

tion, as from the rains and dews on the surface ; therefore, if the subsoil is not retentive, vegetation must suffer during drought ; and there are very few years in which we have not, at one time or other, a period of dry weather ; then, if trees do not have time to fully recover from such visitations before winter sets in, they are ill-prepared to withstand the effects of severe cold ; and therefore many of them are lost that might, under other conditions, or with a more retentive subsoil, have escaped injury altogether.

In choice of varieties of apples, I was equally unfortunate ; here, again, I followed the recommendations of fruit growers as met with in magazines, reports of horticultural societies, etc. ; but at that time very little was said about the varieties recommended being suitable or otherwise for cold climates ; I therefore selected as my four principal varieties, Rhode Island Greening, Baldwin, Roxburgh Russet and Northern Spy, which all proved failures on my ground, causing great loss and disappointment. These are all winter apples, the very kind that should be avoided by northern growers, because the trees do not ripen their wood early enough to stand severe frosts, and I perhaps might add, they have no time to recover that strength that has been severely taxed by maturing a crop, before winter sets in ; they are, therefore, more tender than fall and summer varieties.

The Wagener was a complete failure with me ; I planted thirty of them one spring and they grew finely through the summer, but the following spring found them all dead ; that variety seemed to succeed with one of my neighbors who had a clay soil, and the Gravenstein succeeded well with another on a stiff, cold, wet soil, while on my light soil I could not get them to live.

Although I failed with a good many varieties, I had some success : the Red Astrachan, Duchess, Alexander, Hastings and Wealthy did well ; Red Astrachan and Hastings were the most vigorous growers, but were only just commencing to bear fairly after nine years' growth ; the Alexanders produced fine specimens of fruit, but few of them, and the Duchess and Wealthy bore such heavy crops, they had to be thinned out, or they would have broken down the trees, commencing to bear at three years from planting.

My first planting consisted of about three hundred trees, and among them were sixteen Wealthy ; as soon as they commenced bearing, and ever since, the produce of those sixteen Wealthys exceeded the total of all that were living of those three hundred ; the Duchess were not planted at the same time, or they would have given a different result.

I had a very similar experience with currants, of which I planted about three hundred bushes, part red and part white ; the red were bought as Red Dutch, and Cherry, but amongst them came, by some mistake, half a dozen of a kind that proved more profitable than either, for in course of time these half a dozen produced nearly as much fruit as the other survivors of the three hundred first planted. The reason was that all, except that half dozen, were so infested with the borer, that those that were not killed outright were sadly crippled, and were