The Culture Of Fruit Trees In Pots

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THE CULTURE OF FRUIT TREES
IN POTS
PYRAMID OF PEREGRINE PEACH.

Frontispiece.
THE CULTURE OF FRUIT TREES IN POTS

BY JOSH BRACE

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PREFACE

My chief aim in writing this book is to lay down those rules of management of fruit trees in pots which, from a lifelong experience, I have found to be essential to success. I have avoided theory as far as possible, and confined myself to the advocacy of what is simple, practical, and useful, and I have endeavoured to treat each step in the process with the utmost clearness and care, so as to avoid as far as possible any chance of mistake on the part of those who wish to adopt my method.

The severe frosts that occurred between the years 1850 and 1860, and especially those of the year 1860, destroyed all the fruit out-of-doors. It then occurred to the late Mr. T. Rivers that something should be done to protect fruit trees from frosts, especially during the flowering stage. The result was the construction of the “orchard house,” or glass structure without artificial heat.
These houses have been found invaluable ever since.

In 1903 nearly all the fruit out-of-doors was destroyed by the severe spring frosts, while fruit trees in the orchard houses yielded magnificent and abundant crops. I venture to say, without fear of contradiction, that orchard houses are the most trustworthy structures to insure a good crop of fruit every year. The protection afforded by glass was at first thought sufficient to keep out all frost, but as time went on, it was deemed advisable to make assurance doubly sure by using a little artificial heat in the event of a severe frost.

The disappointment to fruit-growers due to the uncertainty of our climate, combined with the satisfactory results achieved by the orchard-house system, tend towards a wide adoption of this already popular method of cultivation, and those who avail themselves of it will, I feel sure, have little cause to regret the initial outlay.

For three generations the cultivation of fruit trees in pots has been one of the leading features of the firm of Thomas Rivers & Son. In their nursery at Sawbridgeworth I have been employed as orchard-house foreman for the last twenty-two years, so I may fairly claim to have