Setting Young Fruit Trees.

I have seen quite a number of articles lately in the agricultural papers, treating on the subject of setting out young fruit trees, none of which agree with my experience on the subject. Some writers say to dig a hole two feet deep and three or four feet in diameter, then throw in a quantity of stable or other manure; then set the tree, &c. Now, I have seen trees set in this way dif rent times. They generally grow very fast and make nice trees but they come into bearing extremely late, if ever. I know of trees that were set in this way fifteen years ago; they are now large, thrifty trees, and many of them have never borne an apple, and the rest very sparingly, and I find on inquiry that this is universally the case. If the land is so thin as to need manuring, apply it to the whole surface of the ground and plough or harrow it in thoroughly. My plan is to have ground well ploughed, as deep as it can be, and put it in as good order as for any other crop. I then prepare as many stakes as I have trees to set. I then set the stakes just where I want the trees, generally in rows north and south, and east and west. I aim to get them exactly in squares, so that my trees will (when set) be in rows every way. I commence setting at one corner, take up a stake and dig a hole just large enough to take in the roots of the tree nicely. I first throw out the surface earth in one place and if it is necessary to dig the hole deeper, I throw the clay or gravel, (as the case may be) in another place. I then set in the tree, and throw in the rich surface earth and with my fingers work and press it tightly in about the roots, tramp lightly with my feet, then fill up with the remaining dirt until the ground is a little rolling around the tree. I aim to have the tree (when the ground settles) just as deep in the ground as it was in the nursery. When finished I drive the stake in the ground on the south west side of the tree and tie the tree to it to keep it straight until it gets firmly set in the ground. I then go to the next, etc. If the ground is thin it is a good plan to haul a few waggon loads of surface earth from the forest, and throw in around the roots a due proportion of it while setting the tree. But never use manure. Last spring I was passing through a neighbor's farm; he was setting out apple trees, nice, beautiful trees, too. He had a spade and dug a hole about 16 or 18 inches deep and just as near the width of the spade as he could get the dirt out; he then forced the roots of the tree down to the very bottom of the hole, threw in the dirt, tramped it and called it a finished job. The tree was from 6 to 10 inches deeper in the ground than it was in the nursery. I told him that I had set many fruit trees and had been very successful, but I had never set a tree like that. I then described how I did set them. He replied that in this country they must be set very deep to guard against drouth. I set out 150 trees last spring in the manner described above and did not lose a single tree, while my neighbor lost about three-fourths of what he had set. After setting a young orchard the land should be cultivated in some crop for a few years; corn crop will do, but it causes the young tree to grow up too spindling. The potato crop is best.—*Corr. Farm Journal.*

New Remedies for Insects.

The following valuable remedies for insects are furnished by Charles R. Dodge, assistant entomologist of Department of Agriculture, and also the entomological editor of *The Rural Carolinian*. They are recommended as simple and reliable:

Pear Slugs.—This insect, which sometimes plays such sad havoc with the foliage of plum and cherry trees, may be destroyed by frequent applications of a mixture of lime, soot and soap-suds, by means of a garden syringe. The mixture is made by adding to twelve gallons of cold water, one bushel of soot and half a peck of unslaked lime, allowing it to stand one day to settle, after which is added one pound of soft soap dissolved in warm water.

The White Grub.—This destructive insect, producing in this country the May beetle, (*Lachnosterna*), and in Europe the beetle known by the common name of "Cockchafer," is well known to many of our readers through the damage it does to pastures and grass lands. Their mode of warfare is to devour the roots of the grass, causing the sod to die out in spots, and it is said that simply applying to the affected places water, in which petroleum has been stirred, will exterminate them. It is also recommended to keep down insects on plants. The small quantity of petroleum seems to impart its disagreeable properties to a large amount of water, and applied in this manner the plants are uninjured.

Mealy-bugs.—The following remedy, tried upon grape vines (under glass) in Kellermont Gardens, Glasgow, was a complete success. The vines which were badly affected, were taken down, the loose bark scraped off, after which the back walls of the house were given two coatings of lime wash and glue, adding half a pint of turpentine to each gallon of the mixture. The rafters and glass were also given at intervals three washings of turpentine, and finally the vines themselves were given a good coating of the following mixture: Three ounces of soft soap, three ounces flour of sulphur, one pint tobacco water, two wineglassfuls of turpentine, one gallon of hot water, and clay enough to give it the consistency of paint. The result, with a top dressing of loam and horse dung, was healthy vines, and a fair crop of grapes, clean and free from mealy-bug.

Destroying Caterpillars.—An excellent remedy, which has been used on a large scale in Southern France, consists in a dilute solution of sulphide of potassium, at the rate of about one part in five hundred. The infested plants are to be sprinkled with the decoction by means of a garden syringe, and it is said that vegetation is not in the least injured by its application.

How to Manage Cuttings.

In selecting a cutting, a great deal depends upon a judicious choice; if the slip is too young and full of fresh sap, it will fade away from too much evaporation; and if it is too old—*i. e.*, hard and woody, it will take a great while to strike root. You must take a cutting that is partly ripened, and is from a vigorous shoot, yet is a little hardened at the base. It is also essential to have a bud or joint at or near the end of the cutting, as all roots strike from it, and the nearer it is to the base the greater your chance of success. Plant your cuttings in common red pots, filled half full of rich loam and two inches of sand on top (scouring sand will do, but not sea sand), wet this thoroughly and put the cuttings close around the edge of the pot; for if the bud joint comes in contact with the surface of the pot, it seems to strike root more quickly. Pull off the lower leaves before you plant the cutting. Press the wet sand tightly about the tiny stem, for a great deal of your success in raising cuttings depends upon the close contact of the sand with the stem. When the cuttings are firmly planted, cover them with a glass shade if possible, for it will generally promote the growth of the plants.

Moisture, light and heat are the three essentials to plant life; without them no cutting will start. Shade for two or three days from sunlight, but don't let the sand become dry; then give all the sun you can obtain; keep up a good supply of moisture and you can hardly fail to root most of your cuttings.

Cuttings of roses, verbenas, oleanders, heliotropes, etc., etc., can also be rooted in small vials filled with warmish water and suspended from the window casement. Select the cuttings as described above; pull off the lower leaves and insert the end for about an inch into the vial. Tie a string about its neck and hang in the sun. If a bit of cotton wool is wrapped about the cutting where it goes into the neck of the vial and it is kept wet, it prevents the rapid evaporation of the water. When the tiny roots show themselves about an inch or more in length, fill up the vial with a rich composted soil; let it hang for two or three days longer, then break off the glass carefully, without disturbing the roots, and pot the plant. Managed in this way the roots receive no check, and the plant will grow very vigorously. The cutting can be taken from the water and the roots planted in pots, but they will cling closely together, and are not as naturally disposed as when the glass is broken off, after the roots are covered with soil.—*Floral Cabinet.*

Starting Flower Seeds.

There is nothing like loving them to coax flowers to grow. Some old ladies seem to quicken the sap in drooping plants the moment their kind hands touch them. They give them their hearts, and so a thoughtful quick-witted care, and their fuchsias are always the largest and their pinks the sweetest. Beginners are often troubled at the outset to get seeds to germinate. Some will grow anywhere. Others need tenderer care, and for them we have these directions from an experienced hand. If you have no loam laid away for this purpose, take, any warm day, the upper surface of loam from your richest garden beds. Bake it in the oven in an old tin pan; when so dry as to crumble in your hands, add one-third white sand. Now fill your pots, boxes, or pans with the mixture. The pots made for planting seed, with large holes for drainage, are the best; but salt, raisin or cigar boxes will answer. Fill to the brim with heated soil, press down firmly, and, while milk warm, plant your seed. If large enough, place them in at one at a time, about one inch apart; if very small, like petunias, sprinkle over the soil, press them in gently with the hand, then sprinkle on sand. Take a piece of any old flannel, double it, and lay on the seeds, pressing it down at the corners; then wet with lukewarm water over the flannel. Put your pots or boxes in some warm place, on the shelf of a range, or on a mantle piece. The kitchen hob is the best place, for the steam from the kettles keeps the air moist. Leave the boxes there until the seeds begin to push, giving luke warm water over the flannel every day; then put in a sunny window, and, if the nights are chilly, return the boxes to the mantle shelf or back of the range. This way of planting rarely fails; the earth, being warmed through, starts the seeds as well as a hotbed, and the flannel prevents the caking of the top of the soil, and also keeps up a uniform heat. Of course, the same treatment will be as effectual with seeds for the kitchen garden, though most of them do not need such careful nursing.—*Exchange.*

Remedy for the Cut Worm.

The ravages of the cut worm in our corn crop are frequently very great; cause much loss of time and labor in replanting. Did we all plough our corn lands in the fall, and not put it off as most of us do till late in the winter or the beginning of spring, the cut worm would not be so destructive; but as it is, the labor of replanting from this cause is often equal to that of the first planting, not to mention the damage to the crop by the lateness of the replanted portions. I know of no remedy so effectual as early ploughing. Steeping the corn in cold tar is only a protection against animals that eat the seed. It is no protection against the worm. Some years ago, a neighbor, who was a farmer of long experience and who was very successful, told me how he guarded against the cut worm. He made a mixture of ashes and plaster, two-thirds of a pound of the former and one-third of a pound of the latter, and after the corn was covered, made a hand follow the coverer and drop a handful of the mixture on each hill. I have tried this remedy and have found it invariably successful. One year that cut worm threatened to ruin my crop, I applied it to check the work of destruction and it acted like a charm.

I have no doubt, as the friend who gave me this remedy, was not an inventive or adventurous man, that it is known to many persons, and that I am writing what many of your readers know already. But I am sure it is not known to everybody, and that some who knew it have forgotten it, therefore I mention my experience for the benefit of the ignorant and the forgetful. Even if the proposed remedy be no remedy at all against cut worm, and I have been mistaken, to try it will do no harm. On the contrary, it must do good, as the ashes and plaster will certainly promote the growth of the corn plants and increase the yield. But I believe that if the ashes and plaster in the proportion I have indicated are applied to each hill of corn, the cut worm will be routed, and the cost of replanting will be saved.—*Dinwiddie, in Southern Farm Home.*

Carnations and Pinks.

"An Amateur," from Des Moines, Iowa, complains that he has no success in rooting cuttings of either carnations or pinks, although he never fails in fuchsias, geraniums, coleus, verbenas, or begonias. The varieties he succeeds with we all find to root quicker than the carnation or pink, but not more surely if the proper conditions be observed. These conditions are, that the plant of carnation or pink from which the cuttings are taken must be in a healthy, growing condition. The temperature of the sand of the propagating bench in which the cutting is inserted should range from 65 to 75 degrees, and the atmosphere 15 degrees less. The sand must always be kept moist, and great care must be taken that neither sun nor draft of air strike the cuttings long enough to wilt or shrivel them, for if once shrivelled nearly all hope of rooting them is gone. But these conditions of temperature are not likely to be obtained easily by amateurs, so I again recommend, as the safest of all methods of propagating, the saucer system already described by me in your columns, and also in my work "Practical Floriculture," as the best method of propagating carnations, roses, or in fact anything else in the small way.—*American Agriculturist.*

ORNAMENTAL HEDGE.—The *Horticulturist* describes a rose hedge of Lord Middleton, of Applecross, England, which the past season was five feet high, over two hundred feet long and one sheet of flowers. The variety was the Gloire de Dijon, and the hedge was used to screen a kitchen garden. The variety is a tender tea rose.