

### MOSSMONT NURSERY, BUNINYONG.

In the olden time, when prices were high and competition small, the garden of Mr. Francis Moss was mainly cropped with vegetables, which used to be produced both in large quantities and of excellent quality, especially the rhubarb, which Mr. Moss has always made a speciality. But times changed, and growing vegetables becoming less remunerative, besides slugs became numerous, so much so as to clear portions of the garden of both plants and weeds, and the proprietor having always had a strong predilection for pomology turned his attention more in that direction, until at the present time his collection of fruits of all kinds, excepting grapes, which do not thrive in that climate, is scarcely exceeded in the colony, for he obtains every new variety he can hear of, selecting only such as are valuable, and suited to his purpose. Those that are found not to possess the properties of size, flavor, and fruitfulness, are set aside; while those approved are extensively propagated, both for permanent planting, and for sale, the business of nurseryman, as regards fruit trees, being added to that of orchardist. The home garden contains seventeen acres, about four acres having been recently purchased at a little distance, chiefly intended for the growth of young nursery stock. A portion of the seventeen acres is laid out and planted as ornamental grounds for the accommodation of the public, who patronise them to a large extent on Sundays and holidays from the immediate neighborhood and surrounding district, but chiefly from Ballarat, a fine drive of eight miles through an avenue of young gum saplings which have been allowed to grow up, and which, while young, are really handsome. The soil of the garden is a hazel loam of volcanic origin, but dreadfully full of stones, to the extent of four or five times as much stone as soil, which, of course, caused an immense expenditure of

OF FIVE TIMES AS MUCH STONE AS SOIL, WHICH, OF course, caused an immense expenditure of labor in clearing, and of which evidence remains in the shape of immense heaps that have been utilised by training vines over them. The soil is fertile, and when cleared of stone to a sufficient depth is exceedingly productive, both in vegetables and fruits, being also naturally well drained, both from its position as rising ground, and from the porous nature of the subsoil. The only drawback appears to be the immense number of slugs, of which it is found impossible to get rid. Their presence is doubtless partly to be attributed to a stream which flows through a portion of the lower part of the ground, which has a rather steep slope towards it, and on account of its steepness causes some labor after heavy rains, which bear down a considerable amount of soil from the quarters, and gravel from the walks. The ornamental portion is laid out in a picturesque manner, with broad walks, and borders planted with handsome trees, shrubs, and other flowering plants; amongst them many fine specimens of Wellingtonia, pines of various kinds, including handsome plants of *P. ponderosa*, and numerous others. *Cupressus macrocarpa* and *Thujopsis lobbu* grow with extraordinary rapidity. There are also a number of deciduous trees which have grown into large specimens, amongst them British oaks, silver poplars, oriental planes, ashes, and elms, all of which grow in the fine soil with extraordinary rapidity. In the borders flowering plants are not so numerous as they ought to be, owing to the ravages of the slugs. We observed an exceedingly fine strain of foxglove. The soil, climate, and situation are well adapted for the growth of nearly all hardy fruit trees, but especially gooseberries and currants, which are produced, perhaps, as fine as in any part of the colony. They are cultivated very extensively, and never fail to bear immense crops of fine berries, which are disposed of in the Melbourne and other markets. His favorite varieties of gooseberries are Lord Crew, Rockwood, Crown Bob, Roaring Lion, Whitesmith, and Warrington. These are found to be the most reliable and

**ROARING LION, WHITESIDE, AND WARRINGTON.**  
These are found to be the most reliable and hardy, making strong vigorous bushes. Many of the imported varieties prove bad growers, forming only small bushes; while others, though growing into large bushes, do not bear well, as Jolly Miner, Thumper, &c. Of currants the white Dutch is grown somewhat extensively; the common black very largely, producing large-sized berries in abundance. The black Naples, which is also grown, and being extensively propagated, has a better character, but has not yet had a sufficient trial in the colony. It has yet to be proved first, that it is correct, and then its adaptability. Kentish Hero, also recently imported, promises well. Red currants succeed equally well. Of these the La Versailles is considered the best, and Mr.

**Moss believe that it cannot be surpassed.**  
He has grown bunches of it four inches and a half long, with berries of immense size. It is also a good and constant cropper, never failing, even when the old varieties have not a berry on them. La Hative, La Fertile, and the cherry currant are also highly prized. Grapes, as before remarked, are not grown extensively, it being found that only the earliest varieties have any chance of thoroughly ripening, and that only when trained on walls, trellises, or the heaps of stones previously mentioned. A remarkable instance of the influence of locality on the black spot occurred last season. A vine that was trained round the corner of a house was perfectly free on the sunny side, while on the shady side it was badly affected. Peaches did well for a few years after being planted, then they began to go off, as they have gone nearly everywhere, getting yearly worse until they had to be cleared out. Neither do apricots succeed well. Of late years they have become subject to the black spot, and lose their leaves, sometimes thrice in a season. Pears also are subject to the same disease, which is most virulent where the trees are exposed to the cold southerly winds. The following are the most reliable

Trees are exposed to the cold southerly winds. The following are recommended by Mr. Moss as the best six, he having proved them to be both good and constant. Last season they were grand with him, as they were everywhere in the district, and he questions whether among all the fine new varieties that have been introduced any will be found more profitable:—Citron des Carmes, Jargonelle, Williams' Bon Chretien, Gansell's Bergamot, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Winter Nelis.

The apple is another of Mr. Moss's specialities; every variety obtainable either is or has been in his possession, and he has taken great pains to correct the nomenclature, not only of apples but of all his other fruits, and to select and increase those that are of the best quality and most suitable for his requirements. He is a firm believer in blight-proof stocks for the apples, and is a successful propagator of the Majetin and Northern Spy, given a slight preference to the latter, chiefly on account of its more vigorous habit, for though it is not to be recommended to market gardeners, notwithstanding its great excellence as a dessert fruit, on account of the length of time it takes to come into bearing, yet it proves to be a most excellent stock for other sorts, producing young trees of the greatest vigor. Mr. Moss has tried various remedies for the blight, but has not met with any that are quite effectual. His recommendation is to keep the trees thin of branches and spurs, and free from watery shoots in the interior, then, if the roots are clean, a very little labor will suffice to keep it down, by examining the trees frequently and brushing off all that are visible with a stiff brush. He employs a Chinaman at the work, and finds him exceedingly painstaking. Some of his old trees are dying out, apparently the effect of blight at their roots, but his younger trees are vigorous and finely trained, some of them heavily laden with fruit, others bearing a rather light crop. The following known and proved varieties are recommended by Mr. Moss as being the most suitable for the district:—1st. Dessert: Early Red Margaret, Devonshire Quarrenden,



Early Red Margaret, Devonshire Quarrenden, Irish Peach, Gravenstein, Duchess of Oldenburgh, Ribston Pippin, Cox's Orange Pippin, Scarlet Nonpariel. 2nd. Kitchen: Lord Suffield, Cellini, Reinette du Canada, Cleopatra (New York Pippin), Dumelow's Seedling, Winter Majetin, Stone Pippin. A number of American and Russian varieties are grown; and though it is expected that some valuable sorts may be found among the former, they have not yet had a sufficient trial. He does not recommend the French Crab, on account of its liability to blight. A large number of plums are grown, the trees are in capital condition, and the crops are generally heavy. Of two selections of six he recommends:—1st. Rivers's Early Prolific, Goliath, Diamond, Washington or Jefferson, Kirkes, Belle de Septembre, 2nd Rivers' Early Prolific, Fotheringham, Angelina Burdett, Diamond, Kirkes, Coe's Late Red. Pond's Seedling is a fine plum, but not likely to crop heavy enough for market purposes. The Denbigh is a grand plum, but not yet sufficiently proved. Magnum-bonum is generally a thin cropper, but takes well in the market. The damsons he recommends are:—the French, Mitchelson's and the prune, or Shropshire Damson, though the latter suffers greatly from red spider, which is also very severe on the common English, to such an extent that the trees are positively killed by it. Cherries also are largely grown; the trees grow well, and produce fruit of unusually fine size. The following are the most approved varieties:—Early Purple Gean, Werder's Early Black, Bedford's Prolific, Bigarreau d'Hollande, Florence, and Tradescant's Heart. The American varieties are considered too tender, and though some of them are good he does not consider any equal to the Elton. Early Laumarie he finds to be a grand thing—enormous, and a good bearer. Early Black Bigarreau also promises to be good. Bigarreau Groscauret is good, but a bad bearer. Although the Duke cherries are universal favorites, they are too tender for carrying to market. Early Lyons with him has proved a miserable thing. Ludwig's Bigarreau is a great favorite; it has the acid

Bigarreau is a great favorite ; it has the acid  
of the Dukes with the sweetness of the  
Bigarreaus ; when young it does not bear  
well, but improves with age. Nuts, as might  
be supposed, succeed well ; there are numer-  
ous trees of the common Hazel, and two  
seedlings which grow well and bear regu-  
larly, but the best of all is the Red Filbert,  
which is planted extensively. So en-  
thusiastic are we so thoroughly well up in the  
quality of the nomenclature of fruits is Mr.  
Moss, a student of pomology could  
hardly be said to do half-day more profitably than  
with the proprietor of Mossmont.

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