

the previous year, and then fall plowed, the soil will be in beautiful condition for planting in spring, and the task will be an easy one. If the land is at all inclined to be heavy this previous preparation is all the more necessary, both for the ease and speed in planting and for the after growth of the tree. If conditions are favorable, two men should lay out the ground and plant one thousand apple trees in a week or ten days, but if unfavorable it would take much longer.

Should the trees arrive before the ground is quite ready to receive them, dig a trench about a foot deep, more or less, and stand the trees in it close together, and then fill all about the roots with fine earth. Here they will be safe until you are ready to plant. With a lot of 1,000 trees it would be best to heel them in this way, even if the ground is ready, and take out a few at a time as required.

Evans, of Ohio, gives directions for planting, as follows, which is essentially the plan we have always adopted:

If the plot lies facing a road or lane, make that the basis from which to lay out the rows, running them at right angles away from this base. A strong wire about two hundred feet long is an excellent instrument to use in staking out. File shallow notches in it as far apart as you wish the trees to



FIG. 1. SQUARE PLANTING.

stand—say twenty feet for peach, pear, plum or cherry and thirty feet for apple—then stretch it out, sticking a peg at each notch, which can be designated by small rags for the sake of plainness. If the orchard is wider than the length of the wire, prolong

the staked line by restretching the wire from the end of the incomplete row. By taking care to have a correct start and make the beginnings of rows at regular intervals on the base line, all the trees will line up, no matter whether the point of view commands a straight or oblique squint, as seen in Fig. 1. Another mode of arrangement which, under certain conditions, may be desirable, is the quincunx planting shown in Fig. 2. But the most economical, beautiful and convenient arrangement is the hexagonal. Every three trees form an equilateral triangle, and each tree, except the outside ones, stands in the centre of a circle described by six others standing at equal distances around it.

The land prepared and staked, you are ready to dig holes. When ready to pull up the tree peg for this purpose, mark its position by using a piece of 1 x 4 pine four feet long, in the center and ends of which notches are cut. Place the center notch at

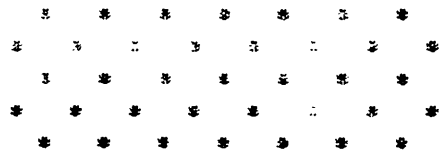


FIG. 2. QUINCUNX PLANTING.

the tree peg and stick other pegs at the end notches. Then pull up the tree peg, dig the hole, and when ready to place the tree, lay the board with the end notches fitting their respective pegs and locate the tree at the center notch. This is a simple and good way.

As you plant, dip the roots of each tree into a bucket of water, then place it in the hole with the budding scar a little below the surface of the ground. Work rich top soil, well-fined, all around the rootlets, pressing it firmly with the hands, and take care to lay each root according to its natural bent. Remove all idiosyncrasies of roots. Cut off broken or bruised roots, making the slope