 1867, by Robert Revell, Florist of Norwich, Ct., who claims it not only to be entirely new in character and beautiful in appearance, but having the valuable quality of ripening the whole cluster of fruit at once, and earlier than any other variety of its size that he has tried. Mr. Revell's opinion is worthy of entire credence, being a practical horticulturist, with no interest whatever in the sale of the seeds or plants of this tomato, and is well known in the trade as a man of sterling integrity."

AUCUBA JAPONICA.

This fine evergreen is much less known, or used with us, than its merits deserve. The foliage—which is heavily and gracefully massed on extremely dark green stems—is of a rich, glossy green, splashed or blotched all over with gold. It is one of the most showy variegated shrubs, as well as the most useful, with which we are acquainted. Our specimens—which are large—are turned out of the pots at the end of April, and planted in conspicuous positions, out of doors, under the shade of trees (not too dense), when they thrive without any attention what-

ever. In October they are lifted, and the roots—whose name is legion—are unsparingly reduced so as to render storage in a pot practicable. This ordeal should not be inflicted during a dry, hot spell, or windy weather, but rather on a cloudy, damp day, which goes far to counteract the severe check. Any light porous compost will answer, but the best is leaf mould, with a portion of peat and a good sprinkling of sharp sand. Manure is not required; but cocoa fibre is gratefully received and appreciated. A shady and well sheltered position is indispensable, with a sufficiency of water (in the absence of rain), until the first appearance of frost, when a transfer to the conservatory becomes necessary.—Whilst the pots remain out of doors they must be plunged to their rims.

New varieties have been lately introduced from Japan, producing very showy berries, for which large prices were demanded. The following extract from William Bull's "Catalogue of New and Rare Plants" may be interesting:—"It may be as well to state that the Aucuba is a dioecious plant—that is to say, some of its individuals produce only male, others only female flowers, and that some eighty years ago the ordinary Aucuba was introduced from Japan, but the plant or plants so introduced happened to be females; by propagation, the whole stock in Europe sprang from the original introduction; and Japan from that time being a sealed country, the male plant could not be obtained. To the celebrated traveller and collector, Robt. Fortune, is due the merit of introducing the first male plant. Lately there have been several most important and distinct varieties introduced by Dr. Von Siebold, including male and female kinds, with plain green unspotted leaves, also others in both sexes, having blotches of variegated foliage."—*Gardeners' Monthly*.

THE BEST STRAWBERRIES.

A. B. Butler, of Columbus, Ohio, gives, in the *Farmer's Chronicle*, his experience on the culture of the strawberry in Central Ohio. For a large plantation for market purposes, he recommends the Wilson for the first half, and the Jucunda for the last half of the season. The Wilson comes in nearly as early as any of the valuable sorts, and gives its best fruit in about two weeks. When it begins to fail, the Jucunda comes well into bearing, and continues to produce its uniformly large-sized berries to the close of the season. The Wilson is quite hardy in Nova Scotia.

NOVELTIES IN ASPARAGUS.

It has remained for the American horticulturists to inaugurate novelties in the way of new sorts of Asparagus. What the pretensions of these novelties are we know full well from the glowing accounts