

THE CARE OF SHADE TREES.

it has been mixed with McIntosh Red and the varieties have been confused.

PRINCESS LOUISE.

An apple of great value for the home garden as a choice dessert variety, but probably not sufficiently productive to be profitable in the commercial orchard unless it should command a higher price than other apples on account of its excellence.

TREE, of slender habit, fairly vigorous, hardy, moderately productive.

FRUIT roundish, averaging $2\frac{3}{4}$ by $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length and breadth respectively; skin greenish yellow, of bright waxy lustre, with cheek of clear, bright carmine; stalk stout, $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch long, in a narrow, moderately deep cavity; calyx half open, in a broad, shallow, slightly plaited basin.

FLESH, pure white, texture tender, fine, somewhat crisp, juicy with rich aromatic flavor.

SEASON, November to February.

QUALITY, dessert, best; cooking, good.

VALUE, home market, very good; foreign market, very good.

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MANY inquiries were made this year regarding the treatment of shade trees which were showing signs of lack of vitality. In some cases the cause of the unhealthy condition of the trees was plainly due to insects, in other cases to fungi, but most frequently the cause was due to purely physiological conditions, such as unfavorable conditions of the soil, or atmosphere.

The towns and cities of Ontario can point with pride to their beautiful avenues or trees which not only furnish a grateful shade from the sun's rays during the hot days of summer, and cause refreshing breezes to blow along the pavements, but also give shelter from the winds and storms of winter. The larger the town or city the more attractive these trees become by way of contrast with the long walls of naked brick and stone.

But the value of shade trees lies not solely in the shelter and shade they furnish, they conduce to the healthiness, and their value in this connection can scarcely be estimated.

That many of these valuable trees are dying, or are in an unhealthy condition due to physiological conditions, is a fact that requires attention on the part of their owners, and it is the purpose of this article to point out the remedies that may be applied to reinvigorate these trees, and the causes which bring about these undesirable conditions.

1. Trees, like animals, require food, and if the supply gives out they must inevitably starve. One of the chief causes for the unhealthy, dying condition of so many trees is this lack of food supply.

It is true that a tree makes use of the almost inexhaustible reservoir of carbonic acid gas in the atmosphere, and the water in the soil, but it should not be forgotten that a tree requires inorganic food which is absorbed by the roots. A farmer does not expect a crop from soil which contains no nourishment, but, somehow or other, many persons entertain the very erroneous idea that a tree ought to grow and thrive for years upon the food which happens to be in the soil in the immediate neighborhood of the roots.

Very frequently when a tree is planted the earth which has been thrown out in making the hole is thrown back again and packed about the roots. The amount of food in such a case will not suffice for any length of time. Sometimes the tree will live and thrive for several years; then it is because the soil has been richer than usual. Every year the ground for a yard or more should be spaded deeply, and a dressing of well-rotted manure or compost applied. In doing so a constant supply of food will be maintained, and the tree will grow and thrive.

2. A second cause for the disease of vitality in many shade trees is the lack of per-