

sight I use cow-dung, soot, or wood-ashes, mixed up with urine, the drainage of a dung-mix, or ammoniacal-water from the gas-works, to the consistency of thin paint. This composition appears to me to possess all the advantages of the lime, and the trunks of the tree appear lessened, and altogether much more pleasing to the eye—*lb.*

PRUNING FRUIT TREES.

The following is an extract from an article written by a Correspondent of the *Massachusetts Ploughman*:—

"Many writers recommend pruning in March, and others as late in the season as June. I cannot approve of either; experience has taught me that the former is quite too early, and the latter too late, unless the course I shall recommend, be adopted, then it may be said that I approve of both. I propose and recommend as the safest and most advantageous manner, particularly where much pruning is required, to go over the trees twice, viz: the first time in March, or earlier, if more convenient, and lastly in June; if the trees require but a slight pruning, they have been properly attended in previous seasons, it is of much less consequence, but then May or June is the most suitable time; but where a heavy pruning is to take place, and large limbs to be taken off, it should be before the sap moves or the buds start, and the limbs should be cut about a foot from the main trunk or branch at this season, and during the time the trees are in bloom these stubs should be cut off close to the trunk of the tree, with a fine sharp saw, leaving the surface as smooth as possible, and the bark solid around the wound; this will facilitate the process of healing, &c. The advantages derived from this manner, are many; for, by taking off the large branches early, before the buds start, you are able to separate the tree without injury to the buds remaining, and do not rob the tree of sap as you would if it was not done until May or June; if you cut close in March, you leave the wound exposed to the dry wind and sun which would require (if ever healed over) double the number of years it would if made when there was a full flow of sap, and the tree in foliage.

I think no one can doubt that it is important to prune at that season of the year that will do the least injury to the remaining buds, and will be the most favorable to healing the wound; by cropping your limbs early and cutting close in May or June, the object is the best accomplished, and the tree is not robbed of a portion of sap that it would necessarily be, if suffered to remain until May or June. To experiment for your own satisfaction, amputate a good sized limb, close to the body, in March, and then in June take another, and watch the process of healing; it will be found that the process of healing will be further advanced in ten days after, upon the wound made in June, than in three months after, upon the wound made in March.

I have not time at present to enumerate other great advantages to be gained by pruning at a proper season; a reflecting mind can easily know them in imagination."

The editor of the *Ploughman* in his remarks on above, says:

"Among the thousands of wild notions afloat, it is a relief to read something rational on the subject of fruit trees. How much valuable time is lost in transplanting and grafting by these who take not good counsel. Nothing is wanted but the exercise of good judgement in planing and in grafting; but good judgment is not often inhaled with the

mother's milk; it is perfected by close attention and the due exercise of reason."

GRAFTING TREES.—I send you a few lines upon grafting. Should you think them worth your notice you may give them a place in your valuable paper, as the time of the year has arrived when those who intend to graft this spring should make preparations for it, by cutting their scions from thrifty trees of last years' growth, and that too before the buds have swollen much, and then keeping them in a cool cellar with the cut ends buried in moist dirt. This will keep them fresh and good till the proper time for setting them is past; those who let their scions stay on the trees till they leave out, are apt to pay dear for their intelligence.

The best time that I have ever found for setting Pears or Apples is from the first to the last of May, when the sap flows freely. And the best material for doing up the stocks is a wax made three parts of rosin, one part of bees-wax, and one of fresh tallow, or enough to make it so that you can spread it with the thumb and finger after it has been cooled in cold water; with this you can cover the end of the stocks and the side splits perfectly tight from the air. You will need a little grease to rub your thumb and finger on occasionally to prevent the wax sticking. It can be put on faster and with less trouble, and with much less dirt than clay can, and the scions are more apt to live, and will grow, to say the least, as much as those of the same kind set in clay; and though there may be some little warts caused by an overflow of sap, they will all disappear in a few years. The wax does not so confine the scion as does the clay through the summer, for on a thrifty tree, in two or three months the growth of the scion will split the wax and leave it as free as nature does; but the clay dries hard in hot weather like a brick not burnt; and the scion is thus bound up with clay till the frosts of December release it; while the wax on the end of the stock still remains to keep out the water till it is thrown off by the growth of the tree.

When wax is used there is quite a saving made in scions, which, on large trees, is quite an object, especially when the kind is one which is scarce. I have seen an advantage in the wax where the canker-worms have eaten out the buds of scions that were above the wax, and had left the tree; but the bud on the scion, that is on the wedge part of it, which is always covered with wax or clay, will force itself through the wax, but cannot get through the clay; so all the buds are lost that are covered by the clay, and this makes it necessary to cut the scion with greater length.

Plum and cherry trees should be attended to earlier than those of apples and pear, and then they are more apt to fail, though if the scions are cut in season the chance for them will be pretty good, and better by far than the peach, for the peach tree suffers so much from the winter that it is difficult to obtain scions that are not hurt by the frost; yet when they do live they will grow faster than anything else.—I had a peach tree which last spring was one year old, from the graft that bore fruit last summer. At this rate who would fill his garden with little late natural peach trees, or any other kind of poor fruit, when a little time would give them the best country produce.—*Correspondent of Mass. Ploughman.*

We admit all kinds of opinions into our paper, yet, as many of our readers are young, we think it proper to suggest a caution occasionally.—Wax for grafting is made in different ways. Some of it