

take two strings the same length as the distance apart at which the trees are to be planted, fasten the end of one to the first and the other to the second stake in the first row, then stretch the free ends out till they meet, this point will mark the position for the first tree in the second row.

Whichever method of arrangement is adopted the trees should be set in perfectly straight lines, the first tree, no matter which way we look, hiding every other tree in the row. Crooked rows are not only an eyesore, but during cultivation they endanger the lives of the trees as well as the morals of the man who has to cultivate them. To assist in getting the rows straight, the position of each tree should be marked by a little stake before the holes are dug. Then when planting use a "planting board." This may be five or six feet long and six inches wide, with a notch in one side at the middle, just large enough to let in the trunk of a small tree, and a hole at each end at equal distances from this notch. When a hole is to be dug place this notch about the stake and put a peg through each hole at the end. The board may then be taken up and the hole dug. When the tree is to be planted replace the board over the pegs and place the tree in the notch. It will thus stand in the exact position as the stake which marked the hole.

FERTILIZATION OF BLOSSOMS. That the blossoms of a tree may "set" or become fruit, they must be fertilized with pollen from their own or some other tree. It has long been known, however, that nature abhors self-fertilization, and that she resorts to various modifications of the flower to prevent it and thus secure if possible cross-fertilization. Bees and other insects flying from flower to flower are the chief agents in distributing the pollen and bringing about cross-fertilization.

In accord with this many varieties of apples have been found to be more or less self-sterile—that is, their pollen will not properly fertilize their own blossoms, although it may be quite potent on the blossoms of some other variety. Recent experiments conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture have clearly shown this to be the case with many varieties of pears, and even those varieties which are self-fertile were found to bear larger fruit and more of it, when fertilized with pollen from some other variety.

In planting an orchard, therefore, while it is well to avoid planting a multiplicity of varieties, yet it is important to avoid planting too large a block of any one variety.

TRANSPLANTING. There is quite a diversity of opinion as to the proper time for planting trees. It may be done in either spring or fall when the tree is dormant. As a rule, however, planting in early spring is the safest in our climate.