

QUESTION DRAWER.

Wheat in the Orchard.

1153. SIR.—A neighbor of mine who set out some apple trees three or four years ago, sowed wheat in the same field last year and now three-fourths of his trees are dead.

He attributes the loss of his trees to the wheat being around them. He also tells me that his brother-in-law sowed wheat in his orchard and some of his trees also died, and his neighbors told him that he would lose all his trees if he continued the practice.

Now is it known that wheat takes such an effect upon fruit trees, or has there been any such case brought before the notice of the Fruit Growers' Association before? Kindly reply through Canadian Horticulturist and oblige.—Yours respectfully,

Cobourg.

J. J. GORMLY.

The growing of wheat, oats or barley in an orchard is condemned by the best orchardists, because such grain robs the soil of phosphoric acid to an alarming extent, and because of the mechanical action of such crops in robbing the soil of its moisture. The weakened growth resulting seems to leave the trees most susceptible to the borer, and other evils, so that indirectly wheat growing may have caused the death of the trees referred to.

Treatment of Amaryllis.

1154. SIR.—Would you please give in the Horticulturist instructions for treatment of a white Amaryllis. I planted one last September and it has not made root yet. The leaves shot out, then died away. The bulb is large, hard and dry.

A SEAFORTH SUBSCRIBER.

The bulb referred to has probably been watered all the winter, when it should have been resting, or possibly the soil may have become sour for want of proper drainage. I would advise that the bulb be shaken out clean from the soil it is in, and all decayed roots removed. Repot the bulb into a mixture of equal parts of enriched loam and sharp, clean sand; pot into a comparatively small pot, a six-inch pot is large enough for a good sized bulb; use fully an inch of

broken pot at the bottom for drainage. The top of the bulb should be just above the surface of the soil when repotted. A handful of sand placed around the base of the bulb will help it to start root action. Water well once, and plunge the pot in coal ashes out of doors until fall, it will require very little water during summer, and still less in winter. For further treatment of Amaryllis see May number of Horticulturist for 1899.

Hamilton.

W. HUNT.

Dwarf Trees.

1155. SIR.—Can I make dwarf apples by getting one-year-old trees and training them to branch out near the ground?

Newburgh.

J. GAUDIER.

This would not be a proper method of making dwarf apple trees; for, as ordinarily grafted, the growth is too vigorous to be kept back by pruning. Dwarf apples are made by using a dwarf or slow-growing variety of apple, such as the Paradise or Doucin as stock, and in consequence the growth is checked and the tree bears earlier. For the commercial orchard, however, this is not advised in the case of the apple.

Planting Fruit Trees.

1156. SIR.—I intend to plant two or three hundred trees next year. Would it be best to buy in the fall and bury in the ground until spring. Would you recommend one, two or three-year-old trees?

Newburgh.

J. GAUDIER.

It only gives increased labor to buy trees in the fall and bury them until spring, and it is best to buy just when the trees are needed for planting, allowing them to remain out of the ground as little time as possible.

Apple, pear and plum trees are usually planted at three years of age from the graft, while the cherry is better planted at two years from the bud.