

**BOOK OF FRUITS: BEING A DESCRIPTIVE  
CATALOGUE OF THE MOST VALUABLE  
VARIETIES OF THE PEAR, APPLE, PEACH,  
PLUM & CHERRY, FOR NEW-ENGLAND  
CULTURE**

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**ROBERT MANNING**

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TO VIEW  
ABOVE



Illustration by L. H. Norton.

*Williams' Bon Chretien, or Bartlett Pear.*

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CALIFORNIA  
**BOOK OF FRUITS:**

BEING A  
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MOST VALUABLE VARIETIES  
OF THE  
**PEAR, APPLE, PRACH, PLUM & CHERRY,**  
FOR  
NEW-ENGLAND CULTURE.

BY **ROBERT MANNING.**

TO WHICH IS ADDED THE  
GOOSEBERRY, CURRANT, RASPBERRY, STRAWBERRY,  
AND THE GRAPE;  
WITH MODES OF CULTURE.

ALSO,  
HARDY ORNAMENTAL TREES AND SHRUBS.

WITH PLATES. *nc*

**First Series for 1838.** *4/14/22*

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☞ The directions for culture, &c. and the articles on the Strawberry, Currant, Raspberry, Gooseberry and Grape, together with the plates, were furnished by Mr. JOHN M. IVES.

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# UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

## DESULTORY REMARKS.

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THE POMOLOGICAL GARDEN was commenced in 1823, with the design of forming a large collection of specimen trees of such varieties of foreign and native fruits, as were hardy enough to endure the inclemency of a northern winter. After a strict examination of the produce of these trees, carefully comparing the wood, the leaf and the fruit, with the figures and descriptions in the most popular works on Pomology, it was intended to select for permanent cultivation, those varieties which were at once fitted to the climate of New England, and of high merit in themselves. In furtherance of this purpose, we have assiduously culled from American catalogues all that we judged worthy of trial, and imported from the first European establishments, the fruits most in repute with the writers of their respective countries. We have never limited ourselves to one specimen, but have in every instance, procured trees of each name from many different sources, in order the more surely to arrive at correct conclusions respecting their identity, as well as to multiply our means of estimating their comparative value.

For donations of scions we are indebted to the liberality of many gentlemen of our own country, who have imported choice fruits from Europe for their own gardens; to the London Horticultural Society, and to the learned Doctes Van Mons, of Brussels, from whom we have received most of those new and admirable Pears which he has, for many years, produced on his own grounds, or obtained from the horticulturists of Belgium and Germany. We have also annually collected scions of all the new fruits of American origin, and propose to continue the collection

both of these and of trees from the best foreign and native sources. We shall subject their produce to the same rigid scrutiny with the contents of the present volume; and shall offer those which prove most valuable and hardy to nursery-men and amateurs, who will thus be enabled to obtain varieties of tried merit, without danger of the necessity of a renewal, at a future period, after waiting many years for the appearance of fruit.

A supplement to this work will be published at the close of every fruit season, describing each desirable kind which has been proved during the season. With the exception of Peaches, we recommend no fruit that will not ripen in any part of New England or New York, and in the southern part of Canada. Our selections have been made from nearly four hundred kinds, which we have raised yearly. Experience has taught us that many fruits, highly extolled by European writers, and doubtless of great excellence in their native soil, either perish or degenerate in our colder regions; and of these and all others which we have found in any respect improper for cultivation, we design hereafter to publish a catalogue.

We do not claim for all the varieties herein enumerated, the distinction of first rate fruits; some are second rate, admitted in consideration of their size, beauty and abundant bearing, though their flavour is not the most delicious. The essential characteristics of a first rate tree are, health, vigor, and fertility; those of a first rate fruit are, magnitude of size, beauty of shape and colour, and richness of flavour. But a small number of fruits, uniting all these qualities, is known to horticultural science throughout the world. Besides, in regard to the taste of a fruit, the judgment of individuals greatly varies; what one person would pronounce exquisite, might to another seem merely tolerable. In commendation, however, of the kinds described in this manual, we confidently declare our conviction, that no possessor of any or all of them would willingly relinquish their culture for the purpose of re-grafting his trees with any other varieties.

There is one circumstance to which we venture to call the attention of our readers—that while some recent works on Pomology are compiled from earlier authors, or from information derived at second-hand, the writers themselves seldom having the means of observation in their power, we have in these pages described no specimen which we have not actually identified, beyond a reasonable doubt of its genuineness.