

A Closely Planted Wealthy Apple Orchard

W. T. Macoun, Horticulturist, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa

CONSIDERABLE interest has been shown in the results obtained from a small, closely planted Wealthy apple orchard at the Central Experimental Farm. There are 129 trees in this orchard, occupying about one-third of an acre, and planted in the spring of 1896. The trees were originally 10 by 10 feet apart, but a few have died. Full details regarding the returns from this orchard were published in the annual report for 1904.

In that report it was shown that the average net profit per acre from the time of planting was \$54.13, and from the time of fruiting, \$106.19. There was a heavy crop in the orchard in 1904, and the crop in 1905 was medium. The total crop produced was 1,247 gallons, of which 631 was picked fruit and 616 windfalls. Part of the windfalls were sold in baskets as they were good apples, and they brought fair prices.

These receipts and expenditures are estimated from about one-third of an acre (40-121) and the estimated figures per acre are given on the assumption that the percentage of sales in boxes and baskets would be the same from a full acre. A record is kept of the time actually spent in caring for this orchard and the other expenses incurred. Labor is valued at 15 cents an hour. There was no expense for cultivating since

1902, as the trees being close cultivation is impossible. The grass that grows is left to die down and rot.

As the trees were beginning to inter-lace, about half of them were severely headed back in the spring of 1905, and the remainder were thus treated this spring. The apples on the trees headed

back were much larger than on the others, and while the crop was reduced somewhat, the greater percentage of marketable fruit compensated to a considerable extent for the loss of crop. The orchard received a heavy application of barnyard manure in December, 1904.

Sale of Fruit from Closely Planted Wealthy Orchard, 1905		Estimated Per Acre
Sold, 203 baskets at 17½c.....	\$ 35 52	\$107 45
“ 22 baskets at 20c.....	4 40	13 31
“ 2 bags at 25c.....	0 50	1 51
“ 42 boxes (Glasgow) at \$1.46.....	61 32	185 49
	<u>\$101 74</u>	<u>\$307 76</u>
EXPENSES, 1905		
225 baskets and covers at \$5.25 per 100.....	\$ 11 81	\$ 35 73
42 boxes at 14½c.....	6 09	18 42
Freight on boxes.....	14 94	45 19
Commission on sales.....	6 92	20 93
Rent of land.....	0 99	3 00
Spraying.....	2 49	7 53
Picking fruit.....	9 00	27 22
Grading and packing fruit.....	8 41	25 44
Barnyard manure (8 tons at 50c.).....	4 00	12 10
Pruning.....	3 00	9 07
	<u>\$67 65</u>	<u>\$204 63</u>
Net Profit, 1905.....	34 09	103 13
Average net profit per acre per year, 1896-1905.....		59 03
Average net profit per acre per year, 1899-1905.....		105 75



Closely Planted Apple Trees in Fruit at Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa

(Photograph by Prof. F. T. Shutt.)

Pruning Plums and Peaches

“My system of pruning plums and peaches,” said Mr. Jos. Tweddle, of Fruitland, “is to head in vigorously and thin out. While this system is more expensive than the ordinary system of thinning, without heading, I find it well repays the extra expense by the increase in the size of the fruit.

“This system has doubled the size of my plums and peaches especially, when the trees have been low in vitality. I also practise this on pears and apples, where trees are below the normal vitality. It invigorates the trees and brings them back into increased growth. Five years’ experience has convinced me of the value of this method.”

Apples must be grown successfully before much can be accomplished in selling. The greatest difficulty is experienced with growers who have 30 to 50 barrels, and who do not spray or care for their orchards.—D. Johnson, Forest.