

climate it will be found that a mulch in autumn will often be serviceable as a protection to the roots, thereby preserving the quince tree from injury.

The trees should be planted about fifteen feet apart each way, and the ground kept clean by thorough cultivation with the cultivator. Ploughing after the trees have become well established is likely to tear and injure the roots, which are fibrous and lie near the surface. Liberal annual manuring is as important in the quince orchard as anywhere else. Besides this a dressing of common salt applied every spring, and occasionally during the growing season, at the rate of a quart to each tree, scattered upon the surface of the ground, has been found to have a very beneficial effect. Pruning must not be neglected. The trees need to be kept open that the foliage may be fully exposed to the light and air. This should be regularly attended to every spring, requiring then but little labor, and only such an amount as that the heads shall not become a mass of interlacing brush.

For some time only two varieties were usually planted, the Orange or Apple-shaped Quince, and the Pear-shaped. Of these the apple quince was to be preferred on account of its better quality and brighter color. The Portugal Quince has been highly esteemed for its fine quality and the handsome color of the flesh when cooked, but it is not profitable as a market variety on account of its being a shy bearer. In later times we have had brought to notice Rea's Quince, which is a variety of the Orange of large size and by some

thought to be the best of all, but it has not proved to be sufficiently productive in our climate. This was followed by the Champion Quince, which comes into bearing early and is productive, but ripens quite too late for our seasons. We have now brought before us a variety known as MEECH'S PROLIFIC. Its origin is lost in obscurity. Mr. Meech, of Vineland, N. J., found it growing in the grounds of one of the early settlers of that place who brought it from Connecticut. After growing it with the other varieties, Mr. Meech became satisfied that it was distinct from and superior to all of them. It is somewhat pear-shaped, but said to differ from the old pear-shaped quince by ripening earlier than that variety, yet a little later than the Apple or Orange Quince. It is also said to ripen earlier than Rea's and decidedly earlier than the Champion. The particular merits claimed for this variety are the vigorous, healthy habit of the tree, early bearing, and great and uniform productiveness. Young trees of two and three years old shew fruit, and continue to bear so abundantly thereafter that it is necessary to thin out the fruit in order to prevent injury to the trees from overbearing. Trees five years planted yielding from eighty to ninety well-grown quinces. The fruit is very large, often weighing from twelve to fifteen ounces, of a beautiful golden color, and possessing the peculiar agreeable quince fragrance in a high degree. It is claimed for it that its cooking qualities are remarkably good, one lady stating that it cooks as soft as a peach.