

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

PLANTING ORCHARDS.

Fruit is one of the natural foods of mankind. Naturally man was intended as a vegetarian. He shed blood and eat flesh only when he fell from his first estate of innocence and happiness, and the first man who became a flesh eater was a murderer. This may not have any practical bearing upon our subject, but it goes to show that, taking every view of the point noticed, the purest instincts of mankind incline toward fruit eating. No doubt we consume too much flesh, and because of it we suffer so much from dyspepsia, which is our national complaint, so much so, that the common pictorial representations of Uncle Sam, with his peculiar leanness and hollowness of cheeks, are typical of an ill nourished dyspeptic. And this peculiar leanness and unhealthfulness is more apparent among farmers than among other classes. Fruit is a rare dish upon a farmer's table, where it ought to be seen three times a day for every day in the year, and found in the intervals in his hands or his pockets. He grows fruit for sale, but not to eat, and therein he makes a very great mistake. There are several reasons for this. One is no doubt the wicked tree peddler, who puts off upon the easy-going farmer a lot of worthless trees, falsely represented by the flaming red and yellow pictures in the sample-book he carries as the bait for his snares. Another is the neglect of the farmer himself, who when he gets good trees—and he does at times even from the "tree agent"—plants them so badly, and cares for them afterward so carelessly, that they fail to grow and die one after the other until all have disappeared. Other causes are the many pests which infest the orchard; mice and rabbits which gnaw the bark; beetles and flies, which bore the trees—and the planter, too; moths, which destroy the fruit; worms, which consume the leaves, and blights which infect the trees and cause them to perish. But we should remember that it is the business and work and privilege of a man to strive against all these enemies and conquer them, and it is only an indication of inferiority when a man is conquered by them and submits to them.

Every farmer or owner of a piece of land should plant fruit trees, and plant them well and care for them with intelligence and industry. The first thing to be done is to get them. And in getting them he should not put every possible obstacle in his own way, which he usually does. For it is a very common, if not general, thing for him to refuse to procure trees from a nurseryman within sight of his farm, and wait until the too much abused—because encouraged—agent comes around, and pay him three prices for what could be procured close by. A friend who was once the manager of the largest nursery in the West recently declared to us that his near neighbors bought trees from the agents of Eastern nurseries for a dollar each and paid freight on them, and ran all the usual and inevitable risks, when better trees could have been bought near by for one-half the money, and no freight was to paid. And these near-by trees could be taken from the nursery and planted within an hour, thus insuring their life and growth. Therefore, in these preliminary remarks upon planting orchards we would advise those who plant to procure their trees from the nearest nursery, and thus secure the greatest certainty of getting the varieties they intend to buy: of getting good well-grown trees; of having them moved with the least possible damage; of putting them in the ground in the best condition, with fresh tools and at the right season and when the soil is in the best

state to receive them, and to firmly, but politely, decline the attentions of the itinerant fruit pedler or ever afterward hold their peace if they are deceived or disappointed and take all the blame of it, as they deserve, themselves, unless they know a responsible nurseryman at a distance with whom they would rather deal. Another very important thing, treating upon this very point, is that locality has much to do with a choice of varieties, and a local nurseryman knows, as it is business to do, the kinds of fruit that do well in his neighborhood, and his advice in this respect, as well as his other treatment of his customer who is a neighbour, for obvious reasons will be very different from that of a stranger whom one will never see again.—*Henry Stewart, in N.Y. Times.*

TRANSPLANTING EVERGREENS

The latter end of August is one of the best seasons of the year to transplant evergreens. The young growth of the past season has got pretty well hardened, so as to permit very little evaporation—and the earth being warm, new roots push with great rapidity, and the tree becomes established in the ground before cold autumn winds begin. The chief difficulty is that the soil is usually very dry, which prevents much speed with the operation: and the weather being usually warm, the trees have to be set again in the ground almost as fast as they are taken up; so that it is not safe to bring them from a distance. It is as well, therefore, to make all ready in anticipation of a rain, when no time may be lost in having the work pushed through. Should a spell of dry weather ensue—which in September and October is very likely—one good watering should be given, sufficient to soak well through the soil and well about the roots. A basin should be made to keep the water from running away from the spot and to assist its soaking in. After being well watered, the loose soil should be drawn in lightly over the watered soil, which will then aid in preventing the water from drying out soon again.

Toward the end of the month, and in September, evergreen hedges should receive their last pruning till next summer. Last spring, and in the summer, when a strong growth required it, the hedge has been severely pruned towards the apex of the cone-like form in which it has been trained, and the base has been suffered to grow any way it pleases. Now that, in turn, has come under the shears, so far as to get it into regular shape and form. It will not be forgotten that, to be very successful with evergreen hedges, they ought to have a growth at the base of at least four feet in diameter.—*Gardner's Monthly.*

The fruit gardens and orchards now demand attention.

Suns, etc., from the kitchen are good for flowers and vegetables.

The one unfailing remedy for black knot in plum trees is—cut and burn.

Did you clean the borers out of the young trees last month? "Better late than never"—do it now.

When any crop is planted in an orchard, put on enough manure for both the trees and the extra crop.

Were the young trees planted in the spring properly staked? Were the wires with which the labels were fastened taken off? If not, attend to them to-morrow morning before the grain is dry enough to begin cutting.

Good counsel from Prof. Boal: "If you have money to fool away, seed down your young

orchard to clover and timothy, or sow a crop of wheat or oats. If you want trees to thrive, cultivate well till they are seven or ten years old. Spread ashes, manure or salt, broadcast. Stop cultivating in August, weeds or no weeds. This allows the trees to ripen for winter.

One often wishes to keep pot plants on a porch or in a dry window where the sun beats down hot during a part of the day. If set out in pots simply, the plants dry out too quickly, and they suffer under the opposite extremes of being alternately and frequently too wet and too dry. The way to proceed in such cases is to make a box just deep enough to hold the pots, and between them place earth. This earth will regulate the moisture in the pots.

DAFFODILS and jonquils are both narcissuses. The common daffodil is *Narcissus pseudo-narcissus*. The better sorts are among the most popular of "Dutch bulbs," which are every year imported in great quantities from Holland. In commerce it is often known as *Narcissus orange phoenix*, or even as "butter and eggs." Daffodils are perfectly hardy and do well in any good soil. The jonquil, *Narcissus jonquilla*, is also hardy and easy of culture. It is a native of Spain.

A CORRESPONDENT of *Farm and Fireside* says that a sure method of protecting young fruit trees from the ravages of rabbits is to place four or five pieces of cornstocks, thirty to thirty-six inches in length, about each tree, and tie them near the top and bottom with carpet twine. The stocks can remain on the tree till after spring planting. The carpet yarn is better than stronger tarred twine, as the former will be sure to rot before the tree begins to increase in diameter.

Would you not like to mark an apple with some one's initials to surprise him or her with, when it is fully ripe, an apple grown "just on purpose" for them? Cut the initials in very plain letters like this, T. A. out of tin foil, and fasten them on with any adhesive substance. The apple should be of a kind that is very red when ripe; then the letters will show finely as they will remain green, since the sun's rays, which are the painters, cannot reach them through the metal.

This bit of experience is by a correspondent of the *Maine Farmer*; "Among my native trees was one which yielded a large crop of small apples every alternate year. They were of a fine flavour, but so small in size that they were worthless for marketing. To cause them to increase in size I thinned out the small branches after the fruit had formed, taking off about half the fruit. On gathering the apples from this tree in the fall I found nearly double the size of the previous year, and about the usual quantity in bushels. I also found the tree blossomed abundantly the ensuing season, and by picking off about half the fruit when about half the size of gooseberries, the tree yields fruit every year."

An Illinois horticulturist has constructed a fruit-house, which is to be a protection alike from summer's heat and winter's cold. Two rows of posts are set in the ground, two and a half feet apart, boarded inside and out, and the intervening space filled up with straw, packed in as closely as possible. Two sets of rafters are then put on, the upper set three feet above the lower, which are boarded on the upper sides, and the space closely packed with straw, after which a cheap board roof is put on. On the 11th of last August, with the temperature 98 degrees in the shade, in it was as cold as an ice-house, and contained a quantity of apples as sound as when taken from the trees, two months before.