

otherwise, when the rush of spring work comes on it is apt to be neglected.

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SETTLE AT ONCE upon the varieties you wish to plant or to top graft, and order in good time, lest you be obliged to accept substitutes or do without for a year. The reports of the Ontario Fruit Stations are of great value to intending planters, because the information given is entirely in the interest of fruit growers, and not of the nursery men.

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DWARF PEARS should be well cut back. The pyramidal form is the ideal for them, but is scarcely practicable unless begun with the first year's growth. In any case the young growth should be cut back about one-third, or, if very vigorous, one-half.

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CHERRY TREES need very little pruning, and no large cuts should be made. Simply thin out the small branches where they overcrowd, and cut back the top if inclined to reach up too high.

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THE BURBANK PLUM tree is one of the ugliest of growing trees, and only by constant attention can it be made presentable. Perhaps its sprawling, drooping habit has something to do with its wonderful productivity. The Wickson, on the other hand, is an upright grower of thin willowy branches, and we fear will never be fruitful enough to be profitable.

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PEACH TREES should be gone over with the pruning shears and the over-vigorous upper and outer branches well shortened in, and the interior of the tree well cleared of its dead and feeble wood.

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ALL PRUNING should be completed before spraying time, so that the poisons will not be wasted upon useless wood.

A Grade for No. 2 Apples

AT a meeting of the American apple shippers in St. Louis last November, it was agreed that a No. 2 apple may be one-fourth of an inch less in diameter than No. 1; not over 20 per cent. affected by defacement, scab, dry rot, worms or other defects; hand picked, not bruised, of bright color and shapely. We in Canada have not yet defined our No. 2 grade, but the results of having a No. 1 or XXX grade has been so excellent during the past season that no doubt our growers are quite prepared and indeed anxious to have the No. 2 or XX grade defined also. Anything that will facilitate sales of our fruit *f. o. b.* is decidedly in the interest of the growers.

Kieffer Trees as Stock for Bosc

PERHAPS no variety of pear has been so widely planted in Ontario pear orchards as the Kieffer. Its wonderful vigor, its amazing productiveness, and its fair appearance gave it great popularity for a time, until alas! it met universal condemnation for quality. Now there is little sale for the fruit except to canning factories, and many growers are asking whether it makes a good stock for top grafting other varieties upon. At Maplehurst we have been putting Anjou and Bosc upon it, and the growth is encouraging. Powell, of Washington, D. C., has observed a "nice balance between the roots, the body, and the top of the tree, and that each part has a strong influence upon the vigor of the other two;" that "pears are invigorated when worked on stronger growing bodies; and that it is a practice with some nurseries to double work slender growing varieties, like Bosc, on strong growing bodies like Kieffer or Bartlett."

Since the Bosc is one of our best export pears, combining good size, fine appearance, and good quality, and, being withal an excellent shipper, our pear growers need not re-