

few small crocks mixed with the soil to keep it open to enable the roots to extend freely. Liberal supplies of water will be necessary when the plants are in full growth. At other times moderate supplies only will be required, and during October and November the soil should be kept rather dry, to afford the plants a season of rest, previous to pushing up their flower-spikes. The latter, it should be remembered, are produced in succession, and the flowers also expand, one or two at a time, on each spike, and consequently a supply is yielded, extending over a very considerable period.

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## CHERRY CULTURE.

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THE cultivation of the choicer kind of cherries does not appear to receive that amount of attention it should do, for in many cases the trees are left pretty much to themselves, and in others the commoner kinds only are grown. There is not, perhaps, much that is really new to be said upon the subject, for all good cultivators are well agreed upon the main points in the planting and management of the trees, but a few hints just now will perhaps be of some service to many readers of the FLORAL WORLD.

In the first place, it is well that those varieties which produce fruit of good flavour, and handsome in appearance, and are, moreover, of free growth, and productive, should be selected, for it is not desirable to plant small or, in fact, larger gardens, with trees that will not amply pay for all the labour and attention necessary to keep them in proper order. In gardens of limited dimensions, which will not afford accommodation for more than a limited number of trees, preference should be given to those kinds which produce fruit suitable for the dessert; but, if possible, room should be found for a few trees of varieties such as the *Morello*, which yield fruit best adapted for culinary purposes. There are nearly two hundred varieties in cultivation, and from these I have selected the following as the best in their respective classes, and likely to maintain a succession over the longest possible period:—

DESSERT.—Ripening in June, *Belle d' Orleans*, *Early Red Bigarreau*, *Early Purple Gean*, *Werder*, *Early Black*; ripening in July, *Black Tartarian*, *Frogmore Early Bigarreau*, *May Duke*, *Elton*, *Royal Duke*, *Joc-o-sot*, *Bigarreau*, *Mary*; ripening in August, *Florence*, *Late Bigarreau*, *Late Duke*; ripening in September, *Coe's Late Carnation*, *Büttner's Yellow*, *Bigarreau d' Hildesheim*, *Rival*.

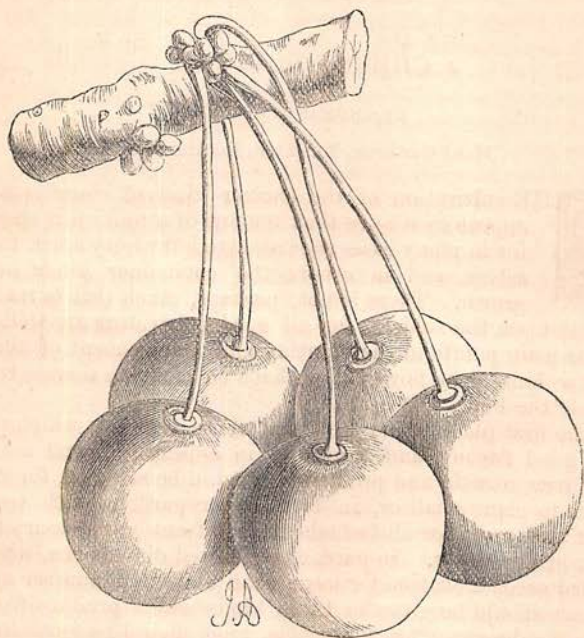
CULINARY.—*Kentish Belle*, *Magnifique*, and *Morello*.

All the foregoing may be grown as bushes, pyramids, standards, and espaliers, or trained to a wall. They are all of excellent quality,

January.

and where it is intended to plant two or three dozen trees, it will be preferable to select a considerable number of varieties, instead of several trees of one or two sorts.

For gardens of all sizes, either pyramidal or bush trees should have the preference, unless space can be spared for them against a wall, and in that case trees trained fan-shape are decidedly the best. Trees of either of the shapes here recommended are more under the command of the cultivator, and the fruit can also be more readily protected from the blackbirds and thrushes, which are generally very troublesome just as it is attaining maturity. The blossoms can also



be protected by means of netting, or branches of fir or evergreens hung loosely over the trees. Although trees of moderate size are recommended, no attempt should be made to keep them within very circumscribed bounds by excessive pinching. A moderate development of growth must be encouraged, for unless the trees are allowed to attain a fair size, it is very certain that the crops will be hardly worth the trouble of protecting from birds, or of gathering. On the other hand, excessive luxuriance must be guarded against. As a rule, the pyramids should not be allowed to exceed eight feet in height, and be of a proportionate width at the bottom, and the bushes should be about five feet in height, and as much in diameter at the widest part. Strong healthy trees, properly furnished with

wood should be procured, even if a slightly increased price has to be paid, so as to save a loss of time.

Cherry trees do not require much pruning at any season of the year, provided the young growth is shortened back towards the end of July. The actual time for pinching the young shoots depends in a large measure upon the seasons. In early seasons the work may be done about the middle of July, but in late seasons it will be better to defer it until the first or second week in August. Until such times as the trees have attained their full size, it will be advisable to shorten the shoots back to about half their length, and at the winter pruning such as are not required can be removed altogether. To prevent over-crowding, remove during the summer all weak or other growth not required, by pinching it off close to the base; for when the tree is overcrowded with useless wood the development of the flower-buds will be materially retarded, and the wood will not have a fair chance of becoming well ripened by the end of the season. The shoots of larger trees may be pinched back to about one-third of their length.

In all cases the spurs set with flower-buds must be carefully preserved, and both at the summer and winter pruning due care must be taken to preserve the proper outline of the tree, and also that it is equally furnished with wood on all sides.

The foregoing directions for pinching and pruning refer to the varieties represented by the *May Duke* and *Bigarreau* only. The *Morellos* and *Kentish*, which produce their flower-buds on the young growth, require a rather different system of pruning. Instead of pinching back the whole of the shoots, remove altogether with the finger and thumb, early in the summer, such as are not required, and allow those remaining to grow unchecked until the winter, when they can be shortened back as may be considered desirable.

The cherry succeeds in any good garden soil, but it appears to do better in soils rather light than otherwise. Previous to planting, the ground should be deeply trenched; and if poor, a dressing of fresh loam, or a little manure, applied. In case the trees grow with too great a degree of luxuriance, they should be root-pruned by cutting a trench round the tree, between two and three feet from the stem, according to the size of the tree, and then shortening the roots to the side of the trench. Care must also be taken to work the spade well under the ball of the soil, to cut through all roots that strike down in a perpendicular manner into the subsoil. Some amount of judgment is necessary, and trees which have not been disturbed, or root-pruned, for several years, should be pruned on one side one year and on the other the following season, so that they may not receive too great a shock.

The figure on page 10 represents the *Frogmore Bigarreau*, one of the most useful varieties in cultivation. For this excellent cherry we are indebted to Mr. Turner, of the Royal Nurseries, Slough.

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