

## Remarks on the Culture of the Pear.

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In our last number we presented a few general remarks on the culture of the Pear, by way of stimulating farmers and fruit-growers to bestow that degree of attention on the subject which its importance justly claims from them.

We now offer a few practical suggestions that may be found serviceable to some who may lack both experience and suitable books of reference on these subjects. The Pear is a noble fruit.—We deem its culture of great importance to every landholder in this country; and we shall therefore exercise diligently, our humble efforts, in commending it to general attention, and in diffusing the most essential information connected with it.

**Soil.**—The culture of the Pear need not be confined to any one, or even two particular kinds of soil. We have seen it grow and flourish on a great variety of soils. Cold, wet, as well as dry, sandy locations, are two extremes that should always be avoided. Where a choice of soils is attainable, a deep loam, with a dry subsoil, is, as a general thing to be preferred. All sorts of Pears will not flourish equally well on the same soil. The habits of the tree and the character of the fruit, of many kinds, require peculiar locations and qualities of soil to perfect them—some requiring a colder, others a warmer, some deeper, others lighter soil. The experience of pear-growers in this country is as yet too limited to make such discriminations to any extent worthy of explicit confidence.

There may be cases, but they are very rare and only when persons possess but a small garden or limited plot of ground, where none but moist cold soil can be had. The remedy here is to plant the tree nearly or quite on the surface of the ground, and raise the earth in the form of a hillock around it. This method is frequently resorted to where the subsoil is bad or unsuitable.

**Choice of Trees and Culture.**—Trees intended for standards, or orchard culture, should be propagated on seedling Pear stocks, and should not, to succeed well, be more than two years old from the inoculation, and about five to seven feet high.

The roots of the Pear, as is well known, are but sparingly furnished with fibres, except they have been frequently transplanted. Hence the necessity of transplanting them while young.

Pear trees of large size may be successfully moved if proper care has been previously taken to produce an abundance of fibrous roots—by pruning or shortening the large feeders or woody roots—by a method we shall presently allude to.

Thus transplanting large trees, however, is only necessary in this country where a tree happens to be in the way, or in an unsuitable place, or under some peculiar circumstances. Standard trees in orchard culture may be planted twenty-five to thirty feet apart.

The Pear is one of the most durable fruit

trees we cultivate. A Pear orchard will live and produce abundantly, with little care, through three or four generations of men. The most remarkable Pear tree we have heard of, on this continent, not for its age however, is said to be in Vincennes, Illinois. We remember seeing an account of it communicated through "*Hoover's Magazine*," a few years ago, and it is mentioned in "*Downing's Fruit and Fruit Trees*." It is said to be about 40 years old. In 1834 it yielded 184 bushels of Pears, and in 1840 it yielded 140 bushels.

The old *Stuveysant Pear*, now standing in the upper part of the City of New York, is said to be upwards of 200 years old. So when a man has planted a Pear tree he has made a permanent improvement—one that will not only endure while he lives, but ages after him.

Such a Pear tree as the one just alluded to at Vincennes, would be quite a respectable legacy in this part of the country, equal to an annuity of at least \$300 per annum.

**Root Pruning** is a comparatively new, but entirely successful method of arresting the luxuriant growth of fruit trees, and inducing fruitfulness. It is particularly applicable to the Pear, many varieties of which, if left to their natural course, would not bear for a great number of years. Mr. Rivers, a distinguished English Nurseryman, has practiced this operation extensively and with perfect success. In the fall of the year, November, he digs a trench around the trees, a foot and a half deep,—(the distance from the tree should be proportioned to its size,)—and cuts off the ends of the large roots with a sharp spade. This he practices annually, supplying manure abundantly at the ends of the roots. This he says facilitates the thinning and gathering of the fruit, makes the gardener independent of the natural soil, and renders trees of fifteen or twenty years growth as easily removed as a piece of furniture. In the March number of the 6th volume of this paper we spoke of this operation, and gave a figure of a root pruned Pear tree, as grown by Mr. Rivers in the pyramidal form. We recommend the matter to persons who have unproductive fruit trees, but would suggest great caution—better to err in pruning too little at first than too much.

**Grafting or Budding on the Quince** is a process resorted to for the purpose of dwarfing the growth and causing early fruitfulness. Its advantages are bringing it into popular favor in this country. Many of the finest gardens in America, in the vicinity of Boston, are well stocked with trees of this kind. It is practiced extensively in France and Belgium, where immense quantities of trees are thus grown. It requires, however, considerable experience to propagate in this way successfully. As many kinds, such particularly as are naturally hard and gritty, will not do well on the Quince, while others, for instance the "*Duchess d'Angouleme*," and many others of similar character are much improved by it. Trees grown in this way are peculiarly adapted for small gardens, they may be planted eight feet apart, thus enabling the proprietor of limited grounds to enjoy a great variety of sorts. Besides the fruit is easily gathered and is not expo-