

Garden, Orchard and Forest.

Small Fruits—When to Plant.

BY E. M., DRUMMONDVILLE, ONT.

Most writers upon this topic are interested in the sale of plants and have "an axe to grind," and are therefore inclined at this season of the year to urge fall planting. I propose to set my "axe" aside, and give my honest opinions, based on an experience in the milder portions of Ontario and on a sandy soil.

For ordinary field culture strawberries should be set in the spring. For special garden culture, plants may be set early in the fall, especially if potted plants are used. Families without strawberries will generally be inclined to adopt this plan in order to have fruit in the June following. Fall set plants have to pass through two winters and take their chances with the weeds for nearly two years before a full crop is obtained, while spring set plants have a mellow soil to start with and only one winter to pass through to reach the same result.

Black-cap raspberries, if planted in the fall and each plant mulched, may succeed, and if they do so, will make a large growth the first year. Spring is, however, the safest season to plant black caps. Currants, gooseberries and red raspberries have succeeded with me best when planted in the fall. These will all succeed if planted in early spring, but it is seldom possible to get them planted before they start to grow. If planted in the fall, they are growing nicely about the time that spring planting begins, and make a good growth the first year. The ordinary red currant dropped its leaves in midsummer this year, and could be planted at any time. The Roby Castle retains its foliage till November, and is by far the most valuable currant we have.

Grapes are best planted in the spring, later than most other fruits.

As blackberries are rather tender, spring would seem to be the safest time for them. One gentleman who publishes a journal and has a very large "axe," is just now urging autumn's claims. Some there be who say plant them not at all, and their profitableness is certainly an open question. The blackberry crop of 1878 has paid very well, but often it is otherwise. With me Lawton blackberries make a very nice hedge, which has resisted the frosts of three winters, and would resist thieves as well. Thieves, however, walk around it, as I know to my sorrow. The sorrows are to come.

It is a very safe plan to secure all the small plants that are required in the fall, and plant such as succeed best with fall planting, and keep the others till spring. Any of them may be safely kept if covered up with dry soil, which should be scattered among them so as to prevent heating. In winter an additional covering of coarse manure may be used to prevent freezing and thawing. Plants thus kept are ready for early spring planting, which is rarely the case where they are obtained from nurserymen after spring opens.

The Codling Moth—Another Remedy.

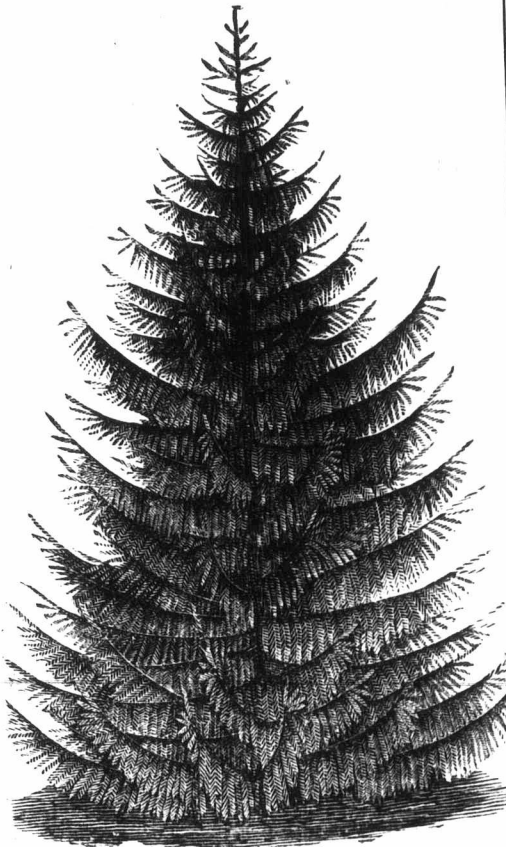
Mr. Tuttle, President of the Wisconsin Horticultural Society, says he has discovered a remedy, or rather a trap, for the codling moth. This is the trap:—

Take shallow pans or saucers, and place some strong apple-vinegar in them, and hang among the branches of the trees. The smell of the vinegar attracts the moths, and they are caught and drowned in the same.

Mr. Tuttle says he has caught over forty codling moths in one of these pans in a single night. He counts it a great success. He says he notified C.

Downing, the leading authority on fruit in this country, of this matter, and of his success; and that Mr. Downing advised him to disseminate the information through the medium of the press, as it would be of immense benefit to the fruit-growers of the country. Certainly this is important, if true.

A number of years since, in the *Genesee Farmer*, I saw directions for keeping at bay the destructive peachborer. It was simply an application of air-slaked lime (half a peck), early in May about the roots of the tree, the earth having been previously removed to make room for it. This spring I set out a peach orchard, and bearing in mind the suggestion, made an application, of however, only one half the amount specified. A rain came on soon, forming a sort of lye in the hollow at the base of the tree, and presently I noticed on quite a number of trees leaves wilting. I removed the lime as much as possible immediately, but one-fourth of my trees are dead. Could the trouble have been the lime? The lime used was fine lime, procured directly from the kiln. Again, I have seen the statement that fine lime thrown upon plum trees when the fruit is just set, will save it from the curculio. For two or three years I have tried this, and although it seems quite effectual, yet, when about half grown, the plums begin to rot, and often nearly the whole crop is lost. Has the lime anything to do with this?



The European Larch.

BY HORTUS.

The value of the European Larch as a timber tree can hardly be over-estimated by the Canadian farmer. The time is fast approaching when acres of it will have to be planted in Canada, as in Europe, for the many uses its wood is particularly suited for. Though closely allied to our native Tamarack, it is of a far superior nature from the rapidity of its growth and the straightness of the trunk. The wood is remarkably heavy and of great strength, and lasts a length of time if properly seasoned. The wise farmer will have avenues of it planted without delay. Downing's plantation. "The extremely rapid growth of this tree when planted upon thin, barren and dry soils, is another great merit which it possesses as an ornamental tree; and it is also a necessary one to enable it to thrive well on these very rocky and barren soils, where it is most in character with the surrounding objects. It is highly valuable to pro-

duce effect or shelter suddenly, on portions of the farm too thin or meagre in their soil to afford the sustenance necessary to the growth of many other deciduous trees."

Other good authorities unite in giving expression to the importance and value of the larch, and especially for the older settled parts of the country—where the woodman's axe has been ringing for years, but where soon, if nothing is done to keep up the supply, its music will be stopped and nothing be left but the memories of its echoes through once shady woods and stately forests.

The larch can be safely transplanted in the autumn, when its foliage begins to fall, especially large specimens for the lawn or lane. For large plantations select small plants. Early in spring avoid exposure to air, and be careful in packing. After being established they make from two to three feet of wood annually, so that in a very short time the largest may be thinned out for the various purposes of firing, fencing and building. It would prove a good investment to those having the land to plant out for the purpose of growing trees suitable for telegraph poles and railway ties. There is sure to be constant and increasing demand for these from the gradual disappearance of cedar swamps by improved drainage and bush fires, and the demand for the wood will make any other good substitute, as the larch, receive a hearty welcome from those interested in its use.

Quince Cultivation.

Why is it that the quince, which is as hardy and as well adapted to our soil and climate as the apple, is comparatively scarce, and commands on the average three or four times as much in our markets? There is seldom, if ever, a "glut" in the market, and prices are uniformly remunerative, bringing the producers for handsome fruit from \$2 to \$4 a bushel, in New York and Boston, almost every season. The apple, in the fresh or dried state, enters into the annual supplies of almost every family, as cider, vinegar, jelly, sauce, and other preparations, and is also a profitable feed for our domestic animals, while not one family in ten knows anything of quince preserves and jellies. It is really one of the most appetizing and wholesome of the sweetmeats found among the stores of our housewives; and the cultivation of this fruit should be greatly extended. We know of no fruit that promises so good returns as this to the intelligent fruit-grower. If we look at the quince plantations as we ordinarily find them, they are few and far between in the farming districts. The popular fancy is, that the bush flourishes best in a damp soil, and if there be an undrained swale on the premises, we may safely look for the quince bushes there. More frequently than otherwise they stand in the grass, receive no cultivation, and after a few brief years die, either from stagnant water, or the attacks of the borer. Under such treatment the trees had no chance to bear fruit, and make themselves profitable. The quince wants a deep, rich, rather moist soil, but it should always be well drained. Good corn land, that will bear maximum crops of grain, will bear good quinces. No fruit pays better for thorough cultivation, and the ground should always be kept under the spade or plow, and should, if we want abundant fruit, receive a good dressing of manure every season. The bush or tree requires very little other care than the occasional thinning out of the branches if they crowd too closely. The thinning of the fruit where it sets too abundantly will increase the size and profitableness of the crop that remains. The fruit as well as the flower is quite ornamental, and an attractive feature in October and November. The "Apple" or "Orange Quince," is by far the best variety. It ripens earlier, and brings the best price in the market. The quince is easily propagated from cuttings, and this is the simplest and best method of multiplying a desirable variety. Cuttings put down in the spring in a moist, well drained soil, a little shaded, will root about as readily as the currant. In making a plantation the young trees should be set at least ten feet apart, and if the soil is rich, fourteen feet will be none too much.