

HORTICULTURE

Profitable Peaches

Mr. T. A. Farrand of Michigan, speaking before a large body of Niagara Peninsula fruit growers last week, gave the following as his choice for the six best yellow flesh peaches: Yellow St. John, Engol's Maroon, Kalamazoo, Elberta, Snock, Salway. He considered Engol rather harder than the Early Crawford which he now omits from his list altogether, and it is about of the same season. Kalamazoo is much like New Profic. He omitted Triumph, but mentioned a peach called Yellow Swan, which was of about the same season. The Dewey he claimed was a better peach than Triumph.

Mr. J. Wesley Smith, of Winona, Ont., gave the following as his choice: St. John, New Profic, (or Early Crawford), Elberta, Yellow Raric, Lemon Tree, Smock. In his opinion the Fitzgerald and the Garfield were not superior to Early Crawford. Smith's Superb was a trifle earlier than Lemon Tree, but not as prolific. The Lexington was a great bearer, much more productive as a rule than Early Crawford. Longburst was profitable on real good, deep sandy loam, rich, moist but well drained; otherwise too small.

In planting, Mr. Farrand advised trimming the young trees to whip stalks and then cutting them back to about 18 inches from the ground, so as to make lowheads, and then keeping them well cut back every year. If, however, the head had been formed higher and allowed a year's growth, it was too late to change it to a low head. For distance, he advised 20 feet each way.—W.

Fruit Institutes in Georgian Bay District

The fruit growers of the Georgian Bay district are fast awakening to the fact that they must pay more attention to their fruit if they intend to hold their present enviable reputation of producing the best quality of apples. It has been said in the past that there was no necessity of spraying in that district since the cold weather would not allow the injurious insects to thrive. However, this neglect of spraying has allowed the oyster-shell bark-louse to get a good foothold and also has given the codling moth a chance to become well established. Pruning has been much neglected, also, and grafting needs to be done in many cases. Frequently no manure or fertilizer has been applied for a number of years, and the consequence is that the apples have been getting smaller and smaller in size and numbers.

Mr. I. F. Metcalf, the representative of the Department of Agriculture for that district, is very much alive to the necessity of better treatment of the orchards and, in co-operation with the Georgian Bay fruit growers, he has just conducted a couple of fruit institute meetings, one at Meaford and one at Thornbury. The Meaford meeting was held on March 4 and the Thornbury meeting followed on March 5. Pruning and grafting of fruit trees and the marketing of fruit were taken up. P. J. Carey, the Dominion Fruit Inspector, while spraying, of fruit trees was dealt with

by Mr. Robt. Thompson of St. Catharines, and Mr. Fraser of Burlington. Mr. B. Leslie Ennals of the Potash Syndicate handled the fertilizer question. In spite of the bad roads, which were almost impassable, a large number of fruit growers turned out to the meetings at both places and took a great interest in the addresses. It is not saying too much for these meetings that better fruit should be turned out from the Georgian Bay district as a result of their being held.

Hotbeds and Cold Frames

(Continued from last issue)

A cold frame is a simple construction of boards for wintering over young plants, cabbage, lettuce, cauliflower, broccoli, etc., and is also extremely useful to protect and harden off plants from the greenhouse or hotbed before fully exposing them in the open air.

Select a dry, southern exposure, form a frame four to six feet wide and as long as required. The back should be fourteen to eighteen inches high and the front eight to twelve, with a cross-piece every three feet. The frame may be covered with sash cloth. Seeds of the vegetable to be wintered, sown in open border, early in September, will be ready to plant in cold frames about the last of October. The soil should be well prepared and smoothly raked before planting. Admit air freely on pleasant days, but keep close in severe weather. These frames are particularly useful in the southern districts and may be covered more cheaply with cloth shades than by sash. The shades are made as follows: Make light but strong wooden frames to fit over the bed and of a width to receive some common brand of cotton cloth. The cloth may be unbleached and should be stretched over and securely tacked to the frames.

TRANSPLANTING

In transplanting, the main points to be regarded are: care in taking up the plants so as to avoid injury to the roots, setting out as soon as possible to prevent the air coming in contact with the roots, setting firmly so as to enable the plants to take a secure hold of the soil, and shading to prevent the hot sun from withering and blighting the leaves. Where a rank or soft growth of tops has been made in the hotbed it is frequently desirable to trim off some of the larger leaves before taking up to transplant so that evaporation later may be retarded.

In transplanting from a hotbed, harden the plants by letting them get quite dry a day or two before but give an abundance of water a few hours before they are taken out. It is most apt to be successful if done just at evening, or immediately before or during the first part of a rain, when the ground being wet it is impossible to sufficiently press it about the plant without its baking hard. If water is used at all it should be used freely,

and the wet surface immediately covered with dry soil.

WATERING

The best time to water plants is early in the morning or in the evening. Water may be given to the roots at any time, but should never be sprinkled over the leaves while they are exposed to bright sunshine. If watering a plot has been commenced, continue to supply it as it is needed, or more injury than good will result from what has been given. One copious watering is better than many scanty sprinklings. The ground should always be stirred with a hoe or rake before it becomes so very dry as to cake or crack.

Complaints of Canadian Fruit in England

Trade Commissioner MacKinnon, Birmingham, in Report of Department of Trade and Commerce.

A complaint which reached this office some time ago, and upon investigation proved to be well founded, was held over to be reported on along with other similar complaints which might come. The season is now approaching the end, but so far the attention of this office has not been called to any infraction of the Canadian law or of fair trading methods.

FRAUDULENT CHANGE IN MARKING

The fruit in question bore the names of J. C. Dudley & Sons, their marks being 'Sunflower Brand, 100 Russet' in pencil, 'XXX,' and the name 'Prince.' Being No. 1 fruit, as the marks would indicate, these russets were decidedly second-rate, both as regards size and color. A remarkable feature was the fact that while the first two crosses were in black lead pencil, the third was a larger cross made with purple indelible pencil; evidently after being marked 'XX' some one over anxious for profit had 'raised' the grade by the simple addition of the third 'X.' The second barrel similarly marked, but with the name 'Smith,' was found properly graded No. 1. The third barrel, bearing the name 'Avery' and marked in the same manner, showed small, poor spotted fruit, some of which was absolutely rotten.

Other barrels, which were examined, with the names 'Collins,' 'W. A. Seed' and 'Prince' upon them, all tended to bear out the salesman's statement that inferior to the grade marked upon them. At another firm, barrels were again seen where the third 'X' had been added and the fruit in two barrels upon examination was found to be small and spotted, being in one case fair second grade and in the other third-rate. The names (presumably those of packers) were Collins, Seed and Prince.



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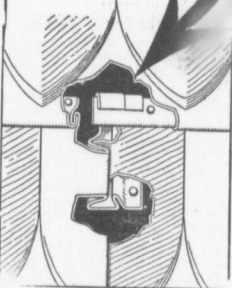
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