



Intercropping with Tomatoes in Orchard of Frank Shearer, Vittoria, Ont.

time give protection by holding the snow in the winter. Where mature trees are clean and vigorous the use of too much of the legumes in the cover crop tends to give an over-production of wood growth. Old trees that have been heavily pruned will invariably throw a great number of suckers the same season. The use of a heavy cover crop will go a long way in checking the growth of these after the summer pruning is done at the end of June or in July.

#### USE OF CLOVER

In the younger orchards clovers are used to a great extent in shoving forward the young trees. By the use of a clean cultivation followed by an enriching cover crop, together with proper pruning at the right season, many fruit growers tell us they bring their trees into bearing several years earlier than otherwise. Jas. E. Johnson, manager of the Norfolk Fruit Growers' Association, has demonstrated that by skilful orcharding he can bring spy trees into bearing at ten or twelve years of age.

Of course many fruit growers are not satisfied to use cover crops in the young growing orchard. By liberal manuring and judicious inter-cropping many of the best fruit growers are securing large returns per acre, even while the young orchard was coming into maturity. Mr. Samuel Soudan, of Simcoe (a cut of whose young orchard appears herewith), secured a net return of sixty-six dollars per acre by intercropping with canning beans. Similar good results can be secured with strawberries, potatoes, tomatoes, or in fact any crop which will allow of much cultivation, and which does not pull heavily upon the soil moisture in the early part of the season. Many instances are known of where wideawake young fruit growers have paid for their land while the fruit trees were coming into bearing.

During the past few years the following cover crops or combination of cover crops were tried out in Norfolk county, and found to give good results:

First—Peas, one and one-half bushels per acre. This should be sown from the first to the twentieth of June to secure a good growth, as they freeze down with the first frost. They cannot be recommended for the northern part of the province.

Second—Buckwheat two pecks, and hairy vetch twenty-five to thirty pounds. This makes a good combination of a legume and a cereal. The buckwheat makes the rapid growth the first season, while the hairy vetch will make considerable growth in the spring, before being turned under. Some orchard growers object to the use of buckwheat, as the heavy growth in the fall is rather objectionable in harvesting the apple crop.

Third—Rye one-half bushel, and red clover twelve pounds.

Fourth—Rye one-half bushel, and hairy vetch twenty-five to thirty pounds.

Numbers three and four are probably the most popular cover crops in the province to-day, and form one of the best mats for the winter season, while at the same time combining both the legume and the cereal.

Fifth—Rye, one and one quarter bushels. As a single, separate cover crop it is used largely where the soil is not at all rich.

Sixth—Rape, three to five pounds. It is not considered a good cover crop, but many farmers sow it in the older orchards and hog it down later in the fall.

Seventh—Red clover, eighteen pounds.

Eighth—Peas and oats mixed, two bushels. This latter is not used to any extent as a cover crop, but should be a good one in that it gives a rapid growth

right after planting, and forms a good mat to hold the snow. One objection to it is that there is little or no growth from it in the spring. Many orchard growers like a cover crop that will start up again in the spring, and give considerable growth before being plowed down.

Cover crops for southern Ontario as a rule should be sown between July first and August first. For central Ontario the date of sowing should be a couple of weeks earlier. Later sowings give only short growth before winter.

Orchard growers in general should make it a point to have their orchard ground in the very best of condition previous to sowing the cover crop, in order that a good stand may be secured and a heavy growth made as early as possible. In a few orchards of which I know, mouse-eared chickweed grows so rapidly that it is only necessary to stop cultivation in order to have a good cover crop of this weed come on. In another orchard in Norfolk county the soil is so moist that it is kept in sod the whole year round, yet the fruit shows plenty of size, and takes on an excellent color. A few orchard growers in Ontario never make use of a cover crop at all, using clean cultivation the whole season through. About the end of June they heavily roll the land, which causes it to dry out in much the same way as a cover crop would suck away the moisture.

Of course the greatest good cannot be secured from any cover crop, unless the other care of the orchard, such as pruning and spraying receives every attention.

#### Marketing the Cherry Crop\*

It is when the cherries are ripe for picking that the cherry grower's worries often begin. Poor marketing methods may result in the wiping out of the profits that should result from the work of a year or perhaps several years.

Care should be exercised in picking. The stem must be left on each cherry intended for shipment otherwise the juice would spoil the whole package. If picked for the canning factory or for immediate use, this precaution is not necessary.

#### PREPARING TO ATTRACT THE TRADE

Shipments are made in eleven quart and in six quart baskets, principally the former. The purchase of the baskets is a serious item of expense. We fill each basket full of carefully selected cherries, then the stems of the top layer are turned under—making a great improvement in the appearance of the package. A sprig of green leaves is also placed on the

\*An article prepared some months ago for The Canadian Horticulturist by the late W. B. Leavens, Prince Edward Co., who had one of the largest cherry orchards in this province.