



BENSON'S
Guide to Fig Culture

IN THE OPEN GROUND AT THE NORTH,

**With Instructions for Open Ground Culture at the North
of Japanese Persimmons and Pomegranates**

AND CATALOGUE OF

← Rare Tropical Fruits and Plants →

BANANAS, WATER LILIES, ETC.,

AND ALSO

**GREENHOUSE AND BEDDING PLANTS,
ROSES, FRUIT TREES, ETC.**

MARTIN BENSON,
SWANWICK, ILLINOIS.





INTRODUCTORY.

I BEG leave to offer to the public my new Catalogue for 1886, and respectfully ask your perusal of its contents. My facilities for collecting rare plants are unsurpassed; I have collectors in all parts of the world, and will have many rare plants and fruits to offer another year.

PLEASE READ BEFORE ORDERING.

Terms Cash with order, or will send C. O. D. by express on orders exceeding \$5, if one-fourth of order is remitted.

Remit by Money Order on PINCKNEYVILLE, ILLINOIS; Registered Letter, Draft or Express Money Order. Don't send private check. Postage Stamps taken for fractions of a dollar.

Packing is done in the best possible manner, so as to carry safely to any part of the world.

Care of Plants. On arrival, take immediately from the package, and if they are trees, dip the roots in thin mud made of clay and water; and if you are not ready to plant, "heel them in" carefully. If they are plants and are in the least wilted, place the roots in a pan of cold water for an hour or so, then carefully pot them, and keep shaded for a few days. Never pour water on a package; it may cause the plants to heat and spoil.

True to Name. Everything warranted true to name.

Labels. In shipping I use none but printed wooden labels, securely wired on—a great improvement on the old plan.

Plants by Mail. On all orders amounting to less than \$3, add 25 cents each for postage.

Safe Arrival Guaranteed, by mail or express. I will willingly rectify all mistakes—we all make them sometimes—if notified of them immediately on arrival of goods.

Very Important. Send your orders in as soon as possible after receipt of catalogue. The stock of many sorts is limited, and the early orders will get them, and will also get more select plants.

A Special Request. I am anxious to obtain the addresses of all fruit growers, market gardeners, florists and those having private greenhouses, who buy trees or plants. If you will send the names of such *soon*, and mention the matter when you order, I will see that you are well paid for your trouble.

Orders Filled in Rotation. Shipping season commences about the 1st of March. Tender plants will not be sent out until near planting time, unless otherwise ordered.

References. To those unacquainted with me, I respectfully refer to Hon. Wm. K. Murphy, ex-member State Legislature, and president of the firm of Murphy, Wall & Co., bankers, Pinckneyville, Ills.; also to Captain Wm. Adair, Express Agent, Swanwick, Illinois, and to my Postmaster.

I am open to offers from hybridizers and originators of new fruits and plants of sorts and will willingly test such with a view to their dissemination if found worthy.

In conclusion I will be pleased to hear from my customers at any time and will willingly answer any questions they may wish. Please *always* give your full name and address every time you write, and address all letters plainly to

MARTIN BENSON,

SWANWICK, PERRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS, U. S. A.

Telegraph Office, Swanwick, Illinois.

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1886

BENSON'S Guide to Fig Culture

AND CATALOGUE OF

RARE TROPICAL FRUITS AND PLANTS.

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THE FIG FOR THE NORTH.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY



BECAUSE of its great productiveness, adaptability to our climate, the ease with which it can be grown, and its entire exemption from all insect enemies and disease, the Fig commends itself to the attention of every one who grows fruit, in all parts of the Northern States. After giving the subject my attention for several years, and thoroughly testing the matter, I am convinced that no fruit will prove so profitable, or will yield so large or sure crops, in our Middle and Northern States, as the Fig, and were the facts, in regard to it generally known, it would soon be as commonly grown as any other fruit. Knowing the value of this luscious fruit for the North, I shall endeavor to give such full instructions for its culture, that no one can fail to grow it successfully.

WHAT THE FIG IS.

With us the Fig (*Ficus Carica*) is a deciduous shrub; it is indigenous to Asia and Northern Africa, and is one of the oldest cultivated fruits. The fruit is generally shortly turbinate, or shaped like a top inverted; others are of elongated pear shape and some are round. The color is either black, blue, brown, purple, violet, white or yellow. It consists of a hollow, fleshy receptacle, with an orifice in the top which is surrounded and nearly covered by a great number of scales, lying over each other like tiles. The blossoms, unlike those of most fruits, make no outward appearance, but are concealed within the fruit, on its internal surface. They are *male* and *female*—the former situated near the orifice, the latter in that part of the concavity near the stalk. On cutting open a fig when it has attained little more than one-third its size, the flowers will be seen in full development. In Asia and Southern Europe the process of *caprification* is resorted to, which consists in placing the fruit of a wild sort called the Capri fig or male fig among the cultivated ones. This is supposed to prevent the fruit from dropping prematurely, and to hasten its ripening by allowing a small gnat that infests the male fig to penetrate the cultivated ones. This process is now pronounced useless by best authorities—I have grown many sorts, and have yet to find one that does not set its fruit well, if the trees are not allowed to suffer from severe drouth when the fruit is setting.

Fig leaves are alternate, cordate, more or less deeply three to five-lobed, rough and very ornamental.

THE FIG FOR NORTHERN CULTURE.

I claim that the Fig excels all other fruits for cultivation in the Northern States, for the following reasons:

1. The climate of the Middle and Northern States is one of the best possible for the full development of the Fig, and as fine figs can be grown here in southern Illinois as can be grown anywhere. Too great heat is not suitable for the Fig, causing the tree to shed its fruit. Our climate is not so dry, and the days are also several hours longer in the summer time than at the south, which gives a long sunny, temperate day that precisely suits the Fig, and they therefore do grow and thrive wonderfully. One could not have found a single yellow leaf on my hundreds of trees the past summer. Our seasons are long enough to thoroughly mature two crops per year.

2. It is the most *productive* of all fruits, commencing to bear the second year, and bearing a fig or two at nearly every leaf. Further, as above stated, TWO GOOD CROPS per year can easily be grown.

3. The Fig is the most *delicious* of all fruits, and can be used fresh, dried, canned or preserved; in fact such is the goodness and abundance of this fruit, that in some parts of Southern Europe it goes by the name of the "Providence of the Poor."

4. It flourishes in much more unfavorable climates than our own, for instance, in Middle and Northern France, where it is one of the most important crops, being worth hundreds of thousands of dollars annually; yet the climate there is severe enough to kill the trees every winter, and they are grown as bushes and protected by covering. It is also grown very successfully in England, that damp, foggy country where corn or melons cannot be grown, and the original trees introduced into the island over 300 years ago are still living. Now if the fig grows so well in those countries, why should it not do much better here, where the climate is so much better suited to it?

5. It is very easily grown and protected, and is also one of the most ornamental of trees.

6. It is the most *profitable* of all crops. In proof of this, I will give an estimate of the yield and profit of an acre set in Figs: One acre, set with trees at 10 feet apart each way, will contain 430 trees, which on ordinary soil, with good cultivation, will yield when four years from setting, one bushel per tree, which will give over 400 bushels per acre. When trees are seven or eight years old, they will yield double this. The fruit will find an almost unlimited demand in our cities. It is sold in the fresh state at from 25 to 50 cents per quart, or from \$5 to \$15 per bushel. The total cost of protecting an acre of Fig trees six or seven years old will not exceed *five cents per tree*, if the work is all hired done. The above may seem incredible to those unacquainted with the Fig at the north, but I assure you that it is not above the average—indeed, with extra culture trees four years old will yield much more—but if they only yielded one-half as much as stated above, it would be over 200 bushels per acre. What other fruit will do as well? As it is the most delicious of all fruits, when once introduced, it will become almost a necessity, and the demand for it will be enormous, at paying prices. We should not overlook the fact that when properly protected we are always sure of a crop, which is no small item. Protecting is also very easy and simple, as will be seen further on.

Below I give some testimonials from disinterested persons in regard to the profit and practicability of growing the Fig at the north. The following is from a writer in Special Report No. 4, Department of Agriculture. He says:

"The Fig can be grown successfully, by protecting the trees in winter, in the Middle and Northern States. * * * * * The fruit of this tree is so great a luxury, and so useful in many ways, that there is no reason why it should not become a very considerable article of commerce to the people of those states, and thus add to the wealth of the whole country."

The following letter is from Dr. G. F. Needham, an old and experienced Fig grower:

SEABROOK, MD., May 7, 1885.

DEAR SIR: * * * If Col. Worthington of Ohio, can raise more Figs on a given quantity of land than of tomatoes or potatoes, then it can be done anywhere north. Mr. Fowler, of Clifton, near Baltimore, gets \$10 per bushel for his Figs, and some growers here get 50 cents per dozen for the first crop, and 12½ cents per dozen for second crop, when the Figs are smaller. The trees begin to bear the second year, and when four years old will yield a bushel per tree per year. * * * In regard to the cold of winter, it makes but little difference, for if the trees freeze and thaw *in the dark*, freezing does not hurt them. * * *

Respectfully,

G. F. NEEDHAM.

The next is from Wm. Fowler, Esq., of Maryland, who has grown the Fig for over twenty years:

CLIFTON PARK GARDENS, MD., May 7, 1885.

DEAR SIR: * * * I can say that the Fig has been a paying crop here. We have about a half acre of Fig plants. We have a good demand for the fruit, more than I can supply at \$6 per bushel. * * *

Yours respectfully,

WILLIAM FOWLER.

General Worthington says:

"It is quick grown, suits our climate admirably, is easily protected, a sure bearer, and very prolific—trees begin to bear when two years old, and when four or five years old they will produce a greater and more certain crop than either potatoes or tomatoes. The Fig is the fruit for the cottages and villager, and when its merits and adaptability to our climate become known, it will be as regularly grown as the potato or tomato."

Below is a notice from the *Central Christian Advocate*, of St. Louis, of some samples of Figs I sent them of the second crop.

"As our readers will remember, we published sometime ago an article on Fig culture, written by Mr. Martin Benson. This communication awakened a general interest in the subject, and led to the cultivation of the Fig by many persons in different parts of the country. Mr. Benson has just sent us a small box of this fruit which was raised on his farm near Swanwick, Illinois. The figs are of good size, very luscious, and they confirm the statement of Mr. Benson that they can be grown to advantage in this latitude."

Below are some samples of hundreds of letters received from customers during the past year. Owing to lack of space, I can give out a few.

The tree came to hand to-day in first-class order; am very much pleased with it, and will report its progress.

OFFICE STARK NURSERIES, LOUISIANA, MO.

Respectfully,

R. McD. SMITH.

August 11, 1885.

DEAR SIR: I promised to report progress of Fig tree. I have never seen anything make so fine a growth, and on the wood of this season's growth I count about thirty-five figs, some of them larger than the end of my thumb. * * * * *

Respectfully,

R. McD. SMITH.

The following is from one of my customers, to whom I sent samples of my crop. His trees were bought last spring.

CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS, November 14, 1885.

DEAR SIR: * * I received the box of Figs the day after shipment. I was well pleased with them; the branch was a prolific one (it was about twelve inches long and had eight or ten figs on it.) Had you been here I would have shown you an equal one, only later.

Yours,

JAMES MUIRHEAD.

The following is from one of my friends in Canada, an old and experienced gardener.

DEANS, ONTARIO, CANADA, April 20, 1885.

SIR: * * * I am well acquainted with the habits of the Fig in England, and have often wished to try them here, as the climate seems so much more suitable for them. I have read the hints with regard to them written by you, and I feel confident that you are right. I am, sir,

Yours respectfully,

ALLEN CHAPMAN.

DEAR SIR: I received Fig trees in fine condition; nice and stalky plants. * * * * *

Yours respectfully,

November 10, 1885.

ALLEN CHAPMAN.

The preceding estimates of the profits of Fig culture were made in regard to the fresh fruit. There are thousands of tons of the dried fruit imported into this country every year, which could all be produced at home and thus save the country thousands of dollars annually.

7. As the Fig is the most *easily grown, most delicious and most profitable* of all fruits, it should be grown by every one who cultivates fruit, in all parts of our country. As a fruit for home use the Fig is unequalled. It can be used in so many ways, is so healthy, that if its merits were generally known, it would be grown by everybody. It can be grown with less labor than potatoes, and a few hours work will protect enough trees to furnish all the fruit a large family can use, either fresh, dried, canned or preserved. By planting the proper varieties you can have Figs from July until frost.

AN ASSURED SUCCESS.

Fig culture at the north is no longer an experiment; the conditions for its successful cultivation are as well ascertained as those for any other fruit, and the day is not far distant when the Fig will be one of our most valued and common fruits. So thoroughly am I convinced of the great profit to be derived from the culture of this fruit, that I shall plant largely for market, as soon as I can propagate sufficient stock. I hope no intelligent fruit grower will fail to give Fig culture a fair trial, after which I feel sure they will consider them, as I do, the most valuable of all fruits.

If any one still doubts the practicability of growing the fig at the north, I can but give him a cordial invitation to come and see for himself, as I expect to have upwards of 50 varieties in bearing the coming summer.

The following full instructions for the cultivation of the Fig at the North are the result of careful practice.

SOIL AND LOCATION.

The soil best suited to the Fig is a light, deep, moderately rich soil. A poor soil is better than a very rich soil, as the latter will cause the tree to run to wood and not bear, unless the tree is kept well root-pruned. Almost any soil but low, wet ground will grow good Figs; they should not be planted on wet or low soil. The best location is a south or southeast slope. In the far north and Canada, they should be planted on the south side of a house, wall or hedge. They will bear but one crop per year in Canada. In Kansas and other prairie states, I would recommend a hedge to be planted on the north and west. With this protection from high winds, they will do grandly in Kansas and Nebraska; in other western states they will succeed without the hedge, but are however, much better for it in windy localities.

PLANTING.

In the spring, about corn-planting time, throw up ridges ten feet wide and eighteen inches high in the center. Every ten feet on top of this ridge, dig holes at right angles to the ridge, two or three feet long and ten inches wide. Replace the soil in the holes in the shape of a mound, two or three inches below the level in the center and eight or ten inches below at the ends, cut the trees back to three or four buds, and then separate the roots into two parts. Set the trees at the central point, with the roots extending right and left down the ridge; fill up with good soil, and make firm around the roots.

CULTIVATION.

The trees should be cut back to three or four buds, being thus made to branch near the ground and grow in the form of bushes. They should be pinched back during their growth and not allowed to grow over eight or ten feet high.

After the first crop is about half matured, the ends of the growing shoots should be pinched, so as to make the second crop start. The ground should be kept free from weeds.

If the trees grow very rank, are long jointed and do not bear well, they should be *root-pruned*. This is best done by taking a hoe and cutting off a portion of the small roots. The joints of a Fig tree when in full bearing should not be over one-half to three-quarters of an inch long.

The trees should not be allowed to grow any after the middle of August or first of September, so as to have the wood well ripened, that it may not be injured by the first frost. If the wood of a fig is well ripened, it will readily endure without injury a temperature of 15° above zero. If the trees persist in growing, *root-prune* as above. After the trees are three or four years old, they will generally stop growing of their own accord.

PRUNING.

Fig trees need but little pruning; simply cut out surplus branches and those crossing each other.

PROTECTING.

In the autumn, before severe frosts, take twine and tie the branches into a bundle. The branches can be bent almost double without breaking, and a tree can be tied into a surprisingly small bundle—I have seen trees upwards of six feet in diameter, tied into a bundle about six inches in diameter. After trees are tied, take a spade and cut the roots that run lengthwise of the ridge, but don't disturb the original roots that were planted. Push the trees over lengthwise of the ridge, and peg them down; then cover them with earth, in this latitude three or four inches, in that of Chicago six or eight inches deep. Covering is *not* done with the view of keeping them from freezing—the object desired is to keep the trees *dark*; then, no matter how cold the climate is, the trees will always come through entirely uninjured.

By the above method of planting, trees are protected very easily, no matter how old they are. They will grow and thrive for generations. Some may say, "too much trouble!" Do we grow anything of value without some trouble? The advantages of the Fig over all other fruits more than makes up for the small trouble of protecting them.

Besides, you are always sure of a crop. Everyone knows how liable all our fruits are to having their crops destroyed in our changeable winter—with the Fig you need have no fear of this if you protect them as directed. Cover them before freezing weather in the fall, and in the spring, after danger from hard frosts is past, remove the covering from the trees, and raise them to their positions.

By this mode, protecting is very easy and simple: In my experience, it costs but little more to protect an acre of Figs than one of Strawberries, and the profits are immensely greater.

HOW TO USE FIGS.

Nothing is more luscious than Figs used fresh from the trees, and fresh Figs eaten with cream, like Strawberries, form one of the most delicious of dishes.

TO MARKET FIGS.—Pick carefully, and sell in pint or quart baskets, like berries.

TO DRY FIGS.—When Figs are ripe, they begin to show small white seams or cracks in the skin. They must then be cut off with a knife and placed carefully in boxes, and from the boxes spread on trays, made of wire or lath. Place the trays in the sun, and put the Figs on them with the nose upwards, else the contents will leak out. Turn every day, and keep from rain or dew. In six or eight days the Figs will be dried. Don't dry too much; when dry they should yet be very pliable. Before packing, immerse for few seconds in boiling brine or salt water; this is to soften them and kill insect eggs. An evaporator will probably be the best for drying them in the north. The best varieties for drying are the *White Adriatic*, *White Genoa* and *White Trojan*.

TO PRESERVE FIGS.—Place in baskets and dip for a minute or so in hot lye to eat off the gummy skin; then wash in clear water. Cook in syrup for five minutes; then put the Figs in jars and pour the hot syrup over them.

CRYSTALLIZED FIGS.—Prepare as above; then put in a kettle of hot syrup and boil for five minutes; dip out and place on plates, sprinkle thickly with white sugar, and dry them. They are delicious.

FIG PICKLES.—Gather the Figs before they are quite ripe, leaving the stems on. Soak for ten hours in brine; then remove and rinse in water, and place in jars. To each gallon of best cider vinegar add one pound of light brown sugar, and such spices as you desire. Put the ingredients in a kettle, stirring and dissolving the sugar, and when the vinegar comes to a simmer, pour it upon the Figs, until they are covered. Put a piece of horse-radish in the mouth of each jar, cover close and keep in a cool place.

FIG PASTE.—Prepare by dipping in lye as before; slowly simmer the Figs to a smooth pulp, in a porcelain kettle, adding a little sugar and flavoring extracts. When done, pour into moulds or pans, and dry slowly. When dry, wrap in white paper and keep in a cool and dry place.

DESCRIPTIVE PRICE LIST OF FIGS.

There are about as many varieties of Figs as of any other fruit, differing in time of ripening, color, size and quality; some are adapted for drying, and others are for table use. In planting for home use, a selection of varieties should be made, comprising early, medium and late sorts, just as is done with other fruits.

The following is the largest and best assortment ever offered in this country. My stock consists principally of the sorts marked with an asterisk (*); the stock of others is limited.

My trees are all grown in the open ground (not in hot-houses) and are hardy well rooted, stocky and true to name.

All trees, except bearing trees, will be cut back ready for planting, unless otherwise ordered.

I offer fine BEARING trees of all sorts marked with asterisks at \$1 to \$1.25 each. They contain ten to two hundred fruit buds each, and are sure to bear the first year.

SPECIAL OFFER.—I will send twenty-four trees, my selection of the best early, medium and late sorts, both drying and table Figs of the finest varieties, adapted for home use, which will prove sufficient for a large family, for \$18.

Adam. Very large, turbinate; brownish purple. \$1 each.

Angelique. Medium, greenish yellow; flesh rose color, not very rich, but very good; early. \$1 each.

Black Ischia. Medium, blue black; flesh very sweet and rich; productive—a fine Fig. 75 cts. each.

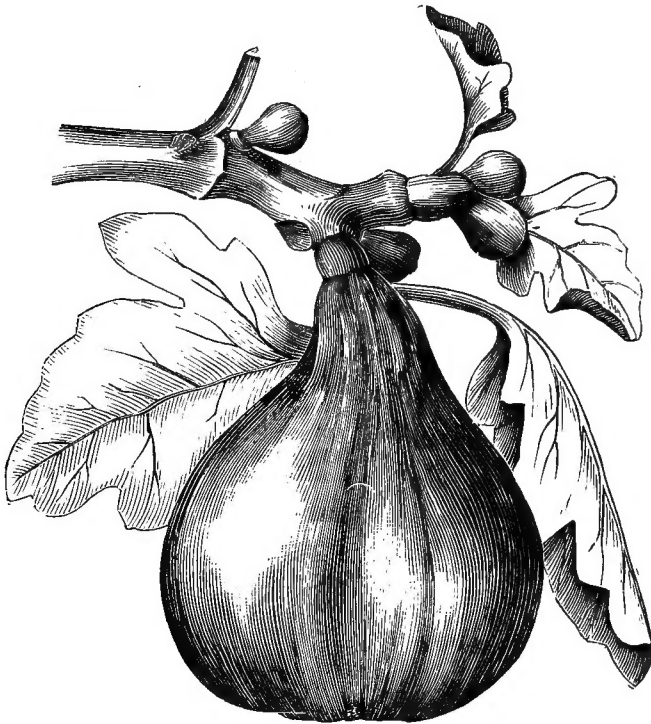
Black Marseilles. Small, dark purple; very rich. \$1 each.

Blue Marseilles. Blue; rich and good. \$1 each.

Blue Ischia. Medium, blue; very rich. \$1 each.

Blue Genoa. Medium, bluish black; good. \$1 each.

Bondance Precoce. Medium, brown; early and a great bearer. \$1 each.



BROWN TURKEY FIG.

- Bourjarotte Grise.** Medium; very rich. \$1 each.
- Brown Ischia.*** Large, chestnut brown; very sweet and excellent; very productive and hardy—a good Fig; medium early. 50 cts. each, \$5 per dozen.
- Brown Turkey.** Large, oblong, dark brown; flesh rich and of very delicious flavor; very productive, frequently bearing three crops in one season—a two year old tree of this sort bore over 200 fine figs the past season. 50 cts. each, \$5 per dozen.
- Brunswick.** Very large, brownish purple or violet; very productive and early; extra fine for preserving; from Italy. 75 cts. each.
- Celestial or Sugar Fig.** Small, pale violet; productive; foliage very woolly; exceedingly sweet, and where the weather is favorable will preserve themselves on the tree. 60 cts. each, \$6 per dozen.
- Castle Kennedy.** Very large, early and good. \$1 each.
- Col di Signora Bianco.** Medium, green changing to yellowish white; flesh red and most delicious. \$1 each.
- Dauphin d'Argenteuil.** Very large and fine; early. \$1 each.
- Dwarf Prolific.** Dark purple; hardy and very fruitful. \$1 each.
- Early Violet.** Brownish purple; very hardy and early; very productive. \$1 each.
- Early Madeline.** Large; skin grey, flesh white; productive and fine. \$1 each.
- Green Ischia.** Large, green; flesh crimson, of fine quality; hardy and prolific. 75 cts. each.
- Grosse Verte.** Very large, pale green; rich and excellent. \$1 each.
- Large Purple.*** Of large size, dark purple; foliage large; sweet and productive. 75 cts. each.
- Lemon.** Large, yellow; sweet and good. 75 cts. each.
- Madeline.** Small, pale yellow; flesh rose-colored; prolific. \$1 each.
- Negro Largo.** Exceedingly large; jet black, marked with ribs; very delicious; the size and color makes this one of the most interesting Figs; very rare. Bearing size, \$3 each; smaller, \$2 each.
- Pacific White.*** Medium, white; very sweet, seeds small; will dry on the tree sufficiently to pack away with safety; is of fine quality when dry, but rather thick-skinned; very hardy, wood of a dark chestnut color—very peculiar; foliage large and beautiful; tree vigorous and productive. 75 cts. each, \$6 per dozen.
- Pergussata.** Small, round; flesh reddish brown and very rich. \$1 each.

San Pedro (Breba or Apple Fig). A most magnificent Fig; one of the largest and finest, and of enormous size. Skin and flesh white, of extra quality; very prolific. This variety I imported from Italy, and have but few trees for sale this year; will have a large stock next season. \$2 each.

White Ischia. Small, yellow; good pot Fig. \$1 each.

White Marseilles. Large, greenish white; flesh white, of the most luscious sweetness; very productive; very hardy; fine Fig for pots. \$1 each.

White Smyrna.* Very large, dirty white; of good flavor, productive and hardy; not good for drying. 50 cts. each, \$5 per dozen.

White Genoa. Large, yellowish white; skin thin, flesh amber color, and of most delicious flavor; very choice. This and the next two are the finest for drying. \$1 each.

White Adriatic. Large, white; skin very thin; pulp of the finest flavor and quality imaginable; the finest of all for drying, producing the dried figs of commerce. A limited number of trees only this year, at \$1.50 each.

White Trojan.† Considered one of the finest by Italian Fig growers. No trees for sale this season.

FIGS IMPORTED FROM SPAIN AND ITALY.

† All the following are said to be very fine, and as they come from the greatest Fig countries of the world, where the Fig has been cultivated for centuries, we may expect many of them to be grand varieties. I expect to have all of them in fruit the coming summer.

Fine trees, \$2 each; bearing trees, \$3 to \$4 each.

Albo Moster.

A tre Raccolte.

Barnisotta Grise.

Biancotondo Grossissimo.

Bourjassate Blanche.

Bourjassate Noir.

Brogiotto.

Cavaliere.

Col de Signora Nera.

Concordana.

Crave.

Dattero.

Dellagoccia.

Della Dame.

De Constantine.

Di Corju.

Di Gerusalemme.

Di San Giovanni.

Drap d'Or.

Dottato.

Du Rio.

Gourand Rouge.

Grossale.

Grosse Grise Bijere.

Hirta du Japon.

Monaco Blanche.

Moscadello.

Nano Bianco.

Pasteliere.

Prolifero.

Riproduttivo.

Rocardi.

Ronde Noir.

Ronde Violet Hative.

Verdino—(White Adriatic. See above.)

Verdino di Breanza.

†† Order early to avoid disappointment.



RARE TROPICAL FRUITS.

These are the most interesting of all plants for pot or greenhouse culture. Most of them are of the easiest culture, requiring no more care than ordinary greenhouse plants. They are beautiful in flowers and foliage, and when in fruit are truly magnificent, combining utility and beauty. A collection of these when in fruit will attract more attention than any other class of plants grown.

I offer a large collection, comprising many rare sorts never before offered or seen in the north. My plants are fine, true to name, and when their rarity is considered, prices for them are very low. All collections of plants should have a selection of these.

Pot in soil composed of one-third each rotten sod, fine sand, and thoroughly rotten cow manure, and you will have an abundant supply of flowers, fruit and rich foliage.

SEEDS can be supplied of all sorts marked thus (*). Price per packet, one-half the price for a tree or plant of the same sort. Send orders early, as the supply is limited.

*ACAJOU TREE.

\$2 each.

*ALEURITES MOLUCCANA.

Indian Nut. Has Palm-like leaves and edible fruits. \$2 each.

ANONAS.

The following all belong to the same genus. They are deciduous shrubs, and can be wintered in the cellar. They bear most delicious and beautiful fruits.

***Sugar, Apple or Sweet Sop.** Fruit resembling an inverted cone, of a rich yellowish green color; a most interesting and delicious fruit, very sweet and rich; very productive and bears quite young. Fine plants, \$1.50 each.



ANONA FRUIT.

Sour Sop. (*Anona Muricata*.) A large green prickly fruit, six or eight inches long, containing a delicious soft white juicy pulp; foliage very beautiful; rare. \$2 each.

Pond Apples. Fruit very handsome and fragrant; a very beautiful plant. 75 cts. each.

Jamaica Apples. Fruit with bright red cheek; a rich fragrant custard, very delicious and interesting; very rare. \$2.50 each.

***Cherimoyer.** (*Anona Cherimolia*.) Spanish American bottle fruit; very rare and curious. \$3 each.

Custard Apple. A fine fruit; its rich color, fragrant odor, and handsome appearance are well characterized in the expression, "apples of gold in pictures of silver;" very rare and scarce. \$3 to \$4 each.

Anona Aurantiaca, Macrocarpa, and Pyriformis. \$1.50 each.

*AVACADO PEAR.

A most peculiar fruit; very large, brown, pear shaped fruit, eaten with pepper and salt; it is said to weigh as much as two pounds, and the flavor transcends that of the finest musk melon; extremely rare; plant most peculiar and beautiful. I have but few plants to offer at \$3 each.

*AVERRHUA CARAMBOLA.

East India Gooseberry tree. Produces a fruit about the size and shape of a duck egg, of agreeable flavor. \$1.50 each.

BREAD FRUITS.

Atrocarpus Incisa. A most remarkable fruit and plant. Plants expected, at \$3 each.

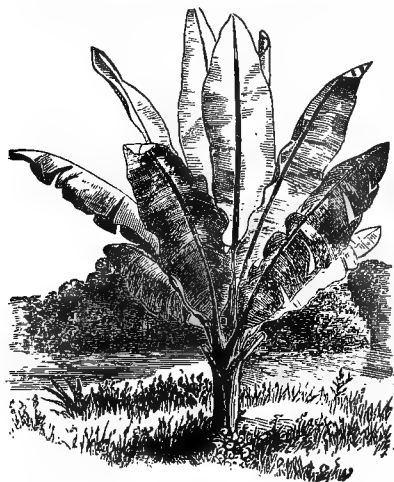
Purple-Leaved Bread Fruit. Exceedingly ornamental foliage; rich bronzy crimson, tinted with purple above, beneath of a vinous red, about one foot long and seven inches broad; fruit very fine; a magnificent plant. \$1.50 each.



BREAD FRUIT.

BANANAS.

The grandest of all bedding plants.



MUSA ENSETE.

The Banana is a plant of leafy, succulent growth, of the genus *Musa*. The stalk is formed of the stems of the leaves in concentric layers, and contains no woody fibre. From the center comes the bearing stem, which turns and grows downward. The end has the appearance of an ear of corn, with a purple shuck; this unfolds one leaf at a time, displaying two rows, eight to twelve each, of tiny, little fruit with their delicate blossoms. The leaves are a marvel for size and appearance, sometimes reaching a length of six to eight feet, with a width of 18 to 24 inches. The Banana is the finest bedding plant grown, and can be grown as easily and successfully in the north as Cannas. The growth is exceedingly rapid, and for grand and magnificent appearance, the Banana is not equaled by any plant in existence. Last May I set out a very small plant of *Hart's Choice* variety, not over 15 inches high, in an entirely unprotected situation. By fall, it was seven feet high, and had leaves six feet long and eighteen inches broad; the stalk measured over *twenty inches in circumference* at the ground.

This shows how they grow, and is not an exception, by any means. They can be planted in groups or as single specimens, and can be grown as easy and almost as rapidly as corn. They will

bloom the second summer, and if it is one of the early dwarf sorts and blooms about the first of July, they will mature here.

CULTURE. Dig holes 2x2 feet and 18 inches deep; fill with rich soil and thoroughly rotten manure; set plants in this, and keep them *well watered* throughout the summer. Before frost, dig them up, cut all the leaves off (don't cut the stalk), place the roots (the Banana makes small roots) in a small box of earth; store in a cellar and keep quite dry (to prevent growth.) They will winter as easily as Canna or Dahlia roots.

If you want a plant that will attract the greatest attention and prove the grandest you ever grew, plant the Banana.

I have a fine stock of plants, which I offer at prices which are very low, considering their great rarity. The following is the best and largest collection ever offered. Varieties marked with an asterisk (*) will not be ready for shipment before the 15th of April or 1st of May.

Musa Coccinea.* Grand. \$2 to \$4 each.

Discolor.* Leaves two colors. \$4 to \$5.

Ensete.* The grand Banana of Abyssinia. In growth it is one of the most striking and noble of plants; its immense erect leaves attain a length of 8 to 10 feet, and are of a beautiful dark green, with mid-rib of bright crimson, forming a striking contrast; attains an average growth of 12 to 20 feet; growth very rapid. Small plants, \$1.50 each; large plants, \$3 each.

Rosacea.* Beautiful light green leaves; slender stalk; very rapid tall growing sort. \$1.50 each; extra large, \$5.

Glauca.* \$2 each.

Lancifolia.* Leaves lance-shaped; fine. \$2 to \$5 each.

Ornata.* A very ornamental sort. \$2 to \$5 each.

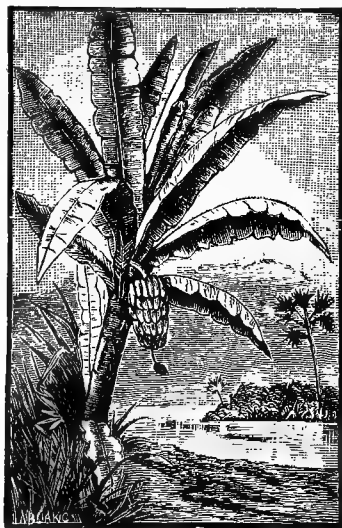
Zebrina.* The stem of this Banana is slender, and its fine dark green leaves are striped with bronzy red and purple; magnificent. \$3 to \$5 each.

Silk. Delicate foliage; underside of leaves a silky gloss; very fine. \$3 to \$4 each.


Vitata. Dwarf; underside of leaves purple; upper side green, striped purple; most beautiful sort. \$2.50 to \$6 each.

The above sorts do not bear edible fruit; the following varieties do.

Cavendishii. Dwarf, five to six feet high; leaves six feet long and two feet wide. The leaves on young plants are spotted with red, and look as if they had been sprinkled with blood. Fruit yellow, of fine quality, and ripens very early; a magnificent variety. Fine plants, \$1.50 to \$5 each.



MUSA CAVENDISHII.

- Hart's Choice.** Medium growing sort; fruit very fine, golden yellow; early and hardy. \$2 each.
- Orinoco.** Taller growing than above; leaves of great ornamental effect; fruit ripens early; one of the best for bedding out. Fine plants, two to three feet, \$1.50 to \$4 each.
- Daca.** Of medium height; fruit small, of fine quality. \$3 each.
- Guinea.** Of medium height, strong stocky grower; fruit soft and luscious—50 to 100 in a bunch—dark yellow; matures very quickly after blooming; a grand sort. \$2 each.
- Sumatrana.** New species from Sumatra; very tall and rare. Large plants, \$10 each.
- Sapientum.** (The Plantain.) Quite distinct from the above, with a tall trunk and grand foliage. \$3 each.
- Red Jamaica.** Fruit red, of finest quality; very tall growing, and a grand variety. \$3 each.
-  One fine plant of each of the above varieties for \$35.



* COCOANUT PALM.

COCOANUT PALM. (*Cocos Nucifera*.)

One of the most rare and beautiful of palms; produces the cocoanut; this is a grand decorative plant, and should be in all collections. I have to offer the only stock of this plant in the north. Extra fine plants, 1 to 4 feet, \$1.50 to \$4 each.

*** CINNAMON TREE.**

A very interesting and ornamental plant. \$3 each.

*** CAYENNE or SURINAM CHERRY.**

A most beautiful evergreen shrub; bears a fine fruit, and is a grand pot plant. \$2 each.

CACTUS PITAYA.

Climbing Cactus; sometimes grows 20 feet high; produces large and very beautiful flowers, which last four or five days; fruit very large, of a deep, brilliant currant color, in an outside surrounded by a kind of bright green scalloped cup, which makes it yet more brilliant; flavor very fine; a most desirable and rare fruit; one of the grandest of all the Cactaceæ. \$3 each.

*CAMPHOR TREE.

The genuine Camphor tree (*Camphora officinarum*.) A very ornamental plant; fruit resembles black currants. \$1 each.

*CINCHONA CALISAYA.

The genuine "Quinine" tree; interesting and having evergreen laurel-like leaves. \$1.50 each.

*COFFEE TREE. (*Coffea Arabica*.)

The Arabian Coffee Plant. A most beautiful and interesting shrub. \$2 each.

*CALABASH TREE. (*Crescentia Cujete*.)

Very curious and rare; bears handsome and useful gourd-like fruits. \$1.50.

CURUBA.

A splendid passion vine from Equador; fruit one of the very finest of all fruits; grows well in the open air in the north in the summer; very rare. \$3 each.

CITRUS FRUITS.

Limonium Trifoliata. The only hardy species of the Citrus fruits; seems to be perfectly hardy here. It forms a low shrub, with trifoliolate leaves, and blooms almost constantly. The fruit is red, about the size of a pigeon's egg, of fine flavor, and bears most abundantly. This and the following are the best stock for dwarfing the orange, lemon, etc. \$1.25 each.

Otaheiti. Chinese dwarf orange; trees will bear when but a foot high, and will bloom as often as stimulated, at any time of the year. The fruit is very showy. A most desirable plant, and a fine stock for dwarfing the orange, etc. \$1.25 each.

ORANGES.

The king of all fruit trees. My trees are all grafted on large stocks and grown for me in Florida. They are worth double as much as the trees grown by florists in the north, and will bear as soon again. Grafted trees will bear in two or three years; seedlings will not bear for eight or ten years.

Extra Fine Standard Trees, all sorts, on good stocks. \$1.50 each, \$12 per doz. Bearing trees, large and stocky, 2½ to 3½ feet high, \$4 to \$5 each.

Seedlings, fine plants, of Oranges, Lemons and Limes. 25 cts. each; \$2.50 per dozen.

Kumquat. A very small orange, growing on a small bush; fruit about the size of a small plum, and is eaten whole, being very sweet and pleasant. The bush, when covered with fruit, is most beautiful. Two sorts, round and oval. \$2 each.

Golden Variegated. Leaves mottled with a rich golden color. \$2 each.

Variegated. Leaf and fruit mottled with white, pale straw color and several shades of green; most ornamental. \$2 each.



ORANGE.

LEMONS.

A few lemon trees in pots or tubs, properly cared for, will furnish enough fruit for a family. I have five or six good sorts; prices same as for oranges.

Everbearing. Bears constantly; one of the best lemons for pot culture. \$2 to \$3 each.

DWARF ORANGES AND LEMONS.

Grafted on *Limonium Trifoliata* and *Otaheiti*. When oranges and other Citrus fruits are grafted on these stocks, they are dwarfed the same as the Paradise stock dwarfs the apple. They form, when thus treated, small and very prolific bushes, which are especially adapted for pot culture, as they never grow large, and bear when very young—generally when two years old. The stock dwarfs the tree only—the fruit is of full size and quality, and the flowers are as beautiful and as fragrant as on standard trees, while for pot-culture the latter are not to be compared to the dwarfs. They make a most exquisite pot plant—imagine, if you can, a small plant, only 15 or 20 inches high, loaded with large fruit, beautiful foliage, and the most deliciously fragrant of all flowers, and you have an idea of the dwarf orange; but to properly appreciate their great beauty, you must see them. Those who wish to decorate their houses with ripe oranges on the tree will find these Liliuputians of the Citrus family especially adapted to their wants, and it is with the greatest pleasure that I am enabled to offer these elegant plants to my customers. If you grow house plants, or have a conservatory or greenhouse, you should have at least a few of them, and I know you will never regret the money spent for them.

I have an extra fine stock of the best varieties of oranges and lemons dwarfed; thrifty, well-branched trees, which I offer, as long as stock lasts, at the following prices: Fine trees, 8 to 10 inches, well branched, \$1.50 each, \$12 per dozen; extra fine trees, 12 to 18 inches high, \$2 each, \$18 per dozen.

The following sorts are the best oranges for pot culture, being sure bloomers and early bearers: Navel, Tangerine, Maltese Blood, Magnum Bonum, St. Michael's Egg, Satsuma, Mediterranean Sweet, etc.

LIMES.

Resemble lemons, but are round; bear very early. Three sorts; price same as for oranges.

CITRONS.

Very large fruit, sub-acid; tree very ornamental; a fine assortment. \$2 to \$3 each.

SHADDOCKS.

Mammoth. Fruit very large, weighing six to ten lbs.; skin smooth and glossy, pulp green, sub-acid; a most interesting fruit. \$1.50 each.

Blood. Same as above, but with red pulp. \$1.50 each.

GRAPE FRUIT.

Much larger than an orange and smaller than a shaddock; a most beautiful fruit. \$1.50 each.

*DATE PALM. (*Phoenix Dactylifera*.)

A most beautiful palm; bears the dates of commerce, and should be in all collections. Very fine plants, 75 cts. to \$1.50 each.

FUCHSIA EDULIS.

A variety of Fuchsia with edible fruits the size of a strawberry; a great novelty. Fine plants, \$3 each.

GRENADILLA.

A fruiting passion vine, with beautiful leaves and flowers, and bearing one of the finest fruits, about the size of a duck egg. A very choice vine and fruit. \$3 each.

GUAVAS.

This is one of the most desirable of all plants for pot culture. It bears the second year, and yields large quantities of most delicious fruit. The shrub has thick, glossy evergreen foliage, and when loaded with fruit is grand. A few plants in pots or tubs will give all the fruit a family can use. They are most easily grown, and will winter in a cellar; should be grown by all.

Common. Several sorts, differing in form and color. Fine plants, two to four feet, 50 cents each, \$5 per dozen.

Cattley's. Has thick leaves; bush is dwarf, and bears heavily when very small; fruit rather small, round; two sorts—red and yellow. \$1 each.

Strawberry. Fruit very fine. \$2 each.

Pear Guava. Large, very fine, pear-shaped; size of a lemon. \$3 each.

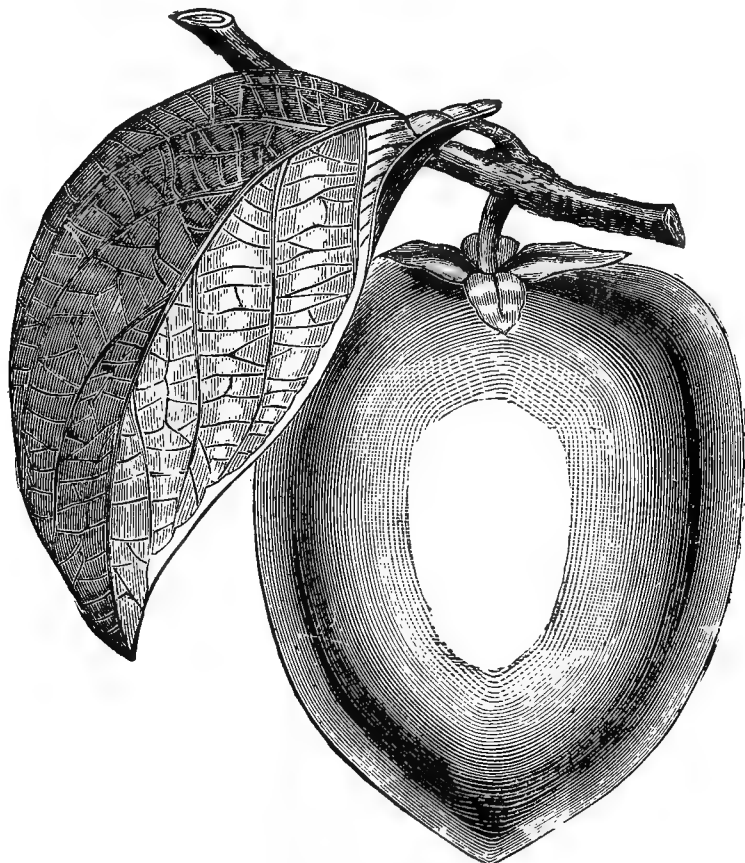
Guava Aromaticum, fine; Chinese, Pomiferum. \$1.50 each.

HORSE-RADISH TREE.

Has graceful ternately decomposed leaves; grows very rapidly, and bears large clusters of delicate flesh-colored flowers, followed by large pods, said to be edible while young. The roots are similar in all respects to the ordinary horse-radish. This is one of the most grand and beautiful of all plants, and will form superb plants for the greenhouse. Ready in May and June; large plants, \$3 each. Let every florist try this plant.

JUJUBE.

A thorny shrub producing fruit resembling dates; nearly hardy here, and can be grown like the Fig. \$1 each.



JAPAN PERSIMMON.

JAPAN PERSIMMONS.

A great merit of this fruit is the early bearing age of the trees, as well as their wonderful fertility—it is quite common to see one year old trees, planted in spring, produce a crop of from twenty to fifty well developed persimmons the following year. The fruit is of immense size (sometimes weighing a pound,) of most delicious flavor and most beautiful. It is not entirely hardy in the north, but by *training low* and growing as *dwarf bushes* and *planting* and *protecting* as for the Fig, any one can grow this most luscious oriental fruit very successfully in most parts of the north. It will well repay all trouble. It also makes a grand tub plant. There are a great many varieties, differing in color, size, shape, quality and time of ripening—some ripen early and others will keep all winter. I offer the largest collection in the United States, consisting of about fifty of the best, newest and rarest sorts grown in Japan.

Fine trees 75 cents each; one dozen, all different, best sorts, for \$7; the entire collection, one each, \$30.

LOQUAT. (*Eriobotrya Japonica.*)

A most beautiful plant; has large beautiful evergreen foliage. The fruit is produced in great profusion, is yellow, grows in clusters, and is very delicious. Fine for pot culture; bears while small. 75 cents each.

Foliis Variegatis. Leaf superbly variegated; choice and rare. \$3 each.

MANGO.

A rich and deliciously flavored fruit, larger than an egg and about the same shape. The seed is quite a curiosity. In productiveness it surpasses any fruit we have ever seen. The foliage is most beautiful; the tree bears when two or three years old, and is one of the finest of all tropical fruits. \$1.50 each.

Apricot Mango. A very choice variety. \$2 each.

***MAMMEAS.**

Mammea Sapota. Large brown oval fruits, tasting very much like pumpkin pie; very scarce and rare. \$2 each.

Mammea Americana. St. Domingo Apricot; a delicious fruit, very rare. \$2 each.

THE MELON PEAR or MELON SHRUB.

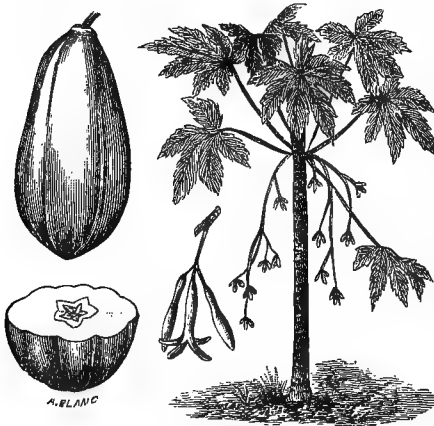
The Melon Shrub, as it grows in the Central American highlands, is as the name defines it, a shrub. It reaches at its best two or three feet either way, but is generally smaller, and recalls in many respects the Chili pepper vine, the tomato or the nightshade. The flowers resemble those of the Chili pepper, are very numerous and of a beautiful violet color, most charming when used in floral decorations. When planted, the plants should be set in rows four feet apart and two feet apart in the rows. About six weeks after being set out, the fruit will begin to set, and in three months after planting the fruit will ripen and continue to ripen until frost. The fruit is of the size of a hen or goose egg, or even larger, and of the same shape. The color is lemon or pale orange, with streaks or waves of bright violet, the whole making a fruit unrivaled in beauty. The interior of the fruit is solid pulp, free of seeds, of a pale yellow color, and of flavor resembling that of a fine musk melon, having also a rich sub-acid taste. It is so wholesome and delicious that when the fruit is eaten on a hot day it allays the thirst for several hours. The plant is an enormous yielder—I have seen plants of small size bear thirty large fruits. The Melon Shrub can stand light frost, but a heavy frost will cut it to the ground; the dead branches should then be cut off, and the plants covered with straw and earth.

The Melon Pear, is *not a tropical fruit*; it delights in a cool atmosphere, and will without doubt do as well here in the north as tomatoes, and will prove a most valuable and profitable fruit. It may not be able to stand our winters, but that is not essential—tomatoes are always killed, but are not less grown on that account. The Melon Pear can be wintered as easy as potatoes, by taking the roots up and keeping them in a cellar. Should be planted here by the middle of April, and cultivated like tomatoes. They will begin to ripen by the middle of July or first of August. Make a grand pot plant. Price of genuine plants, \$1.25 each, \$10 per dozen.

***MELON TREE or PAW-PAW.** (*Carica Papaya.*)

Entirely distinct from the Melon Shrub; is from South America, and is one of the most

remarkable plants I have ever grown. The tree consists of a branchless stem, crowned with very large palmate, deeply cut, most beautiful leaves. The fruit is pear-shaped, yellow, three to five inches in length, and two to four in diameter, grows in clusters among the leaves, and very delicious. It has most remarkable medical properties, and the juice of the pulp is said to form an excellent cosmetic for removing freckles from the skin. The plant bears very young (when only two or three feet high,) grows rapidly, and is a perpetual bearer of flowers and fruit. I consider this without exception the most curious and interesting of all plants for pot culture; it is as ornamental as a palm, bears great quantities of fruit and flowers, is as easily grown as a geranium, stands the dry air of a house remarkably well, and should be in all collections of plants, however limited. It will give great satisfaction; extremely rare; the cut gives a good idea of its appearance; the smallest size trees will be two feet high by fall, and will bear the next year. Small plants, \$1.50 each, \$10 per dozen. Bearing size, \$5 each.



MELON TREE OR PAW-PAW.

bear the next year. Small plants, \$1.50 each, \$10 per dozen. Bearing size, \$5 each.

NEW TUBEROUS-ROOTED GRAPE VINE.

A recent introduction, not fruited yet. As it comes from a warm climate—Cochin China—we infer it may require heat to succeed. The vine is an annual, with tuberous roots, and a great novelty. Two sorts—round and oblong. Ready in April or May. \$2 each. I expect to receive a lot of seeds towards spring; price on application.

OTAHEITE GOOSEBERRY.

A rare, beautiful plant, bearing large quantities of waxy white berries, growing in clusters like the currant; flavor acid. A most ornamental tree. \$1.50 each.

*OLIVE, FRUITING.

Beautiful evergreen, half hardy; bears when very small; very interesting. 75 cts. each.

*PASSION FRUIT, (*Passiflora Edulis.*)

One of the most beautiful vines I have ever seen; foliage and flowers very handsome; grows very rapidly and does splendidly in the open ground here in the summer; winter roots in a cellar. Fruit very fine, purple, and delicious. \$1 each.

PINEAPPLE.

This most gorgeous tropical fruit can be grown and fruited with the most ease in any greenhouse or conservatory, and when in fruit is surpassed by no plant grown. Repot frequently during the first year.

Black Antigua. Large; leaves very spiny.

Red Spanish. Fruit large; leaves nearly devoid of spines.

Sugar-Loaf. Large; very sweet.

Price for fine suckers, \$1 each, \$9 per dozen; per 100, \$30; bearing size, \$3 each.

Variegated. Leaves finely variegated; very fine. \$2 each.

Discolor. Very ornamental center; blood red. \$3 each.

POMEGRANATE (Fruiting).

The Pomegranate, a viney shrub, produces one of the most beautiful and delicious fruits grown. It bears a beautiful flower, and no shrub is more showy than the Pomegranate when in bloom, and when loaded with fruit it is a most magnificent sight. It is almost as hardy as the Fig, and grows and thrives perfectly in the open ground during our long tropical summers at the north, as I know from experience, having grown them for several years. I recommend them with great confidence for open-air culture where the summers are as long as they are here. The early varieties will undoubtedly ripen much farther north. Owing to its dwarf, bushy habit, it is very easily protected. Plant and protect as for the Fig, covering a little deeper. Keep the plants low and bushy; don't prune much. It also makes a fine tub plant, and you should, by all means, grow them either in the open ground or in tubs.

Spanish Ruby (New). Very large—as large as the largest apple; eye very small; skin pale yellow, with crimson cheek; meat of rich crimson color, highly aromatic and very sweet. This variety really magnificent, and a great bearer. Fine plants, \$1.50 each.

Paper Shell. Extra fine; skin very thin; bush dwarf and a good bearer. \$1.50 each.

Hermosillo. An extraordinarily fine sort. This and the preceding are probably the finest sorts grown. \$2 each.

Common Sweet, Sub-acid, Sour; \$1 each, \$10 per dozen.

*ROSE APPLE. (*Eugenia Malaccensis.*)

A beautiful small evergreen shrub, said to bear fine fruit with a strong odor of rose perfume. \$1.50 each.

SAPODILLA.

Next to the Mango the best tropical fruit we have tasted; it is very delicious. Foliage thick and glossy; a very rare and choice plant. \$1 each.

SPANISH LIME.

A West India tree, bearing yellow plum-like fruits; queer foliage—compound leaves, with winged petioles; very rare. \$1.50 each.

*TAMARIND.

Delicate acacia-like foliage, and small blossoms followed by pods enclosing a pleasant acid pulp; a beautiful plant. 75 cts. each.

TEA PLANTS. (*Thea Sinensis.*)

The Chinese Tea is a beautiful plant, with large white flowers and yellow anthers; interesting and easily grown. \$1 each.

RARE TROPICAL PLANTS and FLOWERS.

- Aloes.** Two sorts; *Vulgaris* and *Spicata*. 75 cts. and \$1 each.
- Allamanda Cathartica.** A magnificent climber; can be grown in bush form if desired. Covered almost all the year with clusters of great velvety yellow flowers, three inches in diameter. \$1.50 each.
- Agave Sisalana** (Sisal Hemp) and **American.** 50 cts. each.
- “ **Variegata.** 75 cts. each.
- “ **Seed.** Thirty species mixed; per packet, 50 cts.
- Cerbera Thevetia.** Flowers rich golden yellow. \$1 each.
- Cordia Sebastina.** Large cordate leaves, with immense trusses of flaming red flowers; will bloom the second year—one of the grandest plants grown, and of easy culture. \$1.50 each.
- Erythrina Herbacea** (Coral Tree.) Extra blooming plants. 50 cts.
- Ficus Aurea.** Florida Rubber Tree. 50 cts.
- Gardenia Florida** (Cape Jessamine.) Extra fine plants. 50 cts.
- Pancratium Caribbæum.** Large clusters of white fragrant flowers all summer; very fine and choice. 75 cts.
- Plumeria Alba.** The famous Frangipani of the West Indies. Immense bouquets at the end of the branches. \$2 each.
- Tecoma Stans.** Magnificent flowering shrub; a fine bedding plant. 75 cts.
- POINCIANA** (Barbadoes Flower Fence)—

Pulcherrima. Delicate orange and red flowers, spreading fern-like leaves; a magnificent plant. \$1.50 each.

Gilliesii. Yellow; long purple stamens. \$1.50 each.

Regia. The “Royal Poinciana.” Has immense decomposed leaves of a very dark rich green, and bears a perfect maze of orange-red flowers in May and June. Gives a striking tropical effect, and is one of the most magnificent plants in existence; extremely rare and scarce. \$3 each.

The above three plants should be grown by all Florists. They form most majestic objects, with their ample canopy of spreading fern-like leaves and magnificent flowers. I have probably the only stock to offer of this grand plant in the north. Ready from April to July.

NATIVE FLORIDA PLANTS.

I can supply a great variety of Florida plants, such as Palms, Ferns, Air plants, etc. They are very desirable, and rarely seen in the north.

Palmettos, Cabbage and Saw. Very ornamental. Fine plants. 50 cts. each; very large, \$1 each.

Zamia Integrifolia. An extra fine ornamental Palm. Large plants, \$1.50 each.

Tillandsias. (*Air Plants.*) Very curious; several species. 50 to 75 cts. each.

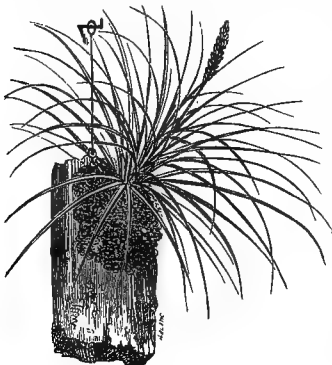
Epidendrums, and other Orchids. 75 cts. to \$1 each.

Carolina Yellow Jessamine. Very beautiful. 50 cents each.

Yucca, Filamentosa and Aloifolia. 50 to 75 cts. each.

Ferns in Variety. Sword-Fern, Golden Polypodium, Hart's Tongue Fern, etc., eight or ten species. 35 to 60 cts.

As I have a collector in South Florida I can supply the above and many other fine plants in small or large quantities much cheaper than can be obtained from any other northern nurseryman. Will be glad to furnish large quantities to florists and others very cheap.



AIR PLANT.

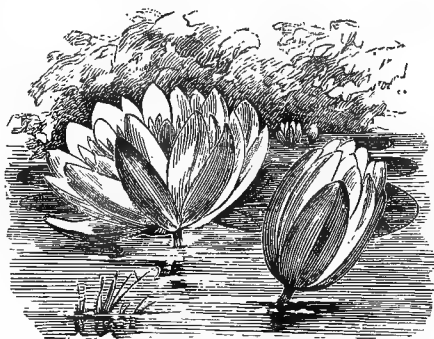
SEEDS.

I can supply to order seeds of all sorts of rare plants, fruits and flowers, from all parts of the world. Write and let me know what you want, and I will give prices.

AQUATICS.

PLANTS FOR CARP PONDS, ETC.

All who are interested in the culture of the Carp know that the authorities on this subject make it a most essential point that the ponds should be stocked with abundance of aquatic plants, for furnishing food, concealment, shade and the material upon which they prefer to deposit their eggs. I know from experience, that a pond well supplied with all sorts of plants will produce more than double the amount of fish than one without them. A pond stocked with these useful fish and with a collection of our choicest native aquatics, together with the lovely tropical sorts, cannot fail to be an endless source of pleasure and profit.



NYMPHÆA ODORATA.

- Nelumbiums.** No description can do justice to these grand flowers. Our collection includes *Speciosum*, rose; *Luteum*, yellow, flowers as large as a quart bowl. *Speciosum*, flowering tubers, \$4 each; *Luteum*, \$1.50. Also Double Red, Double White, White, Double Rose, *Luteum pl. fl.*, (double); a few plants only of these for sale—price on application. Seed, \$1 per packet.
- Nymphæa.** (Water Lilies.) *Devoniensis*, red; flowers twelve inches in diameter; very fine. \$4 each.
- Nymphæa Odorata.** Hardy; white, fragrant and very beautiful. 50 cts. each, \$5 per doz.
- “ **Luteum.** Large yellow. \$1 each.
- Besides above I can supply a few plants of many other rare Nymphæas, stock of which is so limited I do not catalogue them this year.
- Nuphar Advena.** Mud Lily; one of the best for ponds. 25 cts., each \$2 per doz., \$15 per 100.
- Trapa Natans.** Water Chestnut. 35 cents each.
- Typha Natans.** Cat-Tail; fine for ponds. 25 cents each, \$2 per doz., \$15 per 100.
- Victoria Regia.** The Giant Water Lily. Seeds, 75 cents each.
- Wild Rice.** One of the best of plants; furnishes a great deal of food for the fish. Seed, 25 cents per oz., \$1.50 per lb.

BAMBOOS AND GRASSES.

Suitable for the sides of ponds or other moist places; will grow well in the garden.

- Metake.** The giant Bamboo of Japan. \$1 each.
- Erianthus Ravennæ.** Hardy grass; extra fine; bears large handsome plumes, which are useful for decorating in winter. 75 cents each.
- Eulalia Japonica Variegata.** Handsome striped grass. 50 cents each.
- “ “ **Zebrina.** Marked crosswise with white; entirely hardy, and one of the finest ornamental plants. 75 cents each.
- Pampas Grass.** Grand; plumes two to three feet long, beautiful silvery white; plant hardy with some protection. \$1 each.
- Palm Grass.** Very beautiful. \$1 each.
- Pond Cane.** Genuine cane of the south; very ornamental, and perfectly hardy; will grow in water. \$1 each.

HOW TO MAKE A LILY POND.

The best way to grow Lilies and other Aquatics for ornament, is to dig a place two feet deep and as large as you wish it, cement it, and divide it into compartments 4x4 (to keep them from spreading) by building walls one foot high across it with brick. Place good rich soil in this, and set one plant in each compartment. Set Bananas around the sides, and it will prove the greatest attraction you can grow, and well worth the labor bestowed upon it.

My facilities for collecting and growing rare Water Lilies are unsurpassed, and I will have a grand collection of these most beautiful flowers to offer next year, comprising all colors and sizes, from all parts of the world. A fine collection of these plants forms one of the most magnificent sights ever seen, and they deserve a great deal more attention from horticulturists than they have received.

GREENHOUSE PLANTS.

The following list is very select; none but the very choicest varieties are offered, and I can assure my customers that the plants are unsurpassed in size, vigor and quality.

MISCELLANEOUS PLANTS.

Unless noted, 25 cents each, \$2.50 per dozen; 100, assorted, \$15.

Abutilons. 12 sorts.
Ageratums. 3 best varieties. 15 cts. each.
Acalphas. 3 best sorts.
Althernantheras. 4 varieties. 10 cts. each, \$1 per doz.
Antigonon Leptopus. Rose-colored flowers in racemes two feet long. 50 cts. each.
Azalea Indica. Grand flowers; many extra fine sorts, hardy in the south. 50 cts. each; with flower buds, \$1.25.
Begonias. Blooming. 12 sorts.
 " **Rex.** Many sorts.
Bouvardia. 4 sorts.
Bletia (Veiled Nun). A grand flower. Strong plants, 50 cts. each.
Caladiums. Fancy. 25 sorts. 30 cts. each.
Camellias. Fine greenhouse shrub; 100 extra fine varieties; fine plants, 75 cts. each; with buds, \$1.50.
Clematis. The most beautiful and desirable of all climbing plants; over 80 fine varieties, all colors, double and single; hardy. 50 cts. to \$1 each; 80 varieties for \$55.
Cuphea. 3 varieties. 15 cts. each.
Crotons. 12 fine sorts. 40 cts. each.
Coleus. Best new sorts. 10 cts. each, \$1 per dozen, \$6 per 100.
Cissus Discolor. Fine climber. 30 cts. each.
Cyclamen. 2 years old.
Cypripedium Insigne. 50 cts. each.
Carnations. Best varieties.

Datura Suavolens. Grand flowers.
Ferns. 12 best varieties.
Fuchsias. Many sorts.
Ficus Australis. Fine plants. 50 cts. each.
Geranium. 100 sorts.
Hibiscus Sinensis. 8 varieties.
Heliotrope. In variety.
Ipomeas (*Virgin's Cloak*). Enormous blue flowers; magnificent. \$1 each.
 " **Evening Glory.** Large, white; very beautiful. 35 cts. each.
Lantana. 18 varieties. 15 cts. each.
Maranta Discolor and **Zebrina.** 50c. each.
Palms. Many fine sorts; fine plants, 50 cts. to \$3 each.
Passiflora. Passion vines; very beautiful; 8 varieties. 50 cts. to \$1 each.
Phlox. 28 varieties. 20 cts. each.
Pomegranates. Flowering; five fine sorts. 50 to 75 cts. each.
Penstemon. 6 sorts. 15 cts. each.
Oleanders. Fine varieties. 50 to 75 cts. each.
Salvia. 6 sorts. 20 cts. each.
Solanum Jasminoides. Fine vine.
Smilax. 15 cts. each.
Tritoma. Poker plant; 2 sorts.
Vallota Purpurea. Grand; 2 years. 30 cts. each.
Verbenas. 30 named varieties; fine plants. 15 cts. each, \$1.50 per dozen.
Vines. All the best hardy varieties. 35 to 50 cts. each.

ROSES.

I offer a large and very fine collection of roses, comprising all the best varieties. The plants are extra fine and large—not the small cheap plants frequently sold. They are too large to go by mail; for mailing I will have to send smaller sizes.

Chinas, Teas, and Bourbons. All the finest and best varieties. Extra fine and strong plants, 25 cts. each, \$2.50 per dozen.
Hybrid Perpetuals and Climbers. All the best sorts, extra fine and strong. 35 cts. each, \$3.50 per dozen.
Moss. Best varieties, 50 cts. each.
Tree Roses, \$1.50 each.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

Of this grand plant I have over 100 varieties, comprising all the best, newest and finest sorts. Every one should have a collection of these. My plants are extra fine. 20 cts. each, \$2 per dozen, \$15 per 100.

CACTUSES.

Of this most gorgeous greenhouse plant I have a fine collection of upwards of 100 sorts, both night and day bloomers.

Cereus Grandiflora McDonaldii, and many others. 50 cents to \$1.50 each.
 " **Nameless.** From St. Petersburg; a night bloomer, with flowers often 22 inches in diameter; blooms young; grand. \$2 each.
Epiphyllum. Many sorts, all colors; grafted, \$1; on own roots, 50 cents each.
Opuntia. Many sorts. 75 cents to \$1.25 each.
Epiphylocactus. Fifteen grand varieties, of many colors. 75 cents to \$1.50 each.
 Many other beautiful and singular Cactus, Echinocactus, etc., from Mexico. 75 cents to \$2 each.
Cactus Seed. Fifty species mixed. Per packet, 50 cents.

ORNAMENTAL & FRUIT TREES & PLANTS.

ORNAMENTAL TREES AND SHRUBS.

Deciduous Trees. All varieties, very fine stock. 50 cts. to \$2 each.

Magnolias. Finest of hardy trees; 8 or 10 sorts. \$1 to \$3 each.

“ **Macrophylla.** A superb hardy tree; leaves two feet in length, white beneath; flowers white, of immense size when fully blown—one foot in diameter. Its leaves and flowers give it a grand tropical appearance. If you wish the grandest hardy tree grown, plant this; very rare. \$2 and \$3 each.

DECIDUOUS SHRUBS.

A large assortment. 35 cts. each; one dozen, best sorts, for \$3.25; 100 plants, 50 sorts, for \$20.

Althea. One of the finest; double and single, 25 sorts. 35 cts. each.

Hydrangea. Grand shrubs; several sorts. 35 cts. each.

Lilac. Many fine varieties, 35 cts. each.

Pæonies, Herbaceous. Magnificent flowering plant; 50 choice sorts. 35 cts. each.

“ **Tree.** Very handsome; 40 extra fine sorts, all colors. \$2 each.

GHEENT AZALEAS.

This most beautiful tribe of plants is perfectly hardy and will thrive in any good soil. I have 100 of the best sorts now grown, either here or in Europe, and the richness of their varied colors cannot be surpassed by any hardy shrub. \$1.50 each.

EVERGREENS—(Conifers.)

A superb collection; all sorts, fine trees, all transplanted, 50 cts. to \$2 each.

EVERGREEN SHRUBS.

Many fine varieties, nice plants. 50 cts. to \$1 each.

Yucca Filamentosa. Hardy; 50 cts. each. Five other extra choice half hardy varieties, \$2 each.

Magnolia Grandiflora. Very fine; not hardy north of Philadelphia. \$1.50 each.

“ **Gloriosa.** Most magnificent; flowers 14 inches in diameter; foliage large, bronzy underneath. Grafted plants, \$3 each.

“ **Fuscata.** Banana Shrub; flowers of a most exquisite fragrance. \$1.50 each.

“ **Pumila.** Flowers exceedingly fragrant; a perpetual bloomer. \$1.50 each.

☞ All of the above Magnolias are most desirable pot plants, and should be in all collections. They can be forced into bloom very young. 10 other sorts. \$1.50 each.

Olea Fragrans. Of exquisite fragrance; a fine winter bloomer and one of the most desirable pot plants. 75 cents each.

RHODODENDRONS.

The finest and most showy hardy plant known. Its broad evergreen foliage would alone entitle it to the first rank, but when this is crowned in June, with many clusters of flowers, each one large enough for a bouquet, and each variety having its own color—white, blue, purple, delicate shell, cherry, lilac, mauve, and crimson—the term *superb* fitly describes its appearance. 25 extra fine sorts, grafted plants, \$1.60 each; with flower buds, \$3 each; seedlings, \$1 each.

I offer a very select assortment of fruit trees, small fruits, etc., consisting of all the best sorts. To those who wish it, I will be pleased to give lists of fruits that will succeed in their section. I can supply any varieties wanted. My trees are warranted true to name and as fine as can be procured.

GENERAL LIST OF FRUIT TREES.

	Each.	Doz.
Apples, Standard—5 to 6 ft.	\$0 30	\$3 00
“ “ 4 to 5 ft., fine	\$18 per 100	25 2 00
“ “ 1 yr., 3 to 4 ft.	\$10	20 2 50
“ Dwarf		50
“ Crab—All sorts		50
Pears, Standard—Fine trees, all best sorts	75	7 00
“ Dwarf—Fine trees, all best sorts	60	6 00

	Each.	Doz.
Cherries —Very fine trees, extra fine sorts	\$0 50	\$5 00
Plums —Good trees, all sorts, native and foreign . . . . .	. 50	5 00
Peaches —First size, 1 yr., 5 to 6 ft. . . . .	. 25	2 50
“ Second size, 4 to 5 ft. . . . .	. 20	2 00
“ June budded, 2½ to 3 ft., fine	\$9 per 100	15 1 50
Nectarines —Very fine fruit; ten sorts . . . . .	. 50	4 50
Apricots —Most delicious fruit; twelve sorts . . . . .	. 50	4 50
Quinces —Fine fruit for preserving; Orange and Rea's Mammoth . . . . .	. 50	
“ Champion —New and fine . . . . .	. 75	
“ Chinese —A most extraordinary fruit; weighs from 2 to 2½ lbs. each; of good quality, hardy and rare . . . . .	. 75	

MULBERRIES.

This fruit is not grown nearly as extensively as it should be. Those who have never tasted the improved sorts have no idea how fine they are. All should grow at least a few.

Black Spanish. Large and extra fine quality; bears from spring to fall—never out of fruit except in winter; extra fine sort. \$1.50 each.

Downing's. Large; rich sub-acid flavor; bears three months. 50 cts. each.

New American. Similar to above, but hardier. 75 cts. each.

Hicks. Yields immensely, for four months; good for poultry. 50 cts. each.

Stubbs (New). Very large; most excellent quality. 50 cts. each.

Russian. Small; very hardy and productive; quality not very good. 25 cts. each.

Black Chinese. Very large, dark purple; fine. \$1.50 each.

White. 25 cts. each.

Langdon's Red and Black English. \$1 each.

NUTS.

Everyone should grow a selection of nuts; not only is the fruit desirable and useful, but the wood of many species is profitable to grow.

Almonds—Are quite hardy; will do well most anywhere the peach does.

“ **Hard Shell.** Hardier than the peach; fine nut. 50 cts. each.

“ **Soft Shell.** Not quite as hardy as above; 5 fine sorts. 50 cts. each.

Chestnuts—**American, Spanish, Marron de Combull.** 50 cts. each.

“ **Japan Giant.** Extra large, hardy; bears when three years old; of fine flavor and most desirable. \$1.50 each.

“ **Chinquapin.** Native, dwarf; sweet nut. \$2 each.

Walnuts—**American Black, Butternut and Black California.** 50 cts. each.

“ **Maderia, Common.** Fine nut, 50 cts. each.

“ **Chaberte.** Oval, large, late. \$1 each.

“ **Mayette.** Grows in pairs; oblong, flattened. \$1 each.

“ **Thin-Shelled.** Large; shell very thin. \$1 each.

“ **Præparturiens.** Dwarf; bears in four years; good size, hardy, most desirable. Fine trees, 75 cts. each; bearing size, \$1.50 each.

“ **Bijou.** Enormous size; largest of all nuts; a great curiosity. \$2 each.

Hickorys—**Shell Bark.** Best; of medium size and good flavor. 50 cts. each.

“ **Small Fruited.** Very good, and thin-shelled. 50 cts. each.

“ **Western Shell Bark.** Good; large, good quality. 50 cts. each.

“ **Pecan.** Native here; very hardy, extra fine; very profitable to plant for market; best sort. 50 cts. each, \$4 per dozen.

Filberts—Extra fine nut; five sorts. 50 cts. each, \$4 per dozen.

“ **Cob Nuts.** Among the finest of all nuts; hardy; three sorts. 50 cents each.

“ **Atlas Nut.** Bears in immense clusters; fine nut. \$2 each.

GRAPE VINES.

I warrant my vines to be true to name and excelled by none in quality or size. I have over 100 varieties—all the best grown—and can supply vines suited to all parts of the country. Will send full list to those who wish. Those wanting vines in quantities should write—I will not be undersold by any reliable dealer.

	Each.	Doz.
Standard Varieties —Fine 1 yr. vines	\$0 25	\$2 00
“ Extra fine 2 yr. . . . .	. 35	3 50
Concord, Noah, Hartford, etc.	\$6 per 100	15 1 00
Newer Varieties , such as Duchess, Lady Washington, etc.	30 to 50	
Empire State —Large, extra fine white grape; very hardy . . . . .	. I	50
Triumph —Magnificent late white table grape . . . . .	. 50	
Niagara —(See circular)—Finest white grape; 1 yr. vines . . . . .	. I	25
“ 2 year; all under seal, and hence genuine . . . . .	. 2	00
Foreign Grapes —For vineries; best varieties . . . . .	. 50 to 75	

NEW FRUITS.

- Plums, Mariana.** Large, red, early, hardy, and curculio proof. \$1 each.
 " **Kelsey's Japan.** Large as a peach; finest of plums; hardy. \$1 each.
 " **Simoni.** Apricot Plum; fruit on trees, when ripened, shines like apples of gold; rich vermilion when ripe; very hardy and most desirable. \$1 each.
Prunus Pissardi. Wood and leaves of an intense purple color; fruit blackish purple; good. \$1 each.
 " **Virgata.** From Japan; flowers semi-double, beautiful; fruit said to be large and fine. This is distinct from the variety generally cultivated as *Virgata*; very rare. Grafted trees, \$1.50 each.
Pyrus Mauli. Fruit size of a quince, of bright apricot color; flowers brilliant orange scarlet. \$1 each.
Pears, Le Conte and Keiffer. 75 cts. each.
 " **Lawson Comet.** Very fine. \$2 each.
Quince, Meech's Prolific. Said to be the best of quinces. \$1.50 each.
Medlar. Fruit dark brown; is allowed to ripen in the house and is eaten when quite soft; much esteemed in Europe; hardy, and will do well here; quite rare; three varieties. \$1.50 each.
Paw Paw. Native shrub; fruit relished by most people; prolific and hardy; blossom very curious and pretty. 50 cts. each.
Persimmons, American. Hardy, native; luscious after frost. 50 cts. each.
 " **Italian.** Fruit size of a cherry, yellow; fine and rare. \$2 each.
 " **Japan.** See Rare Fruit Department.

SMALL FRUITS.

- Strawberries.** Standard sorts. 50 cents per dozen, \$1.50 per 100.
Raspberries. All best old and new sorts. 75 cents to \$2 per dozen, \$2 to \$5 per 100.
Blackberries. " " " 75 cents to \$2 per dozen, \$2 to \$5 per 100.
Gooseberries. Best sorts. \$1.50 per dozen, \$7 per 100.
 " Industry, new; extra fine red. 75 cents each.
Currants. All sorts; red, white and black. \$1.25 per dozen.
 " Fay's Prolific, unrivaled, finest red. 50 to 75 cents.
Huckleberries. Fine fruit. \$2 per dozen.
Juneberries. Fine fruit. 50 cents each.
Berberries. Red and purple. 35 and 50 cents each.

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FIGS can be grown anywhere in the United States successfully and profitably in the open ground, with no more labor or expense than any other fruit crop. See inside for directions how to do it.



MARTIN BENSON,
GROWER AND IMPORTER OF
RARE TROPICAL FRUITS & PLANTS
SWANWICK, ILLINOIS.