

*Horticultural.*

For the CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

**Plum Culture.**

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INSECTS, ETC.

The chief insect injurious to plums is the curculio, which, if left unmolested, frequently destroys the whole crop. The beetle that does the mischief is a small, rough, greyish, blackish insect, about a 1/4 of an inch long, with a black shining hump on the middle of each wing-case, with a short snout, which is used to make a small cut through the skin of the young fruit, into which an egg is deposited; then a crescent-shaped slit made beneath this, the object apparently being to leave the egg in a flap, which will shrivel more or less. The egg hatches in a few days and the resulting larva works its way to the centre of the plum, where it feeds upon the portion adjacent to the pit. Another insect, the plum gouger, works in a somewhat similar manner, only no crescent-shaped slit is made, and the larva, when hatched, proceeds to the interior of the pit and feeds upon the kernel. The same remedies are useful to eradicate the latter as to lessen the ravages of the former. Jarring the trees morning and evening from the time the blossoms begin to fall until three or four weeks have elapsed, catching the beetles in sheets stretched beneath, has proven eminently successful, where thoroughly carried out. But as this is a tedious and disagreeable task owing to the dew on the foliage in the early morning, very few have had the perseverance to follow it up. Many other remedies have been proposed, and which have merits, too, such as the annual destruction of all fallen fruit by pigs, and the destruction of the larva in the ground by hens and chickens. But it has now been demonstrated, I think, beyond cavil, that Paris green used with discretion is an effectual remedy for this great pest. The great objection to the use of this deadly poison being the uncertainty of its purity, I think there should be a severe penalty for selling an adulterated article. Four ounces of pure Paris green to forty gallons of water is quite sufficient to kill any insects that feed upon the foliage of fruit trees, as well as curculio, which feeds upon the young plums. More poison than this is injurious to the foliage. But we often get an article from the stores so adulterated that this amount does little or no good. I have put eight ounces to forty gallons of water after trying four and then six in vain, and it did no harm to the leaves of apple trees. Again I have destroyed the leaves entirely with four ounces, where put on too copiously, or possibly where not well mixed near the bottom of the barrel. The solution requires frequent stirring, as Paris green does not dissolve in the water, the mixture being not a chemical one, only mechanical. The trees should be sprayed as the blossoms begin to fall, and again each five or six days for about three weeks, or oftener in rainy weather.

There are various insects that feed upon the leaves, but the spraying for the curculio will make short work of these. The peach borer sometimes attacks the roots of plum trees, especially young trees in the nursery. These should be carefully examined when planted, and all borers removed with the knife.

The third cause of failure and the only one not yet well understood, is the black knot. The only cure—which is rather a preventative than a cure—is the careful watching and removal of all the swellings or knots as soon as seen, and the burning of the same. It is said this will keep it in subjection, though it has

failed to do so upon the common cherry trees, the knot spreading so fast as to destroy the tree in about four years after its first appearance, notwithstanding constant pruning and burning. Possibly, however, the knots are allowed to remain on too long, usually being only cut off once or twice a year.

**VARIETIES.**

The following are some of the best varieties of plums. It is a little difficult to state exactly the comparative time of ripening, as the crop as well as the localities has a great influence in this respect:

Among the earliest good plums is Prince's Yellow Gage, above the medium size, productive, vigorous, of very good quality, and never troubled with black knot, it is said. Ripening with the last is Imperial Gage, color greenish yellow, Prince's Yellow Gage being a golden yellow. Imperial Gage is exceedingly productive, vigorous, and altogether desirable. Both of these are quite hardy near the lakes. Green Gage is smaller in size, and tree a slower grower; color, yellowish green; quality best, and productive; not quite so hardy as Imperial Gage or Lombard. Yellow Egg, a very large, fine looking plum, not of best quality; productive, tree vigorous and among the hardiest. Washington, tree vigorous, and about as hardy as Lombard; fruit very large, yellow and good quality, not as regularly productive as others, in some localities a shy bearer in fact. McLaughlin, another large yellow plum, very vigorous and very productive, about as hardy as Lombard, though some say much harder. All of the above ripen about last of August to first of September. A little later comes Jefferson, a moderate grower, productive, golden yellow, size large, one of the very best dessert plums, not quite as hardy as the others named. Ripening towards the last of September are some fine yellow plums—Reine Claude de Bavay or Bavay's Green Gage, of large size, very productive and vigorous, quality best; about as hardy as Jefferson. Coe's Golden Drop, a large plum of fine quality, productive, tree vigorous and about as hardy as Lombard. General Hand, an extra large yellow plum, of rather coarse quality, vigorous and fairly productive; about as hardy as the last. These are about the best green or yellow plums. Commencing again at the last of August with the blue and red plums, about the earliest is Bradshaw, reddish purple, of large size; tree vigorous and productive; not among the hardiest, but quite hardy enough for lake shore. Ripening about same time is Duane's Purple, very large plum, productive and of good quality; tree vigorous and about as hardy as Lombard, which ripens immediately after, and is the standard plum, being so very productive, of good size and quality; tree vigorous, and hardy enough for the plum belt around the lakes, but not hardy enough, it would seem, for the interior counties. Ripening at same time is Columbia, a very large purple plum, of magnificent appearance, a little more subject to rot, however, than most of the others; it is a heavy yielder, and about equal to Lombard for hardiness. Prince Inglebert, a large purple plum, ripens about this time also; tree very hardy and very productive, one of the most desirable varieties for the interior. Another plum ripening about this time is Smith's Orleans, a very large reddish purple plum, of good quality, a very heavy bearer; tree very vigorous but not very hardy. A little later we have Moore's Arctic, a moderate grower, but one of the very hardy varieties; plum is only medium size but of fine color, being a deep purple with a bloom on it like Moore's Early grape; it is a heavy cropper. German Prune, also ripens a little later still; a very large purple plum, an excellent shipper, very productive, about as hardy as Lombard. An-

other very fine plum, ripening about this time, is Pond's Seedling, color almost red when ripened in the sun; very large in size, of good quality, tree very vigorous and productive; about as hardy as the last. Victoria or Sharp's Emperor ripens also at this time, a large, light purple plum, very productive, very showy and popular; not as hardy as Lombard. Quackenboss, a large, coarse purple plum, said to be same as Glass' Seedling. If so, a shy bearer, but very hardy. Later still comes Fellemborg or Italian Prune, very productive, of juicy, sweet, blue plums, of medium size; tree moderately vigorous and half hardy. A plum that should have been mentioned earlier is Red Magnum Bonum, a large plum of fair quality, productive, but noted chiefly for hardiness.

This is surely a sufficiently long list of choice plums from which to choose almost any quality desired. It will be noticed the following are accounted the hardest plums—Moore's Arctic, Red Magnum Bonum, Prince Inglebert, and Glass' Seedling, with Yellow Egg close after them.

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**A Few Words on Forest Tree Culture.**

BY E. D. SMITH, WINONA, ONT.

Very much can be said in favor of planting forest trees, and much more in favor of properly conserving those already planted, and the importance of maintaining a considerable area in forest cannot be too strongly urged, both for climatic reasons and for profit as well. But we can scarcely expect the general average of landowners to devote land to this purpose except for the last reason, viz., profit. One would think the estimated product of land devoted to the growth of walnut trees would be a sufficient inducement to set the whole country planting them; but such is far from the facts. Probably the stories we hear are too big. I think they are myself. I cut some very large walnut trees last winter, one a mammoth, four feet across the stump, which brought \$125; another extra fine one brought \$90. Now an acre of such trees even forty feet apart, which is not closer than they would grow, would net about \$3,000, which is a lot of money, though far short of many estimates I have seen. But the trees were at least eighty years old, and on the very choicest deep wash land at the foot of the mountain, land worth anywhere in the older parts of Ontario \$100 per acre, and worth much more here. Now \$100 put out at interest at six to seven per cent. will double in about ten years, and in eighty years will amount to \$25,000, or eight times as much as the walnut trees. Of course the trees could be planted closer and thinned out gradually, these thinnings bringing in the aggregate possibly \$3,000 more. Still money put out at interest would pay much better. So you see we must plant on cheaper land. We must plant on land worth less than \$25 per acre; and here is what I wish to emphasize. Walnut trees will not thrive and produce satisfactory results on any but the very best soil, rich and deep and well drained. So this shuts us out from general planting. But there is ample land worth very little in money value, that is still admirably adapted for walnut planting; almost all the face of the Niagara or Helderleigh escarpment is just the land for walnut, or most other trees for that matter. There are doubtless many thousands of acres of hillsides equally well suited. It is such places we must keep covered with forest, leaving our level land for the growth of crops for the present generation. But it would pay to plant strips of forests across our farms as windbreaks. The elm, a quick-growing tree, will be in demand for hubs at remunerative prices in the near future. Hickory grown in nursery