

❖ Question Drawer. ❖

Propagating the Plum.

840. SIR,—Would you describe the propagation of the plum, budding, etc., and say whether it will do to bud upon suckers which grow from the roots?

D. N. ANDERSON, *Wyoming.*

Plums are usually budded upon seedlings of some free growing variety. The pits should be sown in the fall soon after the plums are harvested and before the pits have had time to become very dry. They are sown in drills about an inch and a half deep, much the same way that peas are sown. The frost of the winter will crack the pits and in the spring they will begin to grow. When the seedlings are one year old they may be transplanted into nursery rows and set from four to six inches apart. Early in July following they will be fit

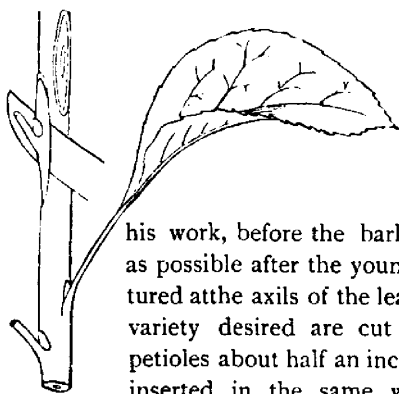


FIG. 965.

for budding. As the bark of the plum is somewhat more difficult to work than the peach, it is necessary for the budder to watch the growth in order to seize the most favorable time for



FIG. 966.

his work, before the bark becomes dry and as soon as possible after the young buds are sufficiently matured at the axils of the leaves. Sticks of buds of the variety desired are cut and the leaves trimmed off, leaving the petioles about half an inch long for handles. Buds are then cut and inserted in the same way as has been previously described for budding peaches. Fig. 965 shows the manner of cutting the bud to be inserted, and 966 shows the manner of slitting the bark, inserting the bud, and tying it with raffia, or basswood bark. Success might possibly be had in budding on sprouts from old trees, although in transplanting they might not be so sure to survive as the seedlings, the roots being poorly formed.

How to Apply Nitrate of Soda and Bone Meal.

841. SIR,—I have been using bone meal and nitrate of soda as advised by writers on lettuce culture. I used soil that had been frozen solid. On a bed 100 ft. square I put two pounds of bone meal. I have cut this day, April 20th, first class Golden Queen Cabbage lettuce and Spindlow's Double Curled lettuce. I put two pounds of nitrate of soda on 100 square feet of land planted with the same varieties, and the result is that they are not nearly ready, and there is no appearance of their ever maturing. Again, on 200 feet of ground I put two pounds of soda and two pounds of bone meal, well mixed, and the result was almost a total failure. Now what caused the failure? Did the nitrate of soda retard the growth or did the bone meal cause extra rapid growth. In the case of the bone meal there was no failure whatever. In the case of the soda fully fifty per cent. of the plants died out and had to be replaced. If the soda killed fifty per cent., why not all?