

exotics under glass, but as an out-door fruit; and gathered, not as single specimens, but in generous abundance and luscious sweetness.—Yet the fact is nevertheless so, and, under favourable circumstances, two crops may be realized in a single season.

The flavour of this fruit is not generally esteemed by those to whom it is a new sensation. The taste must be cultivated, and then it becomes as fascinating as the tomato or olive.

As to the culture of the fig, there is nothing difficult. The chief requisite is to protect the tree against the severity of winter; and this is done in precisely the same manner as the tender varieties of the raspberry, viz: by covering with earth. We have seen a protection of straw resorted to, but have never known it successful in this latitude. The best method of protection is to dig about the tree in the fall, deferring the act as long as the ground remains unfrozen, and then undermining and throwing the tree, so that all the branches and canes lie upon the ground; and then to shovel upon them soil enough to thoroughly bury them beyond the reach of the frost, taking care to so leave the ground that all excess of water will readily drain off.

There is a decided advantage achieved in this process in the way of root pruning, which prevents the plant developing too much into a tree shape, and thereby rendering it, as years increase, more difficult of being protected. The uncovering should be delayed as long in the spring as possible—at any rate until the long cold storms of early May are passed, say until about the 12th of May. Then, if nothing untoward happens, you may look for a summer and autumn crop.

Trees for Winter.

No class of plants are more useful and none made worse use of than evergreens. For shelter there is nothing like the Norway Spruce, yet we see many gardens and houses exposed to the northern blasts without an evergreen or tree or shrub to break the force of the fierce winter winds. Other gardens are nearly filled with evergreens, and this gives them a dark and gloomy appearance. For a screen, of course, the trees must be planted close in rows, but on the lawn, for beauty, here and there a fine specimen intermixed with other trees is all that is required. Trees with bright berries, like the Mountain Ash and Euonymus are very desirable, and give to the winter garden a bright and lively look. A correspondent thinks that evergreens, and especially evergreen shrubs, are neglected in this country, and writes us to urge our readers to give more attention to this beautiful class. It is true that there is no country where these evergreens are more needed than our own. Without them, how cheerless and desolate our gardens appear full five months of the year. Our attempts to introduce new evergreens, however, have not always been crowned with success, as

many things of which we had strong hopes have proved too tender for our severe climate. The our most beautiful native evergreen shrubs, such as the Holly, the Rhododendron, and the Krimia, are difficult to remove, and do not thrive well with common treatment and in an ordinary soil. They are not generally propagated or planted, and deserve far more attention from both nurserymen and amateurs than they have received. We have, however, many beautiful evergreen trees, that will grow as easily as Poplar, and are hardy enough for any climate between this and the Polar Sea.—*Rural New Yorker*.

TAKING UP FRUIT TREES.—As a rule, a nursery stock should be taken up with a fork in preference to the spade; in fact we would do if we could to banish the spade from this branch of the nursery business altogether, had we the power; but at any rate, where the preservation of every root is indispensable to success, as in the case with our present subject (fruit trees), nothing but the steel fork should be employed in lifting the trees. When out of the ground, if they have far to travel, wrap the roots in some damp material, or puddle them, to prevent them becoming dry before they are replanted.—*The Florist and Fruitist*.

Concord vs. Delaware Grapes.

It has been the source of the highest gratification to hear in every quarter the praise of the Concord grape. While at one time, few would allow it any merit, now none would risk their pomological knowledge to deny its excellence. It has indeed proved more than we claimed for it,—the universal grape for the million. It would be idle to attempt to claim for it—which was never done—a superiority in flavour to the Delaware or Diana; but as the Bartlett pear is the pear, while the Belle Lucrative is scarcely recognized, so the Concord, at present is the grape: just as long as the Black Hamburgh will be preferred to the Sweetwater, the Concord will be preferred to the Delaware.

The past year has ripened the Concord in the highest perfection. Its real excellence just begins to be appreciated. The vines have acquired age, their rampant growth has been checked, and now their fruit-bearing qualities appear. It has improved under the same circumstances that have improved others it is so much in its favour. Its hardiness saved it from destruction last winter, when the Diana and Isabella were killed to the ground; its freedom from mildew is one of its great merits, and the certainty of a crop in all seasons must place this first among our hardy grapes.

The Delaware, after fighting its way for nearly ten years, is gaining in the estimation of cultivators. Delicious as the fruit is admitted to be, and hardy as the vines are, the berries lack size