

ly watching for in order to prevent it from gaining a foothold in our orchards. The best remedy that we can apply to them is to dig out the worms both fall and spring and either keep the trunk banked with earth during the growing season or whitewashed with a thin coat of cement, which prevents the young from gaining access to the tree.

Notes on Cherries

T. S. Cornell, St. George, Ont.

Cherries will thrive in almost any part of Canada by having the land well drained. They will not stand wet feet. The sour cherries are more profitable than the sweet, and of the many kinds we prefer the Early Richmond and large Montmorency.

Cherries like other fruits have enemies. The black knot is one; it has to be checked in its green state. I also find the plum curculio attacking them of late. Spray the same as for plum.

We begin picking before they are very ripe, in order to have them all marketed in a firm state, leaving all the stems possible on the fruit. We find it better to pick in small pails, and to empty into the baskets ready for market. We handle all our cherries on the local market getting the middlemen's commission also. There is no more profitable fruit to grow at the present time than the sour cherry.

Root Pruning for Fruit

Edward Lane, Galt, Ont.

If a tree is making too much wood growth, and is not bearing what might be considered a fair crop, it should be deprived of a few of its roots. In order to illustrate the value of this, I will give one of my experiences along that line. A few years ago, I received, as a premium with THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST, a Wealthy apple tree and, if my memory serves me right, it was of one year's growth and about twelve or fifteen inches high, branched out as a dwarf and so I let it remain. It grew to be eight feet high and six feet in width and with no sign of fruit. I said to it one day, "You have got to stop this. I don't want so much wood; I want fruit." I dug a hole about thirty inches from the trunk and then tunneled in under it and there I found four large roots. I cut these off and put the soil back again. The next year, I had to prop up every branch, but one on the opposite side to where I dug the hole and in the fall, I had about three bushels of splendid apples.

My boys found they were good to eat and as a consequence the branch nearest the wall was stripped of its load quite a while before the rest. The next

year, the branch which did not require to be propped and the one which the boys stripped, had to be propped. Altogether, the tree bore about one and one-half bushels and the third year it bore two bushels. They were as good a sample as one could wish to pick up. This instance is not a solitary one but one of scores, and always with about the same results. To my knowledge, it has been practised through three generations, I myself having been taught it over 40 years ago by my grandfather, who was a nurseryman and knew whereof he spoke.

Fertilizers for Orchards

S. C. Parker, Berwick, N.S.

For our sixty acres of orchard, young and old, we use commercial fertilizers entirely. We use ground bone, acid phosphate and muriate of potash. The accepted method with us is to apply fertilizers in early spring, cultivate thoroughly until July, then sow a cover crop. Five hundred pounds of acid phosphate and two hundred of potash per acre is about the average amount used, with fifteen pounds clover, either Mammoth or Crimson.

We use considerable mixed fertilizers on small fruit and garden truck, finding them more readily available. For these we buy a high grade potato fertilizer about four per cent. nitrogen, eight per cent. phosphoric acid and ten per cent. potash. Probably it would be cheaper to compound our own, but time is often worth more than money. As our stock comprises only one cow and teams necessary to work the orchard, stable manure does not cut much figure in our business.

Fameuse vs. McIntosh

R. W. Shepherd, Montreal

McIntosh Red can never replace Fameuse, as to quality, for a dessert apple. In the best houses in England, where the two kinds have been tried, the verdict has always been in favor of Fameuse, and I speak from experience, because I have a large *clientele* of that class of customers.

In England, apples are more generally used at dinner for the dessert course than they are here, where we get oranges, bananas, grapes, and so forth, very cheap. The medium size and beautiful appearance of the Fameuse, apart from its peculiarly delicate high flavor, and delightful perfume, brings it into great demand. The McIntosh is rather too large, and often irregular in shape, to be as popular a dessert apple for the table.

To get size among fruit trees cultivate often and thoroughly.

Canadian Pears

W. T. Macoun, Ottawa

The number of good pears which have originated in Canada is not very great, mainly for the reason that the pear districts are more limited in extent than the apple, and that chance pear seedlings do not stand as good a chance of surviving as apple seedlings. Two varieties only need be mentioned, namely, Dempsey and Ritson. The following descriptions of these pears are taken from "The Fruits of Ontario":

DEMPSEY

The Dempsey was originated near Trenton, in Prince Edward County, Ont., by Mr. P. C. Dempsey. It was produced from a seed of a Bartlett, fertilized with Duchess d'Angouleme. The fruit is firm, and consequently would ship well. Tree, vigorous and productive; fruit, large, oblong, obovate, pyriform; skin, smooth yellowish-green, with a brownish-red cheek in sun; stem, about one inch long, set in a fleshy base, and with almost no cavity; calyx, nearly closed in a moderately deep uneven basin; core, small; flesh, white, fine grained, tender, almost melting, with sweet, delicious flavor; season, late October to November.

RITSON

The Ritson is a delicious dessert pear, which is worthy of a place in every fruit garden. It is not surpassed for canning or for pickling, having an aroma and peculiarly agreeable flavor. It originated in Oshawa, Ont., with Mr. W. E. Wellington. In response to our enquiry, Mr. Wellington writes: "It was my grandmother, Mrs. John Ritson, who planted the seeds from a pear which had been sent to her from Boston. The tree has always stood on my grandmother's homestead as long as I can remember." The tree is a strong, healthy, upright grower. The original tree is now of immense size, probably over thirty feet high, and about 100 years old, an annual bearer of nice, evenly formed fruit. The fruit is medium in size, obovate pyriform, usually one-sided; color of skin, yellow, heavily shaded with golden russet, and numerous minute white dots of a darker russet; stem, one inch long, often inserted in a fleshy protuberance, and at a slight inclination; calyx, open wide in a very shallow, regular basin; flesh, creamy white; texture, fine, tender, buttery, juicy; flavor, sweet, delicately perfumed; quality for dessert, very good to best, and for cooking, very good; value, market, promising for a special trade; season, October.

Do not forget to remove the blossoms from newly-set strawberry plants.