

some fresh food in the shape of a rich compost formed of loam (if tenacious, all the better) and manure, thoroughly decomposed, in equal quantities. This operation should be performed about the last week in October, by removing the surface soil, generally a network of fibrous roots to a depth of 4 inches, and replacing it with fresh compost of the description just given. The most important matter connected with the culture of trees in pots is keeping their roots dry during the winter months, so that they are not too much excited - they are never at rest; the shoots then become dry and ripe, and in a fit state to put forth their blossoms in spring, which, owing to the trees not being subjected to the great atmospheric changes incident to the open air in winter, they do with great vigor. To make success doubly sure, this dryness of the soil in the pot must be strictly attended to. The trees should be well watered when top-dressed, and again before the middle of November; they may then, if in the large pots I have mentioned, remain without water till early in March, when the blossom buds begin to swell. Many failures in the pot culture of fruit trees have occurred from the fears entertained by cultivators that trees must always have their roots in a soil saturated with moisture. Before I leave the subject of pot culture, I must mention the necessity of giving the trees extra food during the summer months. This is best done by placing on the surface of the mould in the pot a layer of some rich compost, about 3 inches in depth at the outside, and made concave around the stem of the tree, so as to retain water. This compost may consist of manure chopped into small pieces, and saturated with liquid manure; or horse droppings from the roads, and kiln-dust from a malt-house, equal quantities, also saturated with liquid manure; the latter compost is the most valuable surface dressing ever invented, for not only do the roots of peach trees come to the surface to feed upon it, but vines, dressed with it, show extraordinary vigor. If a vine in a pot has a dressing of it from 6 to 8 inches deep (this must of course be supported by pieces of slate stuck inside the rim), the roots ascend rapidly, and seem to devour it with avidity, so that by the autumn a mass of this compost on the surface of the soil in the pot, in which a vine has been growing all the summer, will be found a complete mass of fibrous roots, hard and compact, the virtue of the compost being seemingly absorbed.

Planting out of Peaches and Nectarines.

I have thus far endeavoured to give an outline of the pot culture of peaches and nectarines in unheated glass structures. The other method of cultivation, by planting the trees in the borders, must next be considered; this is neither more nor less than planting a peach garden. Still, as a glass structure is of more value than a piece of uncovered ground, care must be taken that it is made the best of. There is a peculiar feature in most stone fruits - their love of a firm soil. A light, porous soil is generally fatal to the health of a peach tree, at least in the gardens of Europe. In orchard houses, I am now able to assert, with full confidence, that a firm border for peach and nectarine trees is a *sine qua non*; there is no sound prospect of success without it; and I may add, that if such a border is calcareous or can be made so by mixing one square yard of chalk to ten of the natural soil, so much the better for the fruit trees. In forming the borders, the soil should be refreshed with a slight dressing of manure, and then stirred to a depth of 20 inches - no other preparation is required. The trees should be planted in this rather shallow border, heavily watered, and suffered to remain for a week; at the end of that time the entire border should be gone over with a rammer, and rammed firmly down; a wooden rammer of about 10 lbs. weight will be found the best implement. The border thus rammed and levelled should remain solid, and never again stirred, except to be slightly pricked with a fork in spring - to admit water to the surface roots of the trees. After being watered, a slight dressing of rotten manure, about 1 inch in depth, should be laid on the surface of the solid soil, and no other disturbance of it should take place. So obnoxious is the disturbance of the soil to the roots of peach and nectarine trees when planted out although the inert surface mass of fibrous roots may be removed from trees in pots without injury - that I have seen, in an otherwise well-managed house, fine and well-grown half-standard trees quite bare of fruit, owing to the borders having been carefully dug 6 inches in depth in spring, every blossom having consequently dropped without setting its fruit. - *Thomas Rivers in The Orchard House.*

The True Way to Water Trees.

If trees standing in grass ground are watered, the surface around about the body, for three or four feet in each direction, should be covered with mulch of some sort, to retard evaporation. It will be labor lost to water trees on the lawn without exercising this precaution, as the water will disappear before a hundredth part of it has reached the roots. Straw, hay, lawn-grass, weeds, shavings, or tan-bark will make an excellent mulch. Spread the mulch three or four inches deep, pour two or three pailsful of water around each tree, and the water will permeate the entire soil, keep it damp, and supply the moisture which the tree must have, or die. If the soil is in a tillable condition, draw the earth away from the tree to the depth of one or two inches, pour in two or three pailsful of water, and return the mellow earth, which will keep the surface from baking. Yet mulch is far preferable to the latter mode. When the soil appears nearly dry to the touch, the roots cannot possibly derive the needed supply of water to keep the leaves and branches from injury during the rapid evaporation which is going on night and day. When the atmosphere is as dry and hot as the air in a huge lumber-kiln, it will have the moisture in every tree and plant and the moisture of our bodies, even "if it (the hot air) has to take it (the moisture) out of the hide." Hence, we must drink, and the roots of the trees and plants must be supplied with water or they wither and die. A great many persons scatter the grass from their lawns and the weeds from their gardens in the highway, which is bad horticulture in many respects. If they would spread such grass and weeds around their growing flowers or around any garden vegetables, the mulch would save the labor of carrying many hogsheads of water to supply the plants with necessary moisture, and the covering would keep the surface mellow, keep the weeds down, and save a vast deal of manual labor, and the crops would be heavier. - *Our Home monthly.*

We desire to call the attention of those of our readers who are thinking they must water their newly planted trees to the above sensible suggestions. Many kill their trees by watering them, not because they water them too much, but because after having applied the water, they leave the ground to bake under the blaze of our summer sun. Mulch - mulch - mulch - and then watering, if needed at all, will do good.

Comparative Value of Fruits.

The comparative value of apples, pears and oranges in our markets does not favor the south, for while the past has been one of general success and abundance of the apple at the North, as well as of the orange at the south, yet now we have to pay in New York city one-third more for common fair apples over that of the best Havana oranges. We think we have within the past two days asked prices of apples, pears, and oranges from one hundred dealers, and when we give the dozen price we also give the comparative wholesale price, which is forty cents a dozen for oranges, sweet Havanas averaging fourteen to sixteen inches in circumference, and sixty cents a dozen for apples averaging eight to ten inches in circumference, or what we term our second class fruit. Pears now in New York City, sell at prices according to varieties, the Beurre d'Anjou bringing from thirty to seventy-five cents each, while Vicar of Winkfield brings fifteen to twenty-five cents each, and Bananas at five cents each. The wholesale rates are in proportion. Showing plainly that notwithstanding we grow large quantities of fruit, their keeping is a point our people do not fully understand. - *Addi, in Cleveland Herald.*

Pinching Berry Canes.

Although the season is late, the young canes of raspberries and blackberries have already got a good start, and will soon require pinching to make them grow strong, branch freely, and make compact, self-supporting heads.

When the new canes have attained a growth of from one and a half to two feet, pass rapidly over them and pinch off the terminal bud. After the lapse of a week, pass over the plantation again, and you will find some that were too short the first time but are then the proper height for pinching. It will probably be necessary to go over them three or four times to make certain that none have escaped, but after they have been carefully pinched twice the operation will be a short one.

All kinds of fruit-bearing canes should be pinched in this way, with the exception of tender varieties of raspberries, as Brinckle's Orange, Hudson River Antwerp, and Franconia, that require covering for winter protection. These should be allowed to grow without pruning that they may be bent down without danger of breaking, when winter arrives, and covered with earth. - *Rural Home.*

Black Raspberries.

Willits & Co., of 95 Murray street, New York, write us that dried raspberries are worth 34 to 36 cts. per pound. Where are those croakers that insist that raspberries (especially the black sorts) are "played out?" It takes 3 to 3½ quarts of fresh raspberries to make a pound, and by this method they bring from 9 to 10 cents per quart with no expense of baskets, boxes, &c. We will grow them as long as we can sell them for 6 cents per quart and do better than farmers who grow wheat at \$1.50 per bushel, or pork at \$6 per hundred, or wool at 50 cts. per pound. We say to all who have large plantations of black raspberries, see that your drying house is got ready, and when your raspberries get lower than 9 cts. per quart put them into the drying house.

Remember that last season was one of the most abundant fruit seasons that has ever been known, and yet dried raspberries are selling at 34 to 36 cts. per pound, with a prospect of their reaching 40 cts. - *The Fruit Recorder.*

Caterpillars.

Now is the time to look out sharply for caterpillars. They are busy weaving their nests and stripping the leaves of the apple trees. It is the best way to take them while they are young and small, for if neglected till the leaves are full grown there is necessarily greater injury to the tree, to say nothing of the destruction they cause in the process of growth. Fix a brush upon the end of a long pole and go at them. If the trees are kept perfectly clear of them this year, you will have less next, unless some careless and slovenly neighbor lets all his go to seed. Caterpillars are a sign of careless farming. - *Éx.*

Following Nature.

Nature nowhere trims back the grape vine annually to four or five buds; but the successful grape-grower does it. Nature seldom cuts back or heads in the peach or apricot; but many of our best fruit culturists do it. Nature never blanches the celery plant but our gardeners do it. Nature sows the most of her seeds directly upon the surface of the soil; farmers and gardeners generally give to seeds a necessary covering. Nature seldom transplants a tree or mutilates its roots, or propagates by grafting upon sections of limbs or roots; Nursery-men do it.

Best Morello Cherry.

F. R. Elliott, writing to the *Cleveland Herald* says that the *Louis Philippe* is the best of all the sour or half sour cherries. Downing, in his great American Encyclopedia of fruits, says that the fruit is large, of a rich dark, almost purplish-black red, with a red flesh, which is juicy, tender, sprightly and mildly acid; quality very good or best. Free vigorous and very productive. Barry, in his *Fruit Garden* says it is ripe from the middle to the last of July, and is a very valuable sort for dessert, canning, cooking or market.

After trying trolises of various kinds we like nothing so well for supporting raspberry canes as good strong stakes, high enough to sustain the top of the canes. They should be tied rather loosely at the top and again midway. In using a stake the stalk expands in every direction and is exposed freely to the sun and air. Besides the fruit is more handily picked.

Cherry trees, to be long-lived, should not have their roots disturbed by digging about them. We have found them to do best in grass. Care must be taken not to bruise the bark of the trunk, as it will canker and may destroy the tree. It seldom recovers entirely from a bruise.