

again with Boreaux mixture when the fruit has grown to the size of peas.

I have found it simply impossible to control the rot either by spraying, thinning, or pruning, especially in orchards where it has once become established, particularly if rains occur near ripening time. Good American authorities are of the same opinion. Regarding the curculio, I have had no trouble, having to practice thinning whenever there is not a failure of the crop: therefore the remedy I favor is the planting of quite an extensive orchard.

In the matter of varieties I should name

Cultivation and Sod in an Orchard

AN interesting method of treating an orchard is being tried by Mr. W. H. Gibson, of Newcastle, and was lately described to a representative of The Horticulturist who visited his place.

"When my trees are young," said Mr. Gibson, "I trim them so it is possible to cultivate beneath the branches. When they are older, cultivation under the branches is stopped. This spring I planted clover under the branches of my 11-year-old trees, which had been cultivated up to this year. The clover runs out as far as the limbs of the trees extend on each side of the trees. An open space between the rows of trees is cultivated. My idea is that the feeding roots of the trees extend beyond the branches and that they run out into this open strip of land which I cultivate. In this way the trees will receive the benefit of the cultivation, while the trouble of working under the branches will be avoided.

"About nine-tenths of the orchards in my vicinity are put into sod after they begin to bear. I intend to cultivate my orchard in the way described for several years to see how it succeeds. Where I have young trees planted I cultivate a strip of land on each side of the tree as wide as the tree is high. As I find the trees make twice the

the Imperial Gage as the most delicious of all plums, but a shy bearer. The Green Gage is a splendid variety, but a poor bearer. The Round Seedling, a grand plum, but poor bearer. The Lombard, a rapid grower and a great bearer of fair quality plums. The Bradshaw comes late into bearing, and is a large coarse plum, while Coe's Golden Drop I find a great bearer of magnificent plums, and should consider it the most satisfactory one to plant. The Burbank is a great grower and an enormous bearer of handsome fruit, but like all Japanese plums, of poor quality when canned.

growth they do when grain or clover is allowed to grow close to them. I fertilize heavily, using 200 loads of barnyard manure in my orchards every year. The fertility of the rest of the farm is maintained by growing clover.

Shavings as Mulch in Orchard

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Are shavings taken from a basswood or poplar tree good for mulch around apple trees in an orchard? Will they harbor mice or insects?

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I AM somewhat dubious about advising the use of a mulch such as you suggest, although I do not see why it should not be better than allowing the trees to remain in sod with no cultivation whatever. I think it would be advisable to try it first upon part of the orchard and note results.

There is no doubt but that it will afford more or less of a harbour for insects, but these, of course, can be kept in check by the regular methods of spraying and banding the trees. Care should also be taken to guard against mice which no doubt harbour in such a mulch. Otherwise, I do not see that much injury can result, except that the roots would in time form more or less near the surface, which would not be serious were a proper mulch maintained.