

Horticulture.

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Dwarf Apple Trees.

A few years ago a certain portion of the community were wonderfully excited over dwarf apple trees, praising them to the skies, recommending them wherever a tree was to be planted, and giving them the preference to standard trees in all places and under all circumstances. One writer went so far as to say that he would rather have a garden of dwarf apple trees than fifty acres of land for agricultural purposes. One could not read such laudations of those lovely little pets without a feeling of pity, akin to that which we sometimes feel on having a particular friend praised altogether above his merits, and given credit for qualities that he never possessed, knowing, as we all do, that a reaction must and will be the result of such undue praise. Some of these same writers, who had at one time ascribed to these dwarf apple trees every conceivable good quality, seem to have ransacked their vocabulary for harsh epithets to throw at them but a year or two afterwards. That thousands of trees, sold at the time alluded to as dwarf apples, deserved to be condemned as worthless there is no doubt, from the simple fact that every stunted little apple tree, upon whatever stock it might be grown, was palmed off upon the gullible public as a genuine dwarf apple; and there is no doubt but that hundreds of our people will be cheated again this spring with such articles by these brazen-faced tree agents.

Every valuable genuine article is sure to be counterfeited, and surely the dwarf apple tree has had its share of it.

Perhaps it would be well to state before going further what is meant by a genuine dwarf apple tree in this country. Any young tree can be made dwarfish by various kinds of treatment, but the true dwarf apple, about which I am writing, is any variety of apple grafted or budded upon the true Paradise apple stock. And here let me say that I do not mean plants raised from the seed of the Paradise apple, but from layers or cuttings from it. If the stock upon which we graft our intended dwarf apples, shall be grown from the seed of the Paradise apple, somebody will be disappointed, as they will not reproduce themselves true from seed, if grown near where other varieties of apples shall be in flower at the same time.

My opinion then, founded upon twenty-five years' experience of dwarf apples worked upon such stock as I have described, is as follows, viz. They are not so well suited to large and profitable orchard culture as standard trees, but for the amateur fruit garden for city, town or village, they will give more satisfaction than any other. Being of slow growth of wood, they produce more fruit spurs, and consequently more fruit, and will be more hardy to resist cold than standard trees. Some varieties will begin to bear when they are not more than two feet high. And it is hard to conceive of a more beautiful object than a dwarf apple tree in full flower. No wonder that Henry Ward Beecher should say, "It is not content with a single bloom for each apple that is to be, but a profusion, a prodigality of blossom there must be. The tree is but a huge bouquet. It gives you twenty times as much as there is need for, and evidently because it loves the blossom." And then to see them bearing the immense crop of Red Astracans, Benjamins, or Golden Sweeties, reminds one of those little bronze boys we sometimes see crouched with the weight of a large lump upon his shoulders. And when the fruit is ripening, and we wish to pick the first apples of the season, what a pleasure it is to be able

to stand upon the ground instead of climbing, or knocking them from the tree with stick or stone.

Nor are they half so likely to be blown from the tree by the wind as those growing upon the tall tree. And oh, what a pleasure is afforded persons in the various circumstances of life, who shall themselves have planted, but a year or two before, the small garden, in town or city it may be, with these lovely little trees, to pick from them so soon such beautiful fruit.

No fruit is half so delicious as that picked from the trees or vines our own hands have aided in planting.—CHARLES ARNOLD, *Paris, Ont.*

Restoring Girdled Trees.

One year ago I set out a number of standard pear trees; this winter, while the ground was covered with snow, the rabbits ruined most of them by peeling the bark off for several inches above ground. They are not entirely circled. Is there any way to save them? Would it do to eat them off above the graft, and what would be the proper time?—E. S. Mason Co., W. Va. [If a portion of the bark remains and they are not completely girdled, they will continue to grow, and it would be well to cover the

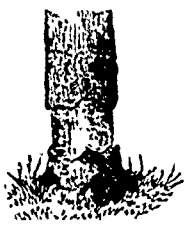


FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.

injured part with grafting wax. If entirely girdled, as in fig. 1, they may be saved by connecting the bark above and below by means of a few twigs sharpened like a wedge at each end, and crowded into incisions made with a narrow chisel (figs. 2 and 3). They may then be covered with wax or with embanked soil. If eaten nearly around, one or two of these twigs would be useful. If, however, the trees are small, the best and easiest way would probably be to cut down very early in spring to the lower edge of the girdling, and train up a vigorous shoot for a new stem.]—



FIG. 3.

Cor. Country Gentleman.

Apples for South Monaghan.

Replying to the inquiry of our correspondent, "A. B.," we may say that it is necessary in selecting varieties for this section to pay attention to the hardiness of the tree. The climate may be termed severe, though not equalling in that respect many other parts of the Province, yet quite severe enough to make it very important that the intending planter inquire carefully into the reputation which the varieties he desires to plant may have for being able to withstand extremely cold weather. Among the early varieties, the Red Astracan may be named as very hardy, while it is a good fruit, of fair size and beautiful appearance. Those who were members of the Fruit Growers' Association a few years ago, will be familiar with the appearance of this apple, for a very accurate and well colored picture of it was sent in the report to every member. Following it in time of ripening we may mention the *Duchess of Oldenburgh*, which is even more hardy, very handsome, and valuable, especially for cooking, being sufficiently tart for all culinary purposes. Then comes the *St. Lawrence*, not sufficiently tart for kitchen use, but a good dessert fruit, which is hardly gone before the *Alexander* may be used both for dessert and kitchen, if so large an apple can be ever allowed at dessert. The

Ribstone Pippin will no doubt do well, and no one wishes to pass the winter without the *Snow Apple*; and when that is gone, the *Golden Russet* will keep up the supply until late in the spring.

Attention has been turned to the production of good varieties of long-keeping apples, the trees of which will endure the greatest extremes of cold, and which are sometimes called *Iron-Clads*. Of this class are all the Siberian Crab Apples; and while the finer varieties of these are most excellent for all culinary purposes, making much richer and finer flavored pies and puddings than the other apples, and a few are passable as dessert fruit, yet the size is comparatively so small, and the season of ripening so early, that much labor has been bestowed in the effort to produce trees equally hardy and yet yielding larger fruit and fruit that may be kept until strawberries come. The writer is testing some of these new *Iron-Clad* varieties, and hopes in a few years to be able to give the readers of the *CANADA FARMER* the benefit of his trial of such varieties as the *Powaukee*, *Walbridge*, *Plumb's Cider*, *Baltimore*, *Allen Russet*, *Ackerman*, *Clark's Orange*, and *Wealthy*, which have acquired some reputation as extremely hardy sorts, in use during the winter.

Evergreens for Windbreaks.

The *Western Rural* says that Norway spruce and white pine are among the fastest growing evergreens, and do well on a variety of soils; that they are of rapid growth, and usually healthy trees. For general planting the *Rural* prefers the Norway spruce, and says the best success in transplanting was when the terminal bud was just beginning to break, as at that time the roots are active and the trees full of sap; and remarks that we should never advise the planting of large trees, especially for growing into windbreaks.

We wish to call the attention of the readers of the *CANADA FARMER* to these very useful suggestions. Evergreens three feet high are very expensive things of which to make a windbreak, not only in the first cost, but in the cost of handling, transporting, planting, and loss from failure to grow. Young trees cost less, are more likely to live and thrive, and can be trimmed to suit the wishes or necessities of the cultivator. They can be bought from 6 to 9 inches high, once transplanted, direct from the importers, for five dollars per hundred, while three feet trees cost thirty.

PEAR BLIGHT.—Mayor Ludlow has achieved great success in treating diseased fruit trees, pears among the number. His remedy is within the reach of all classes, and consists of boiled linseed oil applied copiously to the affected parts. Some of the cures effected by him have been little less than marvellous.—*Rural Register*.

A FRENCH horticulturist has perceived that, wherever a fruit—a pear, for instance—rested upon some branch or other support beneath it, that fruit always grew to a large size. The support given to the fruit permits the sap vessels of the stem to remain open, and the fruit can receive abundant nourishment. Mr. Thomas Meehan made substantially the same observation some years ago.

PROMOTING FRUITFULNESS.—The *Prairie Farmer* says: "When it is desirable to throw a tree or an orchard into fruiting, because of wood growth being very vigorous without fruit-buds, remedies may be practised. Ceasing cultivation and sowing the ground to clover or grass often works well, but must not be continued too long. Root-pruning, hacking the trees, and pinching or shortening in the young shoots have the same effect, but practically, we should prefer ceasing cultivation and seeding down. Severe summer pruning would perhaps produce such results, but is too severe upon the vitality of the tree. Trees not pruned at all often bear earlier than others."