

For the ordinary varieties at least thirty-five feet between the trees should be allowed, and for the larger kinds forty feet would be still better. If it is objected that this makes an orchard look too bare and naked, it may be replied that permanent benefit is more to be desired than merely temporal good, and that it is better to sacrifice a little in the appearance of an orchard now than it is to make it look well in the present and impair its future value. Besides, if the appearance seems to be of vital importance, all possible benefits in this direction can be secured, with no permanent injury to the orchard, by setting the trees thirty-five or forty feet apart and planting dwarf pear or peach trees between. The standard trees would not be injured, and the orchard would certainly look better for this addition. The dwarfs would come to maturity, produce their fruit, and pass away before the trees which were to remain would have attained their full size; but the temporary trees would have answered their purpose and also have produced a liberal quantity of fruit.

It seems as if this plan (which is very far from being a new one, and for which the writer makes no claim of originality,) was worthy of a trial by all who are about setting trees, and who are sure that they shall not be satisfied with the appearance of the orchard if they are put a proper distance apart.

Pea-Vines as House Plants.

There are many common garden plants that are beginning to be utilized for house cultivation and for the decoration of rooms in winter. The *Revue Horticole* notices the common white Canadian peas as having been used with good effect as winter decorative plants in France. The method of growing them is exceedingly simple, and is described as follows:—

"Plant the peas in a pot filled with garden soil and sand. Water them and place the pot in a closet, cellar, or any dark place where the temperature is mild and even. Under the influence of the darkness, moisture and heat the seed will quickly germinate and will produce an abundance of half-blanch leaves. When the plants are high they may be brought into the light and placed wherever wished. Their white tufts have a charming effect among other plants. If well watered they will remain ornamental for six weeks or more, but as soon as they become green and coarse they should be thrown away. A succession is easily kept up by planting at intervals of three or four weeks, and treated as before directed.

Forestry.

It has seemed to be the great aim of our forefathers to clear all the land they could, whether available for farming purposes or not; cutting off steep hill-sides in exposed situations, worth much more for wood than grain and pasture, to say nothing of the protection the trees on them would give to other fields that might be sheltered by them from the wintry blasts.

It has been found that in those countries where the cutting of the timber has been left to the interest and caprice of the individual owning it, the destruction of the forest has been followed by such climatic changes that in many cases the country has become barren and uninhabitable.

To avert this catastrophe a number of the governments of European states have established Bureaus of Forestry, and prohibit the cutting of trees except under their direction.

Central Asia, once the garden of the world, dotted with green forests, produced sustenance for its people, but since the destruction of its forests much of the continent has become a pathless and almost lifeless waste.—*The Husbandman*.

Something About Apples.

Over 900 varieties of apples are found in the gardens of the Horticultural Society, London, and over 1,500 varieties have been tested there. Most of the improved varieties are either the result of accident or of accidental crossing.

It is generally considered that apples grown on the fertile lands of the West, though large and fair, Colorado not excepted, with its phenomenal capacity to produce the fruit in nearly all its varieties, are yet inferior in flavor to those grown on the strong, gravelly and sandy loams of this section. Hence the preference given to the Michigan, New York, Massachusetts and Maine fruit, while the apples grown in the British Provinces of which thousands of barrels are sent to Boston and

New York every year, are, in some respects, the best sold in the Eastern markets. In this connection, and we have the testimony of Col. Wilder, it is a remarkable fact that where cultivation and protection from insects have been regarded, as in our gardens, that the apple is as fine now as it was in its pristine days, going back even as far as the days of the Garden of Eden. It is also a significant fact that the apples originating in New England—for instance, the Baldwin, Rhode Island, Greening, Connecticut and Roxbury russets—are still the great favorites for market, and that from Western New York annually there are sent more than 1,000,000 barrels a year.—*American Cultivator*.

Fruits and Vegetables in Tidewater Virginia.

At the quarterly meeting of the Norfolk Horticultural and Pomological Society, held October 25, President Leighton delivered an address, from which we take the following extract:—

Another horticultural and pomological season has closed with us, leaving sad traces of the business depression throughout the sections that receive our products. While most of our fruits have fallen very far short of a full crop, the long-continued inactivity of labor North has reduced sales to unremunerative prices.

Tidewater Virginia maintains her reputation for fine pears. * * * I will name a few varieties of pears in their order that seem peculiarly adapted to this section: Duchesse d'Angouleme, Seckel, Bartlett, Howell, Beurre d'Anjou, Sheldon, Urbaniste, to which only a few other varieties may be added, excepting for family use.

While our cotton receipts are correctly reported and destination of shipments named, the towering interest of this section has passed year after year unrecognized in our statistical reports, and as this is the proper body to act in this matter, I urge your attention to it.

The gentlemanly agents of our transportation lines cheerfully furnished accurate data of the strawberry crop of this section the past season, which took our friends abroad quite by surprise, it exceeding three million quarts.

An accurate statement of our vegetable products would equally astonish them. The last statistics were in 1868 (and that was regarded as susceptible of many allowances on account of approximations instead of definite data) in which the article of kale did not enter—it being then unknown to us as a market vegetable, but now shipped by thousands of barrels.

It is desirable to ascertain what new varieties are succeeding and what old ones are being dropped for the general market, and in this connection I would recommend the appointment of a committee to report at the next meeting upon the relative value of any new articles as compared with the old, tested in our section.

Reports from our own and other States point to increased ravages of the pear blight the past season. Although rather late for the suggestion, some of the poisonous sap may yet be checked in its return to the roots by the removal of the blighted parts and the application of carbolate of lime as a wash where amputations are performed. This disease is a lurking mystery, baffling scrutiny and common-sense conclusions—the unsolved problem in pear culture. If the descending sap through the bark—which adds what we usually call a grain or what is the increase of a year's growth of the diameter of a tree—is poisonous, its descent to the roots is not neutralized by the earth, and in its ascension in the spring, through the woody portion of the tree, may perpetuate the disease. This is my observation of the orchards of others.

HANGING BASKETS. — A great many suppose a hanging basket is merely a small round receptacle of some kind filled with a few common climbing and drooping plants. These may be made quite pretty, but the finest style of hanging basket or garden is made about as long as the window is wide, and about a foot in width, to be suspended so as to be above the bottom sash. Any rough box of the above dimensions, made of half-inch boards, about five inches deep, and covered with pieces of birch bark nicely tacked on the outside, makes a very tasty and pretty appearance when filled with plants. The soil need not be very rich, as a rank growth is not desirable, for the plants would soon outgrow their proper space. Soil composed of rotten sods, leaf-mold and a liberal dressing of sand, is the best.

LOCALITY FOR ORCHARDS. — The *Gardener's Monthly* says:—In almost all cases it is the universal experience that orchards are certain to do well where the spot chosen is somewhat higher than the surrounding land. Often enough the fruit will be killed by the spring frost, when those on clay land fifty feet higher will escape. The cold air always sinks, and if there is any low spot for it to sink in, the higher of course escapes. Often trees on river banks escape when others are injured, and people say it is the contiguity to water, when it is really the elevation—the cooler air being drawn to the river bed.

LINSEED OIL ON PEAR TREES. — A. C. L. Madison writes:—"I recently killed two fine pear trees with an application of linseed oil." The Editor of the *Gardener's Monthly* replies:—As we know of many trees that have been benefited instead of injured, it is an interesting question—Why these varied results? We have made, therefore, special inquiry into the oil question of one in the secrets thereof, and we find that there are three kinds of linseed oil in the market—one the pure extract of flax-seed, the other half petroleum, and the third our informant could not tell what. But the petroleum explains. Such oil as that certainly explains.

THE TRUMPET LILY. — This is the name by which the plant known in England as the Trumpet Lily is generally known with us, as it was in former times regarded as a true Calla.

ROSES FROM CUTTINGS. — A few years ago I was persuaded to strike some roses from cuttings. I did so, and was very successful, and I have been following the same plan every year since without failure. Early in October I procured some good cuttings, cut them with a sharp knife, let them dry slightly at the ends, and planted them firmly in a bed of common sod, mixed with a little old lime rubbish. The result has been that eight out of ten cuttings have rooted. I have struck nearly all sorts.—*Cor. London Journal of Horticulture*.

Of all remedies and checks for the Colorado Beetle, we are inclined to put most reliance on the sparrow and the crow. And if the present panic only results in farmers learning the value of the insect-eating birds, it will have done excellent service.—*Cottager and Artisan*.

A Chicago writer says:—The prospect that shipments for Liverpool can be made without breaking bulk, except at Halifax via the Grand Trunk and Intercolonial, has caused some excitement among our forwarding circles. There is no limit to the trade that can be done by the Northern route, if its interests are properly handled and the inducements are offered which seem fairly within the possibilities of the situation.

Growth of the Pecan-Nut Hickory.

Our experience in Pennsylvania with the Pecan-nut Hickory led us to believe that this would be one of the most rapid growing and profitable timber trees to plant, and that it would be well worth the attention of planters. For the nuts it would be worthless north of the Potomac in the Atlantic States, but for timber it would no doubt do well even in New England. The following from a Mr. Harrison, a correspondent of the *Prairie Farmer*, confirms this view:—

"The Cottonwood was hardy and of rapid growth, but worthless as a timber tree and very inferior as fuel. The Locust would sprout from the root so as to become a nuisance, and the borers ruined the grooves. The Gray Willow did not realize the anticipation formed of it even as a fencing material. The Soft Maple was valuable for windbreaks and for fuel, but was not a timber tree. At this time I thought of the Pecan (*Carya oliviformis*), a species of Hickory, a native of the Illinois and Mississippi valleys. I satisfied myself by experiment and investigation of its value as a timber tree—wagon and carriage makers, wherever they had used it, testifying to its value, being equal to the best of White Ash for all purposes of buggy or carriage manufacture, possessing equal durability and greater strength and elasticity. At various points on the Mississippi River steamboat carpenters who have used it find it valuable timber in boat building. As a fuel it has no superior. But would it grow and thrive if planted on our prairies.

To test this, in the fall of 1870 I dug up in the bottom land along the Illinois river a dozen or two young trees, heeled them in my garden for the winter, and in the spring removed them to my farm on the prairie. The summer of 1872 was hot