

## On Planting and Cultivating an Apple Orchard.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER :

SIR,—Having had some experience as a cultivator of fruit, perhaps a few remarks on the subject may not be unacceptable to some at least of your numerous readers.

I have found that (other things being equal) Northern slopes are more favourable for orchards than Southern ones, especially for a young orchard; the scorching summer sun, and the severe droughts to which this part of Canada is subject, will often seriously injure young trees on a Southern slope. The great success of fruit culture in the Northern slopes of Western New York, and in the Niagara Peninsula of Canada is proof in point.

Orchards planted on flat level land, especially if clay or muck soil, are almost sure to die sooner or later; such soils are not good for orchards, but if used they should always be made dry, and free from water at or near the surface, as heavy soils cannot be made too dry.

I find it best to prepare the holes or pits for the trees some days before planting, and then place the trees with great care and pains, for planting in haste is a loss of labour and capital, more or less. I will give a case in point: Some years ago I met a neighbour of mine one afternoon, who informed me that he had planted upwards of 100 apple trees that forenoon. I told him that I had been engaged the same way the same time, but I had only planted some 8 or 10; at which he seemed much delighted at his superior prowess. I contented myself by stating to him that at the end of 20 years, my 10 trees would be as valuable as his 100 trees. And now, Mr. Editor, at the end of 26 years from that day, a gentleman who is well acquainted with the facts, says to me that three of my 10 trees, are worth the whole orchard that was so planted in a half-day, or the remaining balance of it—being about 50 trees, such as they are. But the subsequent care and management is of as much importance as the planting. Meadow, particularly clover, is very bad for a young orchard; such hoed crops as potatoes and beans, and even Indian corn are very suitable. I prepare for corn by good manuring, ploughing, harrowing, &c., after which the land is marked out so that a hill is made where the marks cross, and an apple tree, always in the row, occupying the place of a hill of corn, so that in cultivating and hoeing each way the tree gets the same dressing as the corn. I pursued this course with a young orchard planted two years ago, and I am not aware of one of equal thrift and vigor within some miles.

Yet corn is not so good for trees of a larger growth, for it being such a hungry feeder, its strong roots penetrating the earth to a depth around the roots of the trees, draws away a large portion of the nourishment. Crops of wheat, rye, oats, or barley, should only be grown in an orchard at intervals of 4 or 5 years, and about as seldom to grass, (but not red clover at all,) such as herds grass, orchard grass, or white clover.

I cannot agree with some very excellent men, that apple trees may be planted 18 or 20 or 25 feet apart. My own experience and observation for 34 years, induces me to favour 35 or 40 feet, instead of a less distance. To support this view, facts and arguments might be adduced that would, in my humble opinion, convince the most sceptical. Yet, let every man be fully satisfied in his own ways.

Yours respectfully,

A. MORSE.

Pomona Farm, Smithville, April, 1864.

**CORNISH MODE OF RAISING EARLY POTATOES.**—Sprouting the seed is now universally practiced wherever early maturity is desired. This is done in the following manner. An airy light room or loft, with windows to be closed in severe weather, has tiers of shelves filling up all its available space. These are often, from lack of room, too close to each other, and a foot from shelf to shelf may be given as a good average distance. On these shelves the seed is carefully placed, each on its end; one sack weighing two cwt. will thus require about thirty square feet of superficial space. With a due supply of light and air, and the occasional removal of any tuber showing signs of disease, they may remain till planting time comes. The great object is to secure strong, healthy and well-coloured shoots, about two inches in length; the neglect of ventilation and a proper amount of light producing weak, colourless shoots, liable both to injury in removing them, and to decay when planted. The earliest crops are now invariably grown from sprouted seed, and they are drawn a good fortnight in advance of the common mode when autumnal planting was the rule.—*Journal of Horticulture.*

## Collecting Seeds of Forest Trees.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER :

SIR,—Having read with much pleasure the article on "Forest Management," in No. 1 of THE CANADA FARMER, which was handed to me by a friend, I would like to draw your attention to an item which may be for some of our bush-farmers a new source of industry, it is the collecting of the seeds of our forest trees. This would not be an article of trade for Canada, yet always will find a ready market in Germany.

Some parts of Prussia, once as thickly wooded as Canada, would have been devastated in the same manner as Canadian farmers are doing now, but it was, at the right time, hindered by a Royal rescript. The owners of estates, with forests on their property, have to seed down the same amount of acres as they have cut down. To facilitate the getting of the seeds, kilns are erected in those parts of the empire where the largest royal forests are. The most saleable of those seeds would be pine, tamarack, and maple. The pines should be separated—white, red and yellow pines.

Although not a merchant myself, I am willing to show to any person the way to the best market in Germany.

Do you know of any person who has any of the above mentioned seeds? Please give me their address.

WILLIAM MAYNER,

Architect and Provincial Land Surveyor.

Montreal, 24th April, 1864.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—We do not know of any seedsmen in Canada who keeps the seeds enquired for by our correspondent, but we believe Thorburn, of New York, always has them on hand.

☞ Clean saw-dust scattered among strawberry plants, will not only enrich the land, but will keep the fruit clean and free from grit. Tan-bark between the rows is beneficial, keeping the ground moist and finally enriching the soil.

J. H. T.

Brooklin, C. W.

**MANAGEMENT OF GREENHOUSE.**—The majority of greenhouse plants love abundance of light, a mild, moist air and a soil composed of about equal proportions of fine sand, leaf mold, peat, or turfy earth, and very old stable dung. The soil should not be sifted, but the ingredients must be well chopped and mixed together. Geraniums dislike manure, and do best in clean turfy loam, made light by an admixture of sand.

I should advise an amateur not to attempt the growth of too many sorts of plants, but to have a good stock of calceolarias, petunias, geraniums, pelargoniums, fuchsias, fairy roses, hydrangeas, verbenas, alonsoas and heliotropes, and, unless he has plenty of time and means, to abstain from the growth of cactuses, aloes, nepenthes, and heaths and epacrises, as they involve much trouble, and require a purer air than that of towns. Give roses, pelargonius, fuchsias and hydrangeas the richest soil, and scarlet geraniums the poorest; keep calceolarias always moist, and use bog-earth in the compost.

In the first instance, purchase some good stock plants of a respectable nursery-man. Prefer strong dwarf plants to those that have run up like Lombardy poplars in search of light. In September, when the plants are brought in, cut them down low, leaving only three or four short stems to each plant, and always cut back to a good eye. Re-pot the plants in good soil, and in pots as small as the size of the plants will allow; if the pots are the least too large for any of the herbaceous plants, they are apt to run away in leaf and produce but few flowers. Give them a good watering to settle the roots, and let them grow slowly, but healthily, during the winter. In watering, never use cold water as it comes from a cistern, but add a little warm sufficient to make it comfortable to the hand but not so warm that steam shall be visible from it. I have long been in the habit of adding a minute pinch of soda or potash to every can of water, and have seen its good effect in the healthy appearance of my plants.—*Town Garden.*

**THE BEAN.**—It is much with the bean as with other fruit—it wants cultivation and attendance. Like corn, it does not want hoeing, farther than to kill the weeds. A mellow soil is particularly its liking; and a little sand or gravel is grateful. It will then do well in poor soil, though better if a little rich. We

have known the heaviest crops raised from rich soils—corn-producing soil. They will even do well among corn. We have seen this done largely, and see it every year. But the bean will grow where corn won't; and it will give you a white, marketable berry. Your soil rich, rows close, and hilled, i.e., ground drawn up to them, and then wet weather supervening, your beans are pretty sure of getting dark-coloured. Free cultivation in mellowing the ground and keeping it clear of weeds; the rows with plenty of air circulating through—a little nearer together than corn, otherwise treated much like it—is what you want. As to harvesting beans, it is considered the most difficult job. Many beans have been lost by not being well secured. We have lost them ourselves. They should be pulled much as you gather grain and corn, before too ripe, when the leaves are yet green, and the berry is yet soft—not milky. This seems early, but it is not. It puts your beans out of the way of the frost; it gives them a chance to ripen and to dry; and they will be plump, white and shiny—a sound, ivory bean, that will rattle when you pour it into the measure. There is great difference in the price of beans. Such a bean as we have described will command from a quarter to a third more in market, and less trouble is required with it than to get a poor quality. With beans it is knowing how to do it, more than with most grains. The best seed should always be selected for planting. Equal in size and equal in ripening, are the points.—*Valley Farmer.*

## Veterinary Department.

### Worms in Horses.

ANIMAL parasites are sometimes found in the intestinal canal of a horse in very large numbers; they often exist without producing any perceptible disturbance in the economy; yet, in some cases they unquestionably produce irritation, suffering, and ill health. The usual disease with which worms are connected is indigestion, known by fetid breath, tucked up belly, staring coat, loss of flesh, voracious appetite, and slimy stools. Worms—excepting bots—are supposed by some to be of spontaneous origin; but our opinion is, that they are the result of a perverted state of the parts in which they appear. The long, round worm is an inhabitant of the small intestines; and the pin, or thread worm, is generally found in the large intestines and rectum.

**Treatment.**—Various are the remedies used for the expulsion of worms. The chief are, wood ashes, poplar bark, sulphur, salt, castor oil, turpentine, calomel, tartar emetic, and aloes; either of which will sometimes bring away a quantity of worms. But the difficulty does not end here; the worms will generate so long as that morbid habit which gives rise to them exists; hence the course invariably pursued by the author is to change the morbid habit by alteratives and vermifuges combined. The following is a good example of the same:—

White mustard seed (whole); powdered mandrake sulphur; powdered wormseed (*chenopodium anthelminticum*); salt, ginger, and charcoal; of each two ounces. Poplar bark, one pound. Mix. Dose, one ounce, night and morning, in the food. Under the exhibition of this medicine, aided by proper dietary regulations, the animal will gradually improve in condition, and in the course of a short time the worms will disappear. Should the rectum abound in pin worms, an injection of salt will be indicated.

The following vermifuge is occasionally prescribed by the author, and it has, in some cases, brought away large quantities of worms:—

Castor oil, 12 ounces; oil of wormseed, 1 ounce; oil of tansy, 3 drachms.

To be given on an empty stomach, followed by mashes of fine feed or shorts, well seasoned with salt. To be repeated, if necessary, until the bowels respond.—*Dr. Dadd.*

### Prevention better than Cure of Disease.

To keep animals in health, is more important than to cure sick ones, and for this purpose a few leading rules should be always observed, and which cannot be out of place here.

1. Always feed regularly, as to time and quantity. Many animals are made sick by starving at one time, and stuffing at another. Especially never over-feed.

2. The same rule must be observed with watering—and let the water be pure.

3. Never over-work animals—regular and moderate exercise will enable a working animal to do more the year through, by all odds, than any hurried driving at one time and resting and over-feeding at another, and be infinitely less liable to disease.