

## Buying Trees in the Fall

By H. E. Van Deman

It is the nature of a large part of those who contemplate planting fruit trees and other kinds of nursery stock, to put it off just as long as possible. By far the larger part of the planting is done in the spring. Laying aside the arguments that might be advanced regarding the advisability of planting in the fall (for this may not be done alike in all sections or with all kinds), there is one plan that I have often followed with much profit. This is the buying of nursery stock in the fall and keeping it for spring planting.

The reasons for doing this are as follows: Nurserymen are usually willing to sell cheaper in the fall than in spring; there is no possibility of injury from the following winter, if the proper care is taken of the stock: there is a chance to select from the entire stock as grown; there can be no spring delays in getting orders filled or from slow transportation; injuries to the roots will be healed and new rootlets formed ready for an early start in the spring. In case trees are bought in the fall, whether planted at once or not, there should be no delay in getting them securely heeled in. If the bundles are hastily stuck in the ground, with only their roots hidden from sight, there is apt to be cause for repentance. Protracted rains, a rush of other work, sickness, or some other hindrance may cause them to stay for weeks, or all winter, where they were expected to be only for a night. I have seen so much damage from insufficient heeling in, although very little on my own grounds, that it makes me weary.

A place should be selected for digging the trenches where the soil is mellow and moist, but not wet, or liable for the water to stand, and where all livestock can be fenced out. Dig the trenches east and west. Throw the earth to the southward, making a long slope from the bottom of the trench to the top of the bank. It should be about two spades deep. Unpack the trees, removing all straw, moss, etc., used in packing. Untie every bundle larger than two or three trees. Provide as many stakes 2 ft. long as there are varieties of trees or plants. Trim the roots as if the planting was to be done at once, and the tops as well. This will allow the wounds to heal, and there will be that much less to bother with and to evaporate sap. Spread out a single variety, putting the roots well down into the trench. Stick one of the stakes beside the trees that will lie next previous, and write the name with a pencil on a smooth place at the top. In like manner lay in the next, and the next, staking each carefully, until the trench is full. Scatter mellow, finely pulverized soil over the roots and tops too. Shake and tramp the earth well among them. Cover deeply, that there may be no damage, and little opportunity for frost to reach them. So fixed, there will be no injury from the sweeping blizzards, rabbits or cattle. The cuts will callous and the rootlets will start out long before the ground will be ready to receive them in spring. Such trees will be better than those planted in the fall where there is danger of winter injury, either in the orchard or nursery. Bush fruits and grapevines will be equally benefited by such treatment. Strawberries should be handled in the spring only.

## Fall Treatment for Hessian Fly

Reports are coming to the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, complaining of serious ravages of the Hessian fly in wheat fields. In many cases, it is being claimed that among the early sown fields hardly a plant has escaped attack. The question is frequently asked whether it will pay to resow at this late date. In all cases where the first sowing has been destroyed by the fly, the ground should be replowed before sowing. In fact, it may be said that if fields have been ravaged past all possibility of securing a

profitable crop next year, such fields should be ploughed this fall, or very early next spring, preferably the former. It is probably too late, now, to risk resowing this fall, but it must be understood, that if left above ground, the fly will develop in these fields next spring and go to other fields to work its ravages.

As to how seriously a field must be infested to warrant ploughing under this fall, that is a matter that each farmer must settle for himself. If the soil is rich and the weather during fall and spring very favorable for plant growth, the grain will yet send up a second growth of tillers this fall, which, if they withstand the winter, with a very favorable spring will supply enough straw to produce a part of a crop. But the risk is great, and no one, not on the ground, can safely advise in the matter.

Late sown wheat is escaping, very largely, the fall attacks of the fly, but the close proximity to a seriously injured field will endanger even a late sown field to attack next spring, unless the early sown field is ploughed under before the adult flies appear.—*Press Bulletin*.

## Poultry Diseases in the Fall

With the sudden changes from warm and pleasant weather to cold rains and high winds, that are sure to prevail in fall, there come many complaints from poultry raisers. These come mainly from the farmers, for the reason that the expert poultry raiser's experience has taught him that he must anticipate these changes and be prepared for them. The man who lets his fowls roost in trees and on the fences when these fall changes come is the one who complains of having sick hens. He finds some of them sniffing and sneezing, some with matter exuding from their nostrils; some standing around in places where they can find protection from the winds and enjoy the warmth of the sunshine. They will stand there humped up, with pale combs, showing every symptom of sickness. There are some fowls that pass through such ordeals and seem to be none the worse for them. This fact is very misleading, for it causes the owner to wonder why all of his flock are not so hardy, when the wonder should be that any are under such conditions. The man who imagines that his fowls can "pick up" all the food they need during the summer also begins to be troubled with mysterious diseases among his fowls. His calculations were based on theory, not actual facts. He did not stop to think that a moulting fowl requires a varied diet of wholesome food. The flock, if it is a large one, will soon exhaust the natural food supply other than herbage, and fowls cannot be expected to thrive on green food alone. The man who has been resolving he would attend to the needed repairs of the poultry house before fall set in, but never did, is now confronted with ropy fowls. The roosts near the broken window panes, the wide cracks between the sides and ends of the house and the leaky places in the roof have become prolific sources of ailments. Inquiries are then sent out to get information regarding remedies. One man declares his flock has a "mysterious disease"; another has fed "all the corn they would eat, but the fowls will get sick"; another admits the hens have been compelled to find their own living the entire summer and are almost naked, but cannot understand why they should be ailing. In the latter case common sense should proclaim the fact that lack of proper nourishment prevents the hens being dressed in a new fall suit.

What are the remedies for such ills as these? Avoiding the causes that produce them. Neglect has simply borne the usual fruit. The adage that "neglects are costly" never fails to prove true in poultry raising. The man who is continually having so-called poor luck in raising poultry is the one who is always neglecting to observe the essentials that success hinges upon. The good luck man looks carefully after the little details, knowing full well the "little things" attended to in season will prevent undesirable results later on.