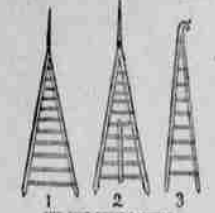


ORCHARD AND GARDEN.

GARDENING AND FRUIT GROWING FOR AMATEURS AND PROFESSIONALS.

Fruit Ladders Recommended by The National Pomologist in a Report to the Department of Agriculture as the Best for Use in Orchards.

The ladder shown at Fig. 1 is recommended as the best form of fruit ladder, and is familiar to most readers. It is made of a straight round pole, divided as shown with a step run, having several feet at the top, with a smooth line from the top of the step to the end of the pole. The two legs are of six inch diameter, with a temporary brace nailed to them. They are taken and reset the rungs, and it



It does. There is no defect. A part of the rungs will be five or six feet long, and they must be thick and heavy for strength, or they will be liable to give way.

To impart the necessary strength, and yet retain their lightness, all the rungs must pass through a stiffening bar, so that all these connected may support each other. But in each case, will then have the strength of the five held by the bar. Iron poles at the lower end will prevent the ladder from slipping, and the joints at the upper, braced by means of the rungs, of into a fork, will again be placed.

Another modification is represented by Fig. 2. Here a wooden hook is placed at the upper end, which may be hooked on a limb, and will thus be ready for use, and requiring less strength at the bottom for bracing. The hook is made of wood, and is pointed, to prevent bruising, and is secured to the ladder with some bolts. Having less bulk, the ladder may be moved before the pole is unhooked.

Requirements of Fresh Trees. The peach tree needs a dry soil, and so well is this known that it is usually planted on sandy or gravelly land. This exposure is to our danger, and often thought of. This is the deep freezing which often occurs, and which will not be covered by snow. While the bulk of the orchard is planted in this soil, the soil is not divided by wind, and the cold is not so severe. In some cases, the trees are grown in water places where they have long since been abandoned.

The temperature of the air in winter is not lower than that in summer, and the failure of people where they have been successful is probably due to deeper freezing of the soil, and the consequent injury to the roots of the trees. A search applied late in the fall or early in the winter around the trees would remedy this evil. If put on after the ground is frozen, it would also prevent too early expansion of peach buds, and thus save their destruction by late frosts in spring.

Seed Potatoes.

Experiments made with a view to deciding the best seed potato of profitable growing of potatoes, at the "Western" station, are thus reported: "The best with cuttings and whole tubers, the largest marketable yield came from the heaviest seedling, though the increase of marketable yield was by no means in proportion to the increase of seed. The proportion of small potatoes increased with the increase of seed. The smaller whole potatoes gave inferior results to the smaller cuttings. Two single eyes in a hill yielded considerably more than one, without a corresponding increase in small potatoes. No loss in yield followed planting in hills compared with drills. The results were clearly opposed to cutting off the 'heel' and 'off' of the potato before planting. No advantage followed sprinkling the cuttings with land plaster before planting."

A Promising White Grape.

The Green Mountain grape, which is being tested with fifty-three varieties at the state experimental station, gives promise of being a valuable addition to the white grape list. It is reported from the station to be six days earlier than any other grape grown there. The bunches are of medium size, somewhat and generally on long stems. The berry is medium in size, of a yellow green hue, the pulp is tender, the flavor agreeable. It is claimed that the vine is a vigorous grower.

Trailing Arbutus.

Mr. Jackson Hawes is reported as having said before a meeting of the Massachusetts Horticultural society that Epigaea repens (the well known trailing arbutus or Mayflower) can be grown successfully if the cuttings are selected and grown in a frame or greenhouse one season. It does best in a northern aspect, or will do well if planted on the edge of a rock garden bed.

Horticultural Hints.

It is difficult to overestimate the value of low trees in large conservatories. The Hulse year has an excellent record in Maine, and is now on trial in various sections of the country.

Louis Durrer is the name of a new crysanthemum introduced by Messrs. Beckwith & Co.

Field and Farm. Tells that in California, after the grapes are taken from the vine, the sheep are allowed to crop the leaves and tender shoots, destroying the fruit pests.

That is a queer discussion in The North American Review between Ouida and Father Ignatius on the question, "Has Christianity Failed?" The lady contends it has, while the gentleman insists it has not. The latter points out the number is that the majority of the Christian world would not consider either Ouida or Ignatius capable of judging fairly on this question.

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