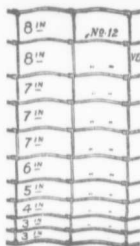


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rails, and if tarred twine be tied round the hayband and attached to the top rails, the swaying of the tree will be prevented. The cheapest protection is bushing with thorn bushes, which forms an effective guard, and on the whole the trees seem to do better when simply bushed than when protected with posts and rails. The air circulates more freely about them, and the weeds which always spring up around newly planted trees can be eradicated on the occasion of rebushing. It is beneficial in the case of young trees planted in sod to pare the sod off thinly in a circle every other year for a distance of a yard or so from the stem, increasing the size of the circle as the trees grow, until they become thoroughly established, at the same time picking the soil lightly over with a fork, but not so as to injure or disturb the roots, as any loosening of the soil about these checks growth. In old pastures where there is often a depth of from 5 to 8 inches of fibrous mould, the roots strike into this, and the trees go ahead almost as quickly as on tillage, especially if some compost be applied to the surface and lightly forked in.

Stress has been laid on the planting and protection of young trees, because it is in the trees' early stages that attention is necessary. Unless the trees are kept in a healthy condition while growing, they cannot form large, fine specimens bearing full crops of sound fruit. With regard to the proper time of the year for planting, I think autumn is to be preferred to spring, though much depends on the season.

WHEN TO PLANT

If the trees could be lifted as easily as bedding plants and transferred immediately from the nursery to their permanent quarters, the early spring in genial weather would probably be the best time of the year for moving them, as is found to be the case with herbaceous plants. But as they often have to be sent long distances from the nursery, with their roots bare of soil, and remain for days out of the ground, the check just as the sap is rising is likely to be more severe than in autumn, when they are in a dormant state. It is often urged in favor of planting in early autumn that it enables the trees to make some root growth in their new situation before winter, and consequent-



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ly, are better prepared to start into life in the spring. This theory is hardly sound, seeing that, after the leaf has fallen, the trees are not in a condition to make root growth. The chief advantages in autumn planting are that the trees feel the moving less if they have to travel a distance than they do in the spring, and that the winter rains help to consolidate the soil and render it fitter for root action in the spring than it would be if freshly applied then.

If the varieties be suited to the soil and climate, the trees well grown and healthy when planted, properly planted, protected, looked after and dressed, they will begin to bear a crop in five or six years time, though it is not advisable to allow them to carry a full crop at so early an age. Late frosts and insect pests will, however, often deprive the farmer of a portion of the crop which a good bloom may have led him to expect. It is not possible to guard against late frosts, but when the situation of an orchard is well chosen, on fairly high ground, but sheltered, these will be less destructive than on the low ground. The failure of an apple crop is due far oftener to insects than to frost, but unless the fruit growers of a locality take concerted action the labor of prevention by a single individual is lost, for take what steps he may to clear his orchard, they will always remain open to infection from the trees of negligent neighbors.

In Tasmania—which now exports immense quantities of apples—an act of legislation was passed a few years since which compelled owners under penalties to clear their orchards of destructive insects and keep their trees in a healthy condition.

W. R. GILBERT.

Want San Jose Scale Stamped Out

A depuration of fruit growers waited upon the Hon. Mr. Monteith, Minister of Agriculture, a few days ago and asked that the Agricultural Department conduct a series of experiments in the Niagara district, in order to ascertain the best method of combating the black rot in grapes and the San Jose Scale. They asked, also, for assistance in purchasing spraying material, and for the establishment of an experimental fruit station in the district.

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