

in all cases where it is practicable, to buy direct of the grower.

Pruning has destroyed millions of trees. This is more true in the Cold North than elsewhere, but it is true everywhere. Each wound made by the knife or saw is a danger and an injury. By beginning right and making the subject a study, trees may be grown to maturity without a scar. The earnest, intelligent orchardist should bear these prime facts in mind and govern himself accordingly. Yet ill-grown trees must sometimes be pruned. When this is the case, the first question is as to the proper season. The governing principle in all cases is to have as small an exposed surface as possible for the winter's cold to act upon. This bars out fall-pruning, in our climate, altogether. When pruning is done early in April, the wound will go on healing all Summer, and many of the smaller cuts will be nearly or quite healed by the Fall. In July all that will not be so healed should be covered with some elastic waterproof cement. The best that I am acquainted with is made as follows: Take one quart of fine North Carolina tar, and boil it slowly for three or four hours. Add to the boiling tar four ounces of tallow and one pound of beeswax, and, when melted, stir until well mixed. Then remove the vessel from the fire and stir the contents until partially cooled. Have ready one pound of dry, powdered and sifted clay. When the cement begins to thicken, stir this into it. Continue the stirring until the mass is nearly cold, so that the clay will not settle to the bottom. In summer weather this cement is just soft enough to be easily spread with the point of a knife. When applied to wounds on the tree, it completely excludes moisture, does not harden or crack off, yields to the growth of the new bark, and can at any time in moderately warm weather be pressed by the finger into the corners and crevices of the wound which may be uncovered. Tar differs somewhat in consistency, but comes to about the same thickness when well boiled, which is also necessary to drive out the turpentine oil that would, in some cases, injure the tree. This composition is almost identical with the imported "*L'Homme Lefort Mastic.*"