

## CARE OF NURSERY STOCK

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**I**MMEDIATELY on the receipt of packages or boxes of fruit trees, shrubs or plants from the nursery, convey them to some place sheltered from the wind and sun. On opening the bundles lay the goods out on the ground and check them to see that all is correct. Sprinkle them with water and cover with damp straw to keep the wind off. It has a beneficial effect to puddle the roots. Dig a round hole  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet broad and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet in clayey soil. Half fill this with water and with a hoe or shovel mix clayey earth with the water to the consistency of paint. Dip the roots of the trees in this mud mixture. When partially dry give a second application. This covering of mud greatly protects the roots and stimulates growth.

### TRENCH THE STOCK.

Dig a trench deep and wide enough to hold the roots and one-third of the tree trunks. Loosen the bundles so as to ease the roots and lay the trees in the trench, the tops leaning to the north down close to the ground. Cover the roots and one-third of the trunk of the trees with earth, covering the roots thoroughly. If the earth is dry sprinkle well with water and leave so trenched till planted in a day or two.

The ground for planting the stock in should have been prepared and properly enriched the previous year. There should be no grass nor sods to cause trouble after planting. Nothing should be half done.

### LAYING OUT THE GROUND.

When laying out the land put a straight stake where each tree is to stand. Dig only one hole at a time and plant the tree in it. When this is done the tree occupies the place of the stake. Pass on to the next hole and plant the second tree, and continue this till all are planted. Doing the work in this way the trees will all be in their proper

places. Planting should be done on a cloudy day if possible.

If the ground has a sandy bottom it matters little how the hole is dug and the tree planted. If it has a clay bottom it matters a great deal. Where the ground is heavy the greatest care is required. The hole must not be sunk in the clay, as the water sours under the tree in the hole and kills or injures the tree permanently.

The hole should be dug wide and deep enough to admit the roots of the tree. The surface earth should be thrown on one side and bottom earth on the other side of the hole so as to be convenient for refilling.

### PLANTING THE TREES.

When planting the tree, stand it straight in the hole so it will occupy the exact place of the removed stake and set it one inch deeper than in the nursery. Let the surface earth be put in the hole first and thoroughly packed among the roots so that no crevices are left unfilled. When the hole is two-thirds full pour a pail of water in it close to the tree, and when soaked in thoroughly shovel the balance of the earth in the hole. Do not press or stamp the earth, as it would ruin the chance of the tree thriving.

If the ground is not dry, instead of watering, a barrow of long manure should be put on the ground two feet all round the tree, but not close to the trunk, to keep the ground moist. No manure should be put near the roots of the tree in the ground when planted.

The injured and decayed parts of the roots should be cut carefully off, and half of last year's growth should be removed and the top of the tree balanced. If the trees are allowed to take care of themselves after planting the greater half of them will die the first year and the balance will be permanently injured.