

Chinese Brambles

In a letter to one of our readers, Morton Shand, a leading English horticulturist has made the following remarks concerning certain Chinese brambles which he has observed:

"I've had the chance to taste a group of Chinese varieties [of *Rubus*] at Kew this year which don't usually fruit there at all; and some of these are so good in flavour that I feel sure crosses between them and our best European raspberries and blackberries will, in time, give a wonderful range of large-fruited delicious hybrids that should knock the acid Loganberry, the Boysenberry and Youngberry into a cocked hat. Or rather would, if anyone cared for flavour, or judged of it for himself, nowadays. The best are *Rubus inopertus*, with prolific and most delicious, but quite individual flavour, berries like smallish raspberries in color, only completely transparent; *Rubus corsanus*, which has handsome upright 8 ft. canes, thicker than one's thumb, of a lovely polished mahogany colour, and most delicate willow-like foliage, and masses of smallish, round, flat-bottomed berries that when ripe are of a purplish blue thickly covered with a mauve bloom—and have a fascinating, peculiarly 'oriental' flavour."

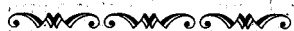
"*Rubus thibetanus* and four or five others are much the same in habit of growth, foliage and appearance of the fruit, but the canes are entirely covered with a delicate mauvish-blue bloom. Why people don't grow them for even purely decorative purposes I can't think, as they are all very hardy. I now have suckers and seedlings of all these growing here, or in friends' gardens. One curious sight at Kew this year was to see the 'white' blackberry (European) in fruit. As in the case of

similar 'recessive' colouring in the raspberry, the flavour was superior to any black one I know, and the golden berries are as large as any of the black varieties. I pinched a rooting sucker (tiproot) which I think and hope will grow."



Hardiness of Malling Apple Rootstocks

In Volume 11 No. 2 of FRUIT VARIETIES and HORTICULTURAL DIGEST I reported on my experiences in 1950 with Malling apple rootstocks in regard to their response to low winter temperatures. Since 1950 we had one more valuable experience. Beginning November 11, 1955, and lasting one full week, temperatures in our area ranged from -14°F to 0°F . Most of the trees were not in the dormant stage and damage caused was exceptionally severe all over our Okanagan valley. Trees on seedling roots (McIntosh, Delicious, etc.) were killed by the thousands; young trees were more affected than older ones. Semi-dwarfs on M.II, dwarfs on M.IX suffered very little or no damage. For years I was told that those clonal rootstocks were of no interest on account of their lack of hardiness... it seems now that this assertion appear to be without much foundation.—L. L. van Roëchoudt, Okanagan Centre, B.C., Canada.



Red Bartlett pears are being well received by the trade in New York city, according to E. Hansen and H. Hartman of Oregon State College. All of this variety has gone into the so-called basket trade in New York.