



The American Fruit Book: Containing Directions for Raising, Propagating, and Managing Fruit Trees, Shrubs, and Plants (Classic Reprint)

S. W. Cole

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Excerpt from The American Fruit Book: Containing Directions for Raising, Propagating, and Managing Fruit Trees, Shrubs, and Plants

In our early childhood, we joyfully feasted on fruits, both wild and cultivated, and from that time we have regarded them as "pleasant to the sight and good for food," ranking among the most delightful and valuable productions of the earth.

In our boyhood, we anxiously watched the early bearing trees, and became familiar with hundreds of varieties of fruits, and could select each from a promiscuous heap, and define its name, character, and location. This early discipline of the mind has been highly advantageous; and the love of fruits, and a pleasure in their cultivation, have

"Grown with our growth and strengthened with our strength;"

and the subject never tires, as it is rich in variety, vast in extent, and every season brings something fresh and interesting, as new fruits are continually springing into existence.

We have long conducted journals in which fruits have been a conspicuous subject, and this has opened a wide acquaintance, and an extensive correspondence and interchange, with numerous fruit growers, in different parts of the country; and our observations, when visiting orchards and fruit gardens, have afforded us peculiar advantages, in seeing trees in various locations, and under different management. We have, also, constantly inspected one of the largest markets, in a region of the greatest variety and extent of fruit culture - a wide field of experiments on natives and exotics - and, owing to varying seasons, and precarious crops, inviting productions from all parts of the country.

The exhibitions of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, one of the most enlightened and efficient associations in the world, we have long examined; and we gratefully acknowledge the politeness of officers and members of this association, for numerous favors. By the perusal of the various agricultural and horticultural journals, we have been apprised of all new and excellent fruits produced in different sections, and the prevalent opinions concerning them.

These advantages, with diligence and zeal in turning them to account, with our own practice from early life, in the pleasant pursuit of growing fruits, and in raising and managing trees in the nursery and orchard, may justify us in offering this work, as the result of long experience and extensive observation, combined with the opinions of a great many of the most intelligent fruit growers, and able pomologists, in the country.

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