

picking cherries. From the appearance of the fruit when it reaches us it would seem as if these growers had simply grabbed the cherries from the trees, and I believe this is what some of them do. This treatment wounds the fruit and decay sets in inside of three hours.

"When fruit that has been picked in this way reaches us it is generally practically worthless. Cherries should always be picked by the stem, the cherry itself not being touched. The same care should be exercised in picking all kinds of fruit.

"Some of the 24-quart crates have a han-

dle which has many strong points. A hole is simply cut into the ends of the crate, large enough for the insertion of a man's fingers. This kind of a handle is never in the way, and does not take up any room. Another good kind of a handle is a wire one, which drops onto the top of the box when not in use.

"The wooden handles, which are used so extensively on 24-quart crates, often break. This makes it not only difficult to handle the boxes conveniently, but affects the appearance of the package. These handles are good except for this drawback."

## SPECIAL CARE NEEDED THIS SUMMER

HAROLD JONES, MAITLAND, ONT.

**O**WING to the severe injury received by fruit trees, as a result of the cold weather last winter, which resulted in the rupturing of the wood cells in the trees, it is necessary for us to pay particular attention this summer to the cultivation and fertilization of our orchards that as rapid a growth as possible may be brought about to cover the defective wood with new tissue. If this is not done there is danger that the trees will not recover their accustomed vigor and that they will go into next winter in a weakened state. In such a case conditions will possibly be worse a year from now than they are to-day.

During July I intend to follow up the thorough system of cultivation started in May and June, with the object in view of building up a good covering of new tissue

for the wood in the trees that were injured last year. Not later than the first of August I purpose sowing a heavy cover crop to ripen up this new wood growth and prepare the trees for the coming winter. There is nothing better for this than clover, either the common red or mammoth red; crimson clover is not hardy.

It is necessary to have the land in as fine tilth as possible, so as to ensure the germination of the seed and give vigorous growth. It has often been the case that where a heavy cover crop exists in the fall, serious injury is caused during the winter by field mice. To prevent this the trees can be easily and cheaply protected by wrapping them with building paper; not tar paper, which causes injury to the trunks of the trees.

Plums being so low in price, farmers are cutting many of their trees down. Black knot is a great drawback to plums. Many growers do not keep it down, and the law is not put in force.—(Henry Wiggins, Notawa, Ont.

Nine-tenths of our trees are not trimmed enough. I believe that if we would all trim trees more closely and head in or shorten the branches that this is the cheaper and most practical way to thin fruit.—(Robert Thompson, St. Catharines, Ont.