

The quantity and frequency that lime should be applied depends greatly upon the conditions of the land. As a general rule, it may be stated that from half a ton to one and a half tons per acre, applied say every five or six years, is sufficient.

No prescription can be written for feeding all fruit trees, as there are so many varying conditions. The feeding of plants is not unlike the feeding of animals. We do not feed horses and swine on the same diet; each is known to do best under its own particular treatment. A good florist understands his plants and knows their wants; a good fruit-grower needs a similar knowledge of the plants he is to depend upon for success.

The New Hampshire College Experimental Station has a bulletin in press written by the Horticulturist, Prof. F. Wm. Rane, in which he discusses the subject. The kind and amount of fertiliser for each kind of fruit is given and the subject discussed.

Appls.—For nitrogen: (1) 50 to 100 lbs. nitrate of soda; or (2) 40 to 80 lbs. sulphate of ammonia; or (3) 80 to 160 lbs. dried blood.

For phosphoric acid: (1) 300 to 600 lbs. bone meal; or (2) 200 to 400 lbs. dissolved bone black; or (3) 250 to 500 lbs. dissolved rock.

For potash: (1) 100 to 200 lbs. muriate; or (2) 100 to 200 lbs. sulphate; or (3) 400 to 800 lbs. kainit; or (4) 1,000 to 2,000 lbs. wood ashes.

Too much nitrogen is to be avoided, as the tendency will be to run to growth rather than to fruit. The potash may be applied in the fall; also one-half the phosphoric acid; but the remainder should be applied in the spring. Potash is generally considered the most important constituent, since fruits withdraw much larger quantities of it than of the nitrogen or phosphoric acid.

MULCHING

Is useful during hot, dry summers, when natural moisture is short, to protect the soil over the roots of trees from the scorching effects of the sun, and sometimes, when there is a sufficiency of frost, to confine it in the ground so as to retard the rising of the sap. Mulching, however, should be done judiciously, and, as in manuring, it should not be placed in proximity to the trunk, and it should be done lightly, so as not to induce the roots to come too near the surface, and the mulch should, after it has decayed, be dug into the soil. Almost any rubbish does for mulching, such as weeds of all kinds, provided they are not in seed, ferns, old straw, etc. I have used chips from the wood-yard successfully; these, of course, cannot be dug in. Sawdust of coniferous woods should not be used; on account, I presume, of the acrid principle they contain, the sawdust of such wood seems to have a deleterious effect on land.

PRUNING.

Continuing my remarks under this head in Bulletin No. 12, where I endeavoured to give some advice as to the method of starting a tree in life by judicious pruning at the outset, and so training the tree in the desired shape, I will now try to show how the important subject of pruning should be conducted in after life, so as not only to keep the tree with a well-balanced head but at the same time to induce the greatest fruitfulness. Injudicious pruning