

INTERESTING AGRICULTURAL FEATURES FOR OUR COUNTRY READERS

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF APPLE ORCHARDS
AND THEIR CARE UP TO THE TENTH YEAR

Part I. The Commercial Orchard.
Part II. The Family Orchard.
Part III. Insect and Fungous Enemies of the Apple and Their Control.

(By A. G. Torrey, Provincial Horticulturist.)

THE COMMERCIAL ORCHARD (Continued).
PREPARATION FOR PLANTING.

The spot should be selected in the field where it is to be planted and on account should be allowed to partially dry out at any time. Where the rows in the orchard are long the trees may be planted in a line and placed in a large tub half filled with clay and water in such proportions as to form a paste. This tub is then placed in a large hole and covered with a wet blanket. In this manner, two rows of trees may be planted at the same time, the side of the tub being used to avoid the trees drying out.

PLANTING THE TREES.

In digging the holes place the rich top soil on one side and the under soil to the other side. The hole should be made large enough to receive the roots freely without cramping or bending them from their natural position. Set the tree to the same depth as it stood in the nursery or in an inch deeper. Fill in around the roots carefully and firmly with the soil. Set the tree as firm as a post but leave the surface filling of under soil light and loose. Where the head of a tree is unusually developed, let the strong branches face the direction of the prevailing wind.

CONSERVING MOISTURE.

As the ground around the trees will be much exposed and solidified in the planting operation, a cultivator should be run over three or four feet on each side of the rows of trees; this will break up the crust and form an earth mulch. This should be done as often as necessary during the first month after planting. On hillsides where drying out is feared and the trees are not protected by a straw mulch, the trees may be covered with straw, raking or other soft material, so that it may be kept in an upright position without chafing.

STAKING.

Full trees or those exposed to the action of the wind should be staked with a post by staking. Drive two strong stakes firmly into the ground, one on each side of the tree about a foot from it, and fasten the tree between them with a strap of straw, raking or other soft material, so that it may be kept in an upright position without chafing.

THE FIRST PRUNING.

The necessity of pruning vigorously at the time of setting is generally a very un-

pleasant one to the planter, as it injures the tree by the appearance of the tree to an unpruned eye. It is, however, necessary to balance the loss which the root has received in its removal from the nursery and to prevent drying out. At least one-half the previous year's growth should be removed. (See photograph.) In most cases, the trees may be cut back to outside buds. In the absence of any limbs suitable to form a top, the tree down to the requisite height, standing the dormant buds at the head. Aim to form the head of the tree from 24 to 30 inches from the ground—probably 30 inches is the better distance here. A tree so formed may be considered low-headed, is less subject to damage at all seasons from winds, and is far more easily managed in operations of pruning, spraying, thinning and picking. The objection that cultivation is made more difficult is hardly true as with proper training low headed trees develop according to the requirements of the orchard and are as easily worked around as the old high headed trees. The trees should be pruned in the manner discussed under a subsequent heading.

THE ORCHARD RECORD BOOK.

It is both interesting and important to keep a proper record of the orchard. Such a record will not only bring out the points of great interest, concerning the different varieties, but it will not be essential in at least very conducive to a better understanding of the requirements of trees and to a high measure of success in apple growing.

The labels should be removed after planting and a plan made as shown in plate in which every tree is accorded a certain definite number. This plan may be attached inside the cover of a strong, well-made notebook, and then certain amount of space in the book accorded to each number and notes made on the condition of each tree throughout the year. Notes under such headings as: Character of soil; Character of the spring, summer, and fall; Spring crop of orchards, when commenced and when ripe; Date of first frost; Date of fall bloom and total blossom fall; Notes on fruit, setting, crop, insect, and fungous pests; and notes on the condition of the orchard. If underdrains have been laid in the orchard, these should be marked on the plan. The trouble involved in the keeping of such a record will be more than amply repaid by the better understanding thus obtained as to the best possible treatment of the orchard.

CULTIVATION OF THE ORCHARD UP TO THE TENTH YEAR.

The growth of the young trees must be allowed to proceed vigorously and without interruption from the time of planting and the future success of the orchard depends upon the extent to which this principle is followed. Except in extreme cases where cultivation is impossible, the trees should be cultivated as much as possible. The trees should be cultivated during the growing season, and the soil should be kept loose and free from weeds. The trees should be cultivated during the growing season, and the soil should be kept loose and free from weeds. The trees should be cultivated during the growing season, and the soil should be kept loose and free from weeds.

The average net income per acre for the year 1909, for the filled plot, was \$110.43, a difference of \$28.91 in favor of the unfilled plot. The average net income per acre for the year 1910, for the filled plot, was \$110.43, a difference of \$28.91 in favor of the unfilled plot. The average net income per acre for the year 1911, for the filled plot, was \$110.43, a difference of \$28.91 in favor of the unfilled plot.

"Results as positive as in this experiment can be made very comprehensive; they should apply to all varieties of apples and to nearly all soils and localities. The experiment does not show that apples cannot be grown in soil; it suggests, however, that apples thrive in soil not because of the soil, but in spite of it."

"While moisture is by no means the only factor to be considered in the cultivation of the orchard, the system of management, it appears to be the chief one. There is nothing in this experiment to indicate that trees will become adapted to grass. The sodded trees began to show effects the first year the orchard was laid down to grass. The trees in the sodded plots, however, are based on Cooper's tables, however, are based on an average valuation of considerably less than \$100 per acre, and omit any allowance for the cost of the system of management, hence, they make the cost of maintenance only about \$65 per acre."

Even at the lower figure, however, it will be seen that the cost of the system of management is a very important factor in the cost of the orchard. The cost of the system of management is a very important factor in the cost of the orchard. The cost of the system of management is a very important factor in the cost of the orchard.

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STOCK

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COST OF HORSE LABOR

Facts and Figures That Will Interest All Farmers.

The tradition that "it doesn't cost anything to keep a horse, when you live on a farm," is rudely shattered in Bulletin No. 15, by Prof. Thomas P. Cooper, just issued by the Extension Division of the Minnesota College of Agriculture. The writer shows that the cost of keeping a horse is not a negligible item in a city business man's account, and that the cost of keeping a horse is not a negligible item in a city business man's account.

HISTORICAL RECORDS

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Important Action Taken by the Historical Society--The Monument on Caton's Island.

Wednesday, April 26. At a meeting of the New Brunswick Historical Society, held at the residence of Mr. D. R. Jackson, a committee consisting of Mr. Armstrong and himself, had gone to Fredericton to examine into the state of the Caton's Island monument now in the custody of the provincial government. They found the monument in a state of ruin, and the committee decided to take action to have it restored.

HALIFAX VOTES

THREE TO ONE FOR BOARD OF CONTROL

Halifax, April 26.—(Special.)—The civic elections today were made specially interesting because of the plebiscite on the adoption of the board of control form of government, instead of the present system of a city council of eighteen aldermen and committees. There was no majority in favor of the board of control.

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TO CONTINUE OBSTRUCTION

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and summer work and they pay for themselves in winter by the foals they raise. A fall foal will not be as large the following December as will the four or five months older spring colt, but there will not be as much difference as you might weight draft mares that was foaled in the spring seven years ago. She weighed at yearling, in the latter part of the fall, 1,200 pounds. A year ago last September she had a foal that is now sixteen months of age, and he weighed at the latter part of the fall 1,100 pounds, i. e., within a few pounds of the weight of his dam at the same time. So far as breeders are concerned, the advantage in weight should have been in favor of the dam.

This fall raised colt was well cared for during the winter, i. e., his dam received good clover hay and sufficient oats and bran to keep her in good condition. She was fed less than a few rods every day, and she gradually learned to eat his share of the feed. The mare was kept with her foal in a box stall, the door of which was opened into a large yard. There was scarcely a day in the winter, no matter how cold, but when the pair did not run out and enjoy the fresh air and sunlight, the dam was in good shape to do the hard spring work. The colt was in the very best condition to make use of summer pastures, and the result is that he is just as good and almost as big as his spring foal.

We have mentioned this instance to encourage farmers, who otherwise might not raise horses, to now and then try to raise a foal. The great majority of foals will continue to be spring foals, and the result is that the cost of horse labor, with the low-priced animals used in the work, is a very important factor in the cost of the farm. The cost of horse labor is a very important factor in the cost of the farm.

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water thus lost is likely to be needed later in the season. Spring plowing retards the evaporation of moisture because the furrow slice is so loose that the moisture of the subsoil does not readily come to the top where it can be evaporated by the wind and sun; while fall-plowed land that is not harrowed is sufficiently compact so that moisture remains in the soil. However, a few rods every day, and she gradually learned to eat his share of the feed. The mare was kept with her foal in a box stall, the door of which was opened into a large yard. There was scarcely a day in the winter, no matter how cold, but when the pair did not run out and enjoy the fresh air and sunlight, the dam was in good shape to do the hard spring work. The colt was in the very best condition to make use of summer pastures, and the result is that he is just as good and almost as big as his spring foal.

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Experience of a Beginner in the Poultry Business. I believe in brooders for chickens. At low me to give you some of my experience with them. I put 48 chicks in a brooder this spring, and as the eggs were mostly infertile, or with weak germs, the chicks could hardly be expected to be of the most vigorous description. However, a few rods every day, and she gradually learned to eat his share of the feed. The mare was kept with her foal in a box stall, the door of which was opened into a large yard. There was scarcely a day in the winter, no matter how cold, but when the pair did not run out and enjoy the fresh air and sunlight, the dam was in good shape to do the hard spring work. The colt was in the very best condition to make use of summer pastures, and the result is that he is just as good and almost as big as his spring foal.

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