

Garden, Orchard and Forest.

Planting Forest Trees.

The work of cutting down the old forests goes on uninterruptedly, and some farms in many parts of the country are becoming as bare of trees as the most densely populated countries. There the necessity of converting all the land into tillage farms, cleared the land long since of their indigenous forests, but the work of planting trees in every available space has been going on mean time. Here we have been clearing without a thought of planting. Were every farmer, in clearing his farm, to leave belts of timber till young trees planted at the time would have grown sufficiently to form the needed shelter for his stock, he would find the profits of his farming greatly increased, and the value of his farm enhanced far above what it would if without timber. In some parts of the Northwestern States they have formed Forestry Associations for promoting tree planting, being fully convinced of its profits in dollars and cents. They say that it is well worth the cost in ready money to surround the stock-yard and farm buildings with a windbreak that will, in five years, protect them effectually from the winds; and that a crop of trees can be grown with far less expense, in proportion to its value, than a crop of corn. Timber sufficient for fuel for a family and for fencing can be had in five years from ten acres properly planted. The Association say that "the net profits of a quarter section of prairie properly prepared and planted with forest trees, will within ten years exceed the net profits of ten sections of wheat;" and "a single cotton seed can, by intelligent culture, be developed into a cord of firewood within twenty years."

Any one who has experienced the difference of the temperature in our rigorous winter on unsheltered lands and that within the woods or in places enjoying their sheltering influence, must admit the great effect treeplanting must eventually have in modifying the rigors of our Canadian winter. This, by itself, without taking into consideration the pecuniary results, should induce us to plant trees for shade, if for nothing else. There is no tree will, in the same time, repay the planter greater profits than the European larch. From an American writer we reprint an article on this tree:—

"There is no tree capable of producing so large an amount of such valuable timber in so short a time as the European larch (*Larix Europæa D.C.*) in countries where its cultivation is possible. A native of high elevations in northern and central Europe, and always growing on poor, gravelly, and well drained soil, it is not surprising that when planted under exactly opposite conditions, as is often the case, it does not become a valuable tree. The rocky, well-drained hillsides so common in Massachusetts are admirably suited to the cultivation of the larch; and there is but little land within the limits of the State too poor or too exposed to produce a valuable crop of timber, if planted with this tree.

The European larch has always been a favorite for ornamental planting here, and has shown itself well adapted to our climate.

In Europe, larch is preferred to all other woods for railroad sleepers, and it is probably superior for this purpose to the wood of any North American tree. Larch fence posts are also in great demand at high prices, and instances are abundant of its great durability when thus employed. A practical forester, speaking of this tree, says, "For out-door work it is considered the most durable of all descriptions of wood. The lengthened period that some larch posts have stood is quite surprising, some of which are known to the writer to have stood nearly fifty years, than which there can be no better proof of its durability." For posts, it will probably equal in durability our red cedar, while in the power to hold nails it is greatly its superior.

The European must not be confounded with the American larch, which, although a valuable tree for many purposes, does not make durable fence-posts.

Timber of the European larch is admirably adapted for rafters, joists and the main timbers in large buildings. When sawn into boards, however, it has the serious drawback of excessive shrinkage, and a tendency to warp in seasoning, and is therefore rarely used in this form. Its principal uses in this country would be for railroad sleepers, fence-posts, telegraph posts, hop and bean poles, and other rustic work, and for piles in bridges, wharves, and similar structures, where the rising and falling of the tide require the employment of the most durable timber possible. White oak is generally thus employed, but it is probably less durable than larch and far too expensive.

According to a writer in the Highland Society's Transactions, quoted by Loudon, the pasturage under a plantation of larches thirty years old, and which had been thinned to four hundred trees to the acre, produced in Scotland an annual rental of eight or ten shillings the acre, while the same land, previous to the introduction of the larch, was let for one shilling the acre. Grigor calls attention to the same good result of planting the larch. "No tree," he says, "is so valuable as the larch in its utilizing effects, arising from the richness of the foliage which it sheds annually. In a healthy wood the yearly deposit is very great; the leaves remain, and are consumed on the spot where they drop, and when the influence of the air is admitted, the space becomes clothed in a vivid green, with many of the finest kinds of natural grasses, the pasture of which is highly reputed in dairy management. And in cases where woodland has been brought under grain crops, the roots have been found less difficult to remove than those of other trees, and the soil has been rendered more fertile than that which follows any other description of timber. Already, in some of the Western States, great interest is taken in the cultivation of the European larch, owing principally, I believe, to the efforts of Mr. Robert Douglas, of Waukegan, Illinois, and large numbers are planted annually with every prospect of success.

"Judging from the growth made by the larches in Mr. Fay's plantation, which are the only ones I know in this State offering any valuable statistics in regard to the rapidity of the growth of this tree, I think we can feel confident that on the ordinary soil suited to their culture, larch, planted when about one foot high and three years old, will in twenty years average twenty-two feet in height, and seven inches in diameter, three feet from the ground; and that in thirty years these will be from thirty-five to forty feet high, and twelve inches in diameter; and if the plantations are thinned to four hundred trees to the acre, that at the end of twenty years more, or fifty years from the time of planting, the trees will reach from sixty to seventy feet in height, and at least twenty inches in diameter. This is also the average growth of this tree in the Highlands of Scotland, under nearly similar conditions."

Plum Growing.

Can plums be successfully grown in the older portions of the country notwithstanding the strongly intrenched curculio? My success in this direction has far exceeded my expectations; but it extends over so few years that I am not ready to give an emphatic affirmative to the foregoing query. Upon my farm was standing a large plum tree which was annually clothed in a robe of snowy whiteness, which soon gave place to numerous small plums. At this stage I was always doomed to disappointment, for the saucy little turk was always ready to nip my hopes—if not in the bud, in the unripe fruit. Nature seemed to struggle so against such odds in her vain efforts to give us a crop of fruit, that I determined to help her.

I know well that fruit growers would tell me to jar the trees and destroy the curculions as they were caught upon a sheet spread beneath the tree; but one who has a large farm to attend to would quite likely neglect it just in the "nick of time," and thus lose the crop.

I therefore decided to make a trial in another direction. About eight years ago I set an orchard of 25 plum trees, cultivated them well for two years, and then put a fence about them and a hen house among them. About fifty hens were confined within the enclosure, and from that time no cultivation has been required, as the hens allow no

vegetation to grow among the trees. And now for the result: Two years ago, one tree gave a good crop of plums; last year two of them did the same; and this season twelve to fifteen of the trees produced crops that entirely beggar description. Many people came to look at them as the fruit covered the trees, and 'twas the unanimous exclamation: "Never saw such a sight before." Branches a foot in length were packed with plums, like grapes in clusters. I greatly fear that my indiscretion in allowing so large an amount to remain and mature has jeopardized my prospects for a crop the coming year, for I think the trees must be much exhausted after such an effort at production, the crop being not only numerically large, but the fruit was individually large, at least, so it looked to me, as my eyes had never looked upon such a sight before. In size, all the way from that of an ordinary Damson to a fair sized hen's egg. Color, from nearly white to green, red, pink, light and dark purple. Time of ripening, August 20th to October 20th.

Should any one be at a loss to know what kinds to plant, I will say that I sent to Ellwanger & Barry, Rochester, N. Y., for fruit catalogue; from that I selected those kinds, all things considered, that I thought best suited for my purpose, then sent my order as above.

In production of eggs the hens pay a good profit; in cultivation they save hand work; in destruction of curculio they have saved the plums, and thus have fulfilled their mission. I think it would not be wise to attempt to utilize hen labor unless they were confined, as they are not particularly fond of curculio, and probably would not destroy them if allowed to roam where more palatable insects were to be had. I have thrown the curculio to a lot of hens; the first picked it up and dropped it, the second did likewise, but the third came along and put the little fellow beyond the reach of plums.

But for this one obstacle no fruit is more easily grown than the plum, and if a little further trial shall confirm my opinion of the feasibility of plum growing, I shall be richly repaid for the experience.

Any one who keeps a dozen hens can easily have plums for family use, for hens will do quite as well for the shade of the trees, and at the same time keep the trees well fertilized.—G. W. H. in *Scientific Farmer*.

The Garden Pea.

BY J. H. GARNIER, M. D., LUCKNOW.

The varieties of the garden pea are now so numerous, and the qualities so much improved during the last quarter of a century, that every one should have at least three varieties planted for table use, on the same day of the month. It is a well established fact that peas of no sort grow to advantage on too rich a soil, and we have proved this to our cost in our own garden. The ground should be trenched over in the fall and allowed to remain in furrows all winter, by which means as much frost as possible should be introduced into it, and at the earliest moment in spring as practicable it should be dug over carefully and raked level. No occasion for manure of any kind for the crop, for if the ground be too rich the plants will grow to any length in bushy straw and produce very few peas. All that is required is to keep down vermin and weeds, and proper hoeing up.

In selecting the three varieties, we get the earliest, the second earliest and the late, and plant them all on the same day, and we have them coming in due succession and producing one of the most delicious dishes that is found among vegetables. In the earliest sorts we find none superior to Nutting's No. 1, and consider it the best, as it is a dwarf, and we strongly recommend dwarfs as the best and cleanest for a cottage or private garden. McLean's Little Gem and Tom Thumb are also very superior and fine bearing dwarfs, as we have proved for many years.

For second early we sow Blue Peter or McLean's Princess Royal, and for the latest Yorkshire Hero or Dwarf Waterloo Marrowfat. We can recommend these dwarfs, as we have tried them and speak not from hearsay.

Having selected seed and prepared ground, we proceed to sow. Make broad drills four or five feet apart, and sow thickly and evenly about three inches deep. We make our drills the full breadth of the hoe, or seven inches, and as level as possible in the bottom, placing a tally at each end. Not a moment should be lost in planting peas; the earlier the better, in March if possible. Do not let wet, frosty or bleak weather interfere. It makes no