

growth. On the 23rd the temperature stood at 75°, and on the 24th it was bitterly cold and snowing. The rest of the month we had freezing weather. Apparently as a consequence of all this, scarce an orchard or garden in this section escaped the blight last summer. The Flemish Beauty of course suffered most. Many trees in their prime were nearly destroyed. Bartlets and Seckels went almost unscathed.

In my own garden not one of sixteen trees, embracing both dwarf and standard, were touched, while just over the fence in all directions were blighted trees. I have been casting about in my own mind for a reason for this singular exemption. It was not that my trees were of varieties not subject to blight, for among them were several Flemish Beauties. It was not that they were too young, (though they have hardly begun to bear,) for elsewhere were trees as young or younger blighted. It was not because they stood in cultivated ground, for in garden and sward trees suffered alike. It was not that my soil was drier and more congenial, for it is not underdrained. The only difference of which I am aware in the treatment of my own and the surrounding trees, is that mine have regularly received the caustic ashes from the household fires. These have been scattered to the extent of a scuttleful at a time around each tree, and the process has been repeated several times in the year. Is this the cause of my exemption from blight? While aware of the danger of insufficient data and hasty generalization I can conjecture no other. If unleached ashes are, to some extent at least, a prophylactic against the blight, how do they act? Not, I apprehend, as a specific antidote to the poisonous virus. Is it not rather that they engender such a healthy habit of constitution that no appropriate nidus for the baneful germs of the blight is found?

I present this case with all diffidence, presuming upon the invitation you have extended to your readers to send communications on matters of common interest, and hope that it may serve to elicit the views of more experienced readers of the *HORTICULTURIST* upon this vexed matter.

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There is much work to be done in the fruit garden that may be preparatory to the busy time of spring. All such work as the getting ready of the trellises and supports of grape vines, raspberries, etc., may be done now with great advantage.