

Sweet stock, it not only produces fruit of better quality, but is quite productive, We are so convinced of its excellence in this regard, that, if planting a new orchard to-day, we would be inclined to plant all Talman, and later on to top-graft them with the required varieties.

Here is an article by the late Mr. Nicol, of Cataragui, on this very subject, which is sufficiently opportune to be inserted here.

Many of the choicest varieties of apples, such as the Northern Spy, Ribston Pippin, R. I. Greening, Gravenstein, Baldwin and King of Tomkins County, which are somewhat tender, can be grown successfully by root-grafting or by budding on common stock only in favored localities; yet by top-grafting on hardy stock they can be satisfactorily grown where only hardy varieties succeed in the ordinary way.

The Talman Sweet is peculiarly adapted for this purpose. Next to the Crabs and the Duchess of Oldenburg, it is the hardiest of all known varieties. Indeed, I have found it to be quite equal to the Duchess in this respect. I have known trees of it so mutilated by cattle and horses as to be considered completely destroyed, yet, when given a fair chance, recovered and became remarkably healthy and good bearing trees. In fact, there is no kind of apple tree that will stand as much hard usage and survive. It is less particular as to soil and situation than any other kind of apple tree. It endures dry seasons better than most sorts. Its bark, being of a thick, tough, leathery nature, soon overgrows almost any wound; and good, sound grafts inserted into its branches seldom fail to grow. Its growth is very much of the same habit as that of the Duchess, throwing out its branches at nearly right angles with the trunk; unlike the Spy, which forms forked crotches that readily split when the tree comes to mature age. I have never known a Talman Sweet tree split at the crotches by weight of fruit, by accumulations of ice or by wind storms. In short, it is the most enduring kind of apple tree that I know of.

It should be observed that in top-grafting any kind of apple tree, the whole top should not be cut off at once, because the too severe check is apt to kill the tree. A far better way is to make a two or three years' process of it; the first and second year grafting only each alternate side branch, and, finally, the third year grafting the top branches.

Branches into which grafts are to be inserted should not be cut off too close to the trunk, where they are of large size, but rather where they are subdivided into branches about 1 or $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick; then the joint quickly heals over; whereas, when grafts are inserted into the side of a large stump they are much more readily broken off.

There are now growing throughout the country a great many Talman Sweet trees—perhaps more than of any other variety of apple. I know of many instances where orchards were planted years ago, and now all that remains of them is the few Talman Sweet trees which constituted part of the selection.

The Talman is by common consent adjudged to be the best baking apple; yet it is hardly salable in any market in Canada; therefore, it is of little value beyond what is required for family use, and for that purpose one or two trees in an orchard is sufficient. If all the others were top-grafted with choice sorts there might be much more good fruit grown.