

Fertilizing with Corn Cobs.

SIR,—In the Annual Report of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association for 1891, which I have had the pleasure of receiving, I have read some discussions on the proper fertilizer for apple and other fruit trees. Will you allow me to give, what I was many times told down in *Old Kentucky*, where I lived for several years, was the best means to fertilize such trees? "Dig the whole surface a spade deep around the tree, and some four or five feet out from the trunk, throwing the soil outside; then fill in to the depth of three or four inches with corn cobs, cover up with the soil again, evenly, and leave it. Of course the cobs will not decay immediately, but their general decomposition will feed the tree by the roots and prove of great benefit."

Since writing the above, the thought has struck me that if the soil was roughly broken up, under the trees, and ground or crushed corn cobs scattered thickly on the surface, in the autumn, the moisture of winter rains and snow would help decompose the intended fertilizer and carry the strength or virtues of it down to the roots. This I think would be to obtain the advantage quicker than the other, cruder plan, and a greater number of trees could be so treated from the same quantity of original cobs, annually; and if the application showed a benefit, the number so treated could be increased indefinitely, according to the quantity of cobs saved and collected.

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REPORT OF OBSERVATIONS OF INJURIOUS INSECTS AND COMMON FARM PESTS, during the year 1895, with methods of Prevention and Remedy. By Miss Eleanor A. Omerod, F. R. Met. Soc., etc. 1896. Published at London, by Simpkin, Marshall Hamilton, Kent & Co. One of the most interesting works on insects available.
