

Orchard and Fruit Garden.

CULTURE OF THE STRAWBERRY—WHAT SORT TO GROW.

It is remarkable that the Halifax market is still so poorly supplied with strawberries. Whenever a strawberry the size of a walnut is produced in a garden, half a dozen newspaper paragraphs appear forthwith, as if it were a white crow, or a kicking colt with three legs.

It may serve to afford useful information, if we reproduce some remarks made at a strawberry discussion before the Fruit Grower's Society of Western New York.

Mr. Herenden spoke in favor of Wilson's Albany strawberry,—it would bear twice as much as any other sort, and four times as much as any common variety,—can have for eating in the family for two weeks, (longer in Nova Scotia) and it is a berry that wears well. It is acid, to be sure, but good, and the vine is perfectly hardy; while the last berries of the season are as large as the first. Does not produce small berries if well cultivated.

For market cultivation, plant in rows four feet apart; cultivate between the rows till within two weeks of ripening, and then mulch with cut grass. In this way they will endure several years. His crops of which this year is the fourth, and they are full crops. The market men here in Buffalo were this morning selling Wilson's at three cents per quart higher than any other sort.

Mr. Coppock, of Erie Co., differed decidedly from friend Herenden as to this sort. All strawberries have locations, and they change flavor, &c., when grown in various places. Here in Buffalo it does not keep up its full size, and the popular opinion is that it is not fit to eat.—Wilson's Albany has a peculiar acid, and leaves a singular acid on the palate after eating. Won't eat it at all. Likes Scott's Seedling and Genesee very much, but the climax is Burr's New Pine. With this there is no fault to be found. Longworth's Prolific is a capital berry, and Prince's Eclipse is earlier than Jenny Lind; but a seedling called "Coppock's No. 1" is the only sort I now cultivate in any quantity, and of that have fully fifty acres in bearing.

Mr. Moodie, of Niagara Co., has planted upon a soil called a chestnut loam—cultivates some fifty sorts, and Jenny Lind is a week earlier than Wilson's Albany. Next is Peabody's Seedling, Triomphe de Gand is a fair bearer, but must be kept in hills. Hooker is very superior for flavor, and is a fair bearer. Trollope's Victoria does very well, and well cultivated is fine. Monroe Scarlet is the sixth.

Mr. Vick, of Monroe Co., spoke of the adaptation of the different varieties to different soils and climates; but so far as productiveness was concerned, Wilson's Albany must be universally conceded to have taken the lead. Scott's Seedling, Monroe Scarlet, Triomphe de Gand, Crimson Cone, which two years ago in the city of New York was cheaper than any other variety, but market gardeners for New York are getting now into Wilson's Albany. For a private garden, would cultivate in hills a foot apart, and hoe up each plant separately. Renew the hills once in three years.

Mr. Hoag, of Niagara county, cultivates upon a sandy loam with no manure. Plants in rows three and one-half feet apart, but does not like the single hill system. Wilson's Albany most productive, and after the Hooker and Chilian. Chilian has been with him more hardy than Wilson's Albany. Spring is a better time than fall to set out plants.

Mr. Glen, of Monroe county, planted Crimson Cone upon a space of sixteen square rods, (one tenth of an acre,) and the second year pickled eleven hundred quarts of berries. They had continued bearing well, and now this fifth year, had

already yielded over one thousand quarts. Wilson's Albany is an enormous bearer the first year, but afterwards diminishes very much in productiveness. The Large Early Scarlet will bear as many quarts as Wilson's Albany, and comes first into market, when the price is high, the demand great, and the sales easy, while Wilson's ripens mainly in the glut of the market. Triomphe de Gand is very productive and very fine. Hooker is perhaps somewhat tender in open winters or exposed situations, but it is of unsurpassed high flavor. Scott's Seedling is very productive, but of insipid flavor. Crimson Cone is very fine and good for preserving. When planted in hills mulching is necessary.

Mr. Chas. Dowling remarked that Wilson's Albany was the most productive plant he ever saw, but the fruit was too sour by far. Jenny Lind is a fine early sort. Triomphe de Gand was his favorite. Scott's Seedling was very handsome but possessed no flavor. Of all crops, perhaps the strawberry was the most variable known, some sorts being admirably adapted to some localities and some to others. Trollope's Victoria was of fine flavor, but not very productive. Monroe Scarlet was not as good on the banks of the Hudson as farther west, while Hooker was a berry of superior flavor, but not productive enough to satisfy the demands of many.

Mr. Beadle, of St. Catherine's, remarked that in Canada, upon a soil decidedly sandy, there was no variety for table use which was as early, or of as good size and fine flavor as the Large Early Scarlet. Hovey's Seedling did well, having a few large berries on each truss, and ripening as it did next to the Early Scarlet, and being of a good flavor, formed a capital succession crop. Burr's New Pine is, however, the best strawberry we have ever seen in all its qualities, in productiveness and in flavor. In size we have only one rival for it, and that is Triomphe de Gand: we think a good deal of that, so far. Hooker bears large berries and a good crop of the finest flavor, with a few small berries on the truss. In Canada we are obliged to protect all our strawberries in the winter. We plant in the spring, rows 2½ feet apart, and plants 1½ feet apart in the rows; let the runners fill in the spaces during the first summer, and then stop runners—we mulch with grass, have two seasons of fruit, and then dig up.

WATERING NEWLY-SET TREES AND PLANTS.

—Where the soil is rich, deep, and well tilled, and if the planting is done in moist or showery weather, there will be seldom any need of watering. But if necessary, proceed as follows:—Just before setting out the tree or bush, prepare the hole of a generous size, pour water into it and leave it to settle gradually away. Then set in the tree, spreading out the roots and covering them with the best soil at command. This done mulch the surface with leaves or straw, laying over the whole a few flat stones. A tree or plant of any sort so managed, will seldom need any after-treatment. But if the soil is poor and light, and the season is dry and hot, it may be necessary to help the tree along. Take off the mulch, and three or four inches of the soil, and pour in as much water from which the chill is removed, as is needed to soak the ground, then put back the earth and the mulch. Once or twice during an ordinary season will be as often as this treatment will probably be needed.

If trees are watered directly on the top of the ground and with no mulch, the soil bakes hard like bricks; it is worse than no watering.—*Colonial Farmer.*

DRESSING FOR STRAWBERRIES.—Supposing the land to be in good condition, and deeply dug, I know no dressing which will so delight the strawberry as a heavy coat of dark forest mould. They are the children of the wilderness, force them as we will; and their little fibrous roots never forget their longing for the dark unctuous odor of mouldering forest leaves.—*Colonial Farmer.*

The Flower Garden.

THE JULY FLOWER SHOW.

The Summer Flower Show was held in the Horticultural Gardens on 18th July. The display of Plants and Flowers was not so large as might have been expected. The first prize for roses was voted to Mr. G. W. Bowes, and the second to Mr. Burrows, but a much superior stand, containing robust blooms of many of the newest and finest English roses was shown (for exhibition only,) by A. G. Richards, Esq., who is by far the best informed and most enterprising amateur florist in Nova Scotia. Scotch pansies seem to do better in Nova Scotia than anywhere else on the American continent, and some good stands were exhibited. 1st prize, Mr. G. W. Bowes; 2nd, Mr. W. Frederick Petunias.—1st, Mr. Burrows; 2nd, Mr. A. H. Crowe. Verbenas.—1st, Mr. Herbert Harris; 2nd, Mr. A. H. Crowe. The prize for Sweet Williams was gained by Mr. Frederick, for table bouquet by Mr. Burrows, who likewise gained the prize for Fuchsias by a set of well grown plants of excellent varieties. The full prize list has been printed in all the newspapers.

One of the principal features of the exhibition was the collection of greenhouse plants from the garden of William Cunliffe, Esq., (cultivated by that gentleman's gardener, Mr. Lamb.) It embraced healthy and well flowered plants of some of the finest show and fancy Pelargoniums, Fuchsias, Erica ventricosa (one of the finest of heaths) and remarkably well grown plants of *Humea elegans*.

Among the exhibition plants we likewise noticed a beautiful Clematis and sweet Jasmine from the Richmond Road Nurseries (Mr. Harris') together with an elegant shade of *Icyclops*. One of the most remarkable plants in the Hall was one labelled *Fuchsia Dominiana*, simulating in its foliage and upright purple flowers, a species of *Asclepias*.

We ought not to omit mention of two dishes of strawberries of great size and excellent flavor. It would add greatly to the interest and utility of these exhibitions were exhibitors required to label the articles with their proper names; otherwise it is very much of dumb show to most persons.

To many, the best part of the exhibition would be the Horticultural Garden itself. The flower borders were gay with phloxes, beds of crimson flax, rainbow portulacas, pansies, showy blue Delphiniums, nearly ten feet high, scarlet geraniums, verbenas, petunias and roses.

In the fruit quarters, the red and white currants and gooseberries were pretty well laden with fruit, and the strawberries gave evidence of robust health. There was a fine nerium and other attractive greenhouse plants. In the nursery department, we noticed large quantities of healthy young horse chestnuts, larches, limes, and other trees and shrubs well worthy of the attention of those about to furnish new gardens and pleasure grounds.

We hope the amateur florists, horticulturists and nurserymen of Halifax will show more enterprise at next exhibition, which, it is understood will be held in October next.

LONDON INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF HORTICULTURE.

It is intended to hold in London, next year, an International Horticultural Exhibition, on a very extensive scale. It will be held in May, 1866, most likely on the week falling between Epsom and Ascot races. Two thousand pounds sterling are to be awarded in prizes, and the leading botanists and horticulturists of foreign countries are to be invited to attend. There will be congress meetings and evening conversations.