

SEASON'S NOTES FROM RACINE COUNTY.

By W. J. Moyle—Written July 25th, 1896.

One of the finest crops of the apple ever known now hangs on the trees of Racine county. Red Astrachan and Tetofsky

No spraying is done yet this season. The fruit is remarkably free from insects, with no scab to speak of. Thousands of bushels of No. 1 fall and winter apples will be made into cider here this fall as the farmers never make a practice of properly harvesting the apples for the market.

A hot week the first of April caused a large per cent. of the pear blossoms to fall, still at present the trees are dotted over with beautiful specimens.

Strawberries were a paying crop and sold readily at from 80 cents to \$1.40 a crate. In the vicinity of Racine, however, early spring droughts were the cause of a very poor stand of plants set out for '97.

Gooseberries were a good crop, many bushes of the Houghton yielding a 16-quart crate which found a home market at 80 cents.

Raspberries were never better. Ancient Briton blackberries are now lying on the ground, so loaded are they with beautiful specimens. Snyders also hang full, but too sour. Minnewaska no good; too tender.

Of the grapes Concord, Delaware, Diamond, Pocklington, Moor's Early, Champion, Lindly, Massasoit and Missouri Ressler hang full as they can hold, while Moyer, Salem, Aganam, Martha Wilder and Vergennies make a good showing. I find Empire State, Niagara and Vergennies too tender in bud and vine, as even when laid down and covered with earth they winter kill.

The curculio took all the tame plums, but in the wild thickets there is a great crop.

If you have a good home market do not seek a market that requires shipment of fruit, unless you are sure you have something fancy and can find the customer who is willing to pay for it.