

### Pruning Apple Trees

Wm. Rickard, Newcastle, Ont.

Pruning well and properly done is a matter of great importance but one that is very much neglected. In driving

sidered I believe this to be the most convenient and under some conditions (I may say, quite general conditions) the best time.

Under some special conditions, I pre-

tree and to restore the balance between the top and roots, the latter having been materially reduced in the process of digging and planting. Allow branches to come from the trunk of dwarf trees near the ground, thus protecting the trunk from sun scald and keeping the load of fruit low which adds to the life and strength of the tree.

The annual pruning consists of removing all superfluous branches and heading back vigorous growths, keeping the trees uniform and pyramidal in form, not allowing any dwarf tree in orchard blocks to exceed fourteen feet in height, and choosing desirable varieties. Following the above system with thorough spraying and heavy thinning of fruit when the fruit is about one-third grown, combine practices which have resulted in pleasure and some profit to growers of pears.

### Planting in Annapolis Valley

R. J. Messenger, Bridgetown, N.S.

I prepare my land two years before planting at least. The first year I raise grain and, if possible, roots the next. In plowing for both grain and roots, I have the dead furrows come where I intend to put the rows of trees. These dead furrows are really the subsoil after two plowings, but the action of frost and cultivation has enriched it and made it available, so that in setting out the trees in these dead furrows, I do not have to set the trees deep or in poor subsoil as I would under ordinary circumstances, while the subsequent plowing-up against the trees brings them gradually into deeper rich soil.

Planting the trees six inches deep in this low valley between two ridges precludes the necessity of subsoiling the whole piece and by the time I have plowed twice toward the trees and thus levelled the land again, the trees are in ten or twelve inches of good soil. The necessary cultivation for the previous root crop has mellowed and fined the soil, leaving it in best condition for young tree growth. Of course, it is understood that land must be well drained either artificially or naturally.

In planting even in this way, I puddle my trees in a porridge-like mixture of rich soil and water just before planting and also place next to and around the roots the best soil in vicinity, leaving the poor bottom soil for the top.

One thing we learned from one year's experience in spraying is that thoroughness is very essential if satisfactory results are to be expected.—M. B. Clark, Wellington, Ont.

Saskatchewan already has its apple growers, and they do not need to stand and hold the apples on the tree when the prairie winds blow, because they have provided shelter belts of hardy trees.



A Manitoba Orchard that Bears Good Crops of Fruit and Shows What Can be Done in That Province  
The variety in foreground is Blushed Calville—Orchard of Mr. A. P. Stevenson, Dunston, Man.

through the country how many orchards the close observer will see that have never had a saw in them for many years until the trees have become so thick and full of limbs that it is quite impossible to get up through them to get the fruit should there be any worth picking!

Pruning should be commenced and the tree properly formed while it is young and continued a little each and every year according to requirements. A common fault and mistake is to leave too many limbs in the beginning which becomes apparent when they have grown somewhat large; then rather than remove some of them they are trimmed off like poles all the way out from the trunk to near the end. It would be better to remove some of the limbs as soon as the mistake was discovered, leaving plenty of room for those left with fruit-bearing wood all the way out.

Another mistake I have made is to keep the centre of the tree entirely clean of all fruit-bearing limbs. I have come to the conclusion that there is room for some good fruit in the centre of the tree as well as all around on the outside.

As to the proper time or the best time to prune there is and always has been a difference of opinion. There is an old saying, "prune when your saw is sharp," and I know very successful orchardists who prune any time during the winter months as they find time to do it.

I have usually done the most of my pruning in the latter part of February or the first of March. All things con-

fer the month of June. If the tree has a vigorous growth of wood and is inclined to be barren of fruit prune well in June. This will tend to check the wood growth and help the fruit bearing. I have had good results in this way bringing trees that were inclined to be barren into quite heavy bearing.

The man who undertakes to prune should use his brains as well as his hands. He should first size up the tree then go to work, aiming to have a well balanced tree with fruit-bearing wood evenly distributed throughout the centre and circumference, thinned out sufficiently to admit of a free and full circulation of air and an abundance of sunshine.

### Growing Dwarf Pear Trees

Wm. F. W. Fisher, Burlington, Ont.

The average dwarf pear tree is short-lived, due to the fact that this is a characteristic of the quince root on which it is propagated, coupled with the many disasters common to all pear culture. In planting, cultivation and pruning, the attainment of rapid growth and early returns should therefore be constantly kept in mind. They require rich, dry soil, vigorous cultivation and judicious pruning.

Nursery stock should be pruned root and top before planting, removing all torn and bruised roots and occasionally shortening a coarse tap root which might prevent getting the tree sufficiently deep in the ground. The top should then be pruned to form a strong symmetrical