



The Lessons of the Past Winter in Relation to Dwarf Pear Trees.

THE unusually severe weather of the past winter has taught some lessons upon the subject of the hardihood of dwarf pear trees, which we propose to place before the readers of THE CANADA FARMER. We have recently returned from a short tour of inspection of some of the dwarf pear orchards of Western New York, and find that those which are planted on a strong, well-drained clay soil, are looking very healthy, and making good vigorous growth. Those dwarf pear trees that are planted on a loam in which the sand preponderates have been very strangely, but at the same time very fatally, affected by the extreme cold of the past winter. That part of the tree which was above ground, that is the pear part, showed that it had suffered from the winter, being partially discoloured; but the portion under-ground, that is all the quince part of the tree, looked red, and seemed to be nearly or quite dead. Some of the trees had leaved out, but had a very sickly, dying appearance. Many did not leaf out at all, and a few were making some growth. The varieties planted were mostly Duchess d'Angouleme and Louise Bonne de Jersey; but we are quite of the opinion that the variety has nothing to do with the death of the trees, but that it is owing to the fact that the quince stock was unable to endure the very severe cold. Why those trees which were growing in a sandy or loamy soil should be killed, while those in a strong clay escaped, is not well understood. For some reason the frost was able to act upon those standing in the lighter soil with greater intensity and destructiveness than upon those in the clay. Standard pear trees growing in the same field and in the same soil were making a fine healthy appearance, and seemed to be in no degree injured by the winter. In deciding the question, then, whether to plant dwarf or standard pear trees, it will be very necessary to determine the character of the soil in which it is intended to plant, and if the soil be at all light, the experience of the past winter teaches us that we should choose the standard pear tree, inasmuch as there sometimes occur winters sufficiently severe to destroy the quince stock upon which dwarf pear trees are grown when planted in other than strong clay soils.

On Dwarf Pears, Nurserymen, &c.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—Having seen a great deal in THE CANADA FARMER about fruit and fruit culture, I venture to give my view of the matter. I have planted out a great many trees of all kinds, among which I have tried the dwarf pear, and I am led to believe that very few understand the culture of the dwarf pear. I have planted until I have said I would plant no more. However, an agent came along urging me to take a few, and try his plan, and see what the result would be. He had cuts in his book giving information how to cut back. I saw that he was a practical man, and one that understood his business, so I consented to take four trees and try what I could do. I was fully determined to give them a fair trial, cutting back according to directions shown me by the agent. The result is I have four very handsome trees, and each tree is bearing this year from seventy to ninety pears the third year from planting, and now I am of the opinion that we have never been getting the

proper kind of trees. My trees that I got first seem to be old and stunted, and from all appearance five or six years old; while those I received last looked young and thrifty. In reality there has been from time to time great deception in trees sold by agents, and thousands of dollars are paid out every year to little or no purpose, and the great question should be are we getting our trees from reliable nurserymen or not, for the greater part of the men selling trees I find know nothing about trees, and the greater part of nurserymen put them off with any old stick that comes handy. One of my neighbours got a dozen cherry currants, and when they came to bear, proved to be nothing but the common currant. Let us get trees from responsible nurserymen, and trustworthy agents; for I am of the opinion that the western part of Canada will become the great garden for growing fruit for marketing—and just as soon as our fruit commences to get a start there will be a good market at our own doors. Now we scarcely raise enough for our own home consumption. I am well aware that the grape can be grown in some parts of Canada to good perfection. The Isabella freezes down with me, while I have one Diana that is doing very well, and has on this year seven very nice bunches of grapes, the third year from planting. The plum is a total failure with me, and so is all my sweet cherries. I think the dwarf cherry will do much better with us in Canada than the standard, as it is not so subject to crack in the stock. I have one in my garden, and it promises well; although young, it is a beautiful little tree. Hoping to see every man take some interest in the culture of fruit,

I remain, yours, &c.,
A FARMER.

On Raising Cabbages.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—The kind encouragement you give to farmers to write for the columns of your noble paper, encourages me to offer a few hints on cabbage raising. To commence, I pull down the banking of my house on the south-west end, and prepare my seed bed by driving three stakes about three feet from the house, and placing a slab on its edge. This raises my seed bed about one foot from the common level. After I sow the seed I place three rafters from the stakes in the ground to the side of the house, then place strips about two inches wide and two inches apart over these rafters, these rafters being about the angle of forty-five degrees. These strips are to guard against hens or anything intruding on the seed bed. When the plants are about large enough to set out, I place a large barrel convenient to the kitchen to receive all the wash water from the wash-stand and wash-tub. I then take my shovel and make places, well pulverized, for each plant about twenty-four inches apart each way; then, about six o'clock in the afternoon, I take from my store barrel and put about one pint of the suds or liquid in each place prepared for the plant, and at sundown I commence to set out the plants. The next morning I get burdock leaves, and carefully place over them, putting a little dirt or lumps on the edge of each leaf to prevent the wind blowing them off. In the evening I take the leaf off and water from my liquid barrel. The next morning I place fresh leaves over the plants again. Thus I find that with two days' screening from the sun, they are hardy enough without covering the third day. You see in this way treating the plant, it does not matter whether its showery weather or not. In this way I raised cabbage enough for two barrels of kront, and sixty large heads, which I stored for winter use, off a piece of ground 12 feet by 50. I sold one barrel for five dollars. The barrel I kept was equally as good, and the sixty heads were worth ten cents each, which was six dollars—the two barrels worth ten dollars.

Lyndhurst.

HORTICULTURAL CURIOSITY.—We have the gratification of announcing that the cocoa-nut tree has produced a ripe nut in the palatial gardens of his Grace the Duke of Northumberland, at Syon House, under the skilful management of Mr. Fairbairn. This is, we believe, the first time that so interesting an event has occurred in Europe, and we are sure that all true gardeners will welcome the little stranger with feelings of admiration.—*Gardener's Chronicle.*

On the Gooseberry.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—Some nine or ten years ago I had some yellow gooseberry bushes which bore well and were healthy; but there came a small green worm and ate most of the leaves off for a year or two, and they then mildewed, caused I supposed by the weakening of the bushes by the worm, for they did not mildew before, so I resolved to kill them if possible. I tried lime dusted on them—no good; ashes the same. I tied bunches of hemp to the end of some sticks and dipped them in gas tar. An old book said that the atech would keep away the saw-fly, but this was likewise no good. I mulched them freely with tan-bark in the fall—same result. In 1861 I took the *Rural New Yorker*. A man recommended in it whale oil—soap very highly. This I could not get around here, so, thinks I, Castile soap is used for cleansing wounds, will that not do? I shoved some Castile soap into a pot, and threw in some boiling water, and covered it over till cold, then mixed soft water with it, and applied it to the gooseberries and currants with a water pot. This, to my satisfaction, answered completely. I used it some three or four times last summer, as each crop of worms came along, with the same result, and this summer I have not seen but one. There is a larger kind, spotted, with legs on each end, that raised their backs in crawling. They are more easily picked off. I don't know whether it will kill them or not. I have not tried; but the small green worm, I suppose to be the saw-fly worm, is the curse to the gooseberry and currants, and the soap is an effectual remedy, at least in my case. The soap does not appear to injure the bushes. I bought only a half pound; after using it for two or three times, I have a little left yet. Mr. Thomas, of Brooklyn, says, in the last FARMER, that hellebore root will destroy them. That I have not tried. The ants are a great pest to gardeners. If any of your subscribers know anything that will keep them off, and will insert it in THE FARMER, it would oblige,

H. C.
Orono, C. W.

Poultry Yard.

Goose Breeding.

As geese are long-lived, so they are long in reaching maturity, not becoming good for breeding purposes before they are from three to five years of age. The third or fourth year is as early as is desirable to mate geese for this purpose. Then having selected the best of their kind, one gander to no more than two geese—and some males will only mate with one female—and the gander not related to the geese, the breeder may consider that he is supplied with a good breeding stock for at least the next twenty years, or, as one writer says, "for life."

In confirmation of this statement, Mr. S. Jaques, Jr., of Boston, Massachusetts, wrote, in 1850, of a Bremen goose that his father imported in 1821:—"She has never failed to lay from twelve to sixteen eggs every year for the last twenty-seven years, and has always been an excellent breeder and nurse, as has all the stock and offspring connected with her. I had the curiosity to weigh one of her brood of 1849, when nine months old exactly, and his weight, in feather, sent up twenty-two pounds in the opposite scale. The earlier the goslings are hatched in spring the better, and there is no agent so good for this purpose as the goose, though the ducks do very well. Hens appear to have too dry a heat for the purpose, and not as strong as those hatched by the goose or a duck. For the first twenty-four hours after hatching, like chickens, the young require no feeding. On the second day they will begin to nibble a little fine grass, or young clover, from a fresh sod placed near the nest. They will also want a little scalded corn meal or oatmeal, or a few bread crumbs, and a shallow vessel of water. If the weather be fine, it will soon do to 'turn them out to grass,' but they should be housed every night and during stormy weather, on a dry floor, until several weeks old. And the better the young are fed for the rest of the season, the larger and better the fall goslings. Wheat-bran or the best class of shorts, mixed with boiled potatoes, makes a good feed for goslings after a few weeks old."—*Ex.*