

they would sell much sooner. The value is not certain, but very nearly as much.

C.—Cultivation?

Plant in old, tilled, clean land. For amateurs it is safer to buy two year-old seedlings, as the difference in cost will not be so great as the extra cost of the cultivation of small seedlings. Plant them four feet apart each way, and keep the weeds down thoroughly for three years.

D.—Soils best suited?

Sandy loam is the best soil, where easily worked with a cultivator.

E.—How many trees to the acre?

At four feet apart there would be about 2,700 trees to the acre.

Except for experienced planters, the seedlings, which can be got from wholesale nurseries in the United State at from \$1.00 to \$8.00 per thousand, are much more satisfactory than planting tree seeds, and the cost of handling and transplanting in the small way, as well as the trouble of keeping the very small trees from the pressure of the weeds, will be more than the nursery prices.

PEAR LEAF BLISTER MITE.

SIR,—You will find enclosed some pear leaves which I sprayed with Paris green twice this season. Did this cause their turning brown, or is it a leaf blight?

GEORGE H. NIXON, *Hyde Park, Ont.*

Reply by Prof. James Fletcher, Entomologist, Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

The leaves of pear are, as you suggest, badly infested by the pear leaf blister mite (*Phytoptus pyri*), which is an extremely small, elongated mite, that forms blisters like galls on the leaves. In each of these galls there are several of the mites. There is a small hole in the centre of each gall, through which the little creatures make their exit. The eggs are laid by the females inside the galls, and hatch there. The young mites remain there for some time and then come out and work their way into the tissue of the leaf at some uninjured spot. They increase rapidly, and eventually do much injury to the tree. The mites live within the galls until the time the leaves fall in the autumn, when most of them migrate to the leaf-buds at the ends of the twigs, where they pass the winter.

This insect is one of the most troublesome to combat. Prof. J. H. Comstock (Cornell University Bulletin, No. 23) has written the most extensive article on this continent, and in Australia it has been treated of by Mr. C. French, in his "Handbook of Destructive Insects of Victoria."

Probably the best remedies are close pruning in winter or early spring, followed by a thorough syringing with kerosene emulsion. An effort should also be made to burn all the leaves which fall in autumn. I may mention that the