

altogether, nor yet of those that have a struggling existence but Northern Spy, which I understand succeeds well in Huntingdon County, has completely failed here. Three Gravenstein, planted in 1875, were killed down the first winter, but have sent up shoots above the graft, and may possibly survive yet.

Red Astrachan does not appear extra hardy, and it certainly does not bear well. I have trees of this variety planted fifteen years that do not bear even fair crops.

I have found it more advantageous to plant orchards on high ground, and avoid much of the expensive operation of underdraining.

For fertilizers I use a compost (two-thirds of muck, marl and decayed forest leaves, and one-third wood ashes), which appears to answer the purpose well. This compost spread to a depth of three or four inches serves the double purpose of a fertilizer and mulch, and prevents the growth of noxious weeds and grass near the tree. Those who mulched their trees last autumn will find the benefit next spring, as, owing to the scarcity of snow, and the keen frosts of December and early part of January, it is probable many trees may be root-killed this winter. The borer has been the most troublesome pest with us, and has destroyed many trees in this district. The only cure is that recommended by Todd, "Catch 'em and kill 'em." I have used with advantage a solution of potash (one pound to one gallon of water), applied to the trunks of the trees in June. This wash at least cleans the stems of the young trees, gives the bark a bright healthy color, and a little of it poured on the ground at the collar of the tree, I think, completely destroys any eggs of the beetle that it touches. Twice every season, in June and October, each tree is carefully examined at the collar for the borer, and if lodged there he is quickly cut out and killed; after a little practice a man can examine a great many trees in a day, and readily extract the pest without doing much damage to the tree. Many old trees have been killed or greatly injured by the borer. In July, 1876, I extracted three large ones from an old Fameus,