

latest varieties of pear may be allowed to hang too long on the tree, and in some cases will not ripen at all. Mr. Rivers in one of his works, says that he allowed some pears to hang on the trees until late in October, and although they were treated similarly to others of their class usually are, they did not ripen, but turned black, and decayed at the core. A variety of late pear (for which I have no name) went the same way last season, got black (although quite firm), and was unfit for use. This season *Steven's Genesee* were allowed to hang on the trees until they appeared ripe (were yellow as a lemon), but they never got fit for use, neither did they soften until decay took place. Pears should always be gathered before the usual time of ripening, and that process completed in doors. It is difficult to state with any degree of certainty at what time any variety of late or early pear should be gathered, so much depending on the season and locality, that nothing short of practical experience will enable the young cultivator to judge. I have gathered the latest varieties that fruit in this place about the first week in October.

Although writers and cultivators are divided as to the time at which the fruit of the pear ought to be gathered, they all agree as to the mode of gathering it. Choose a day, say, gently raise the fruit, and detach it at the proper place, (so as not to injure the fruit buds on the tree, nor the fruit by pulling the stalk out,) and to handle them as carefully as if they were eggs, for on that principally depends the keeping of the fruit; when there is plenty of time to do it. Pears ought to be gathered from the tree, put into the vessel in which they are to remain until ripe, and carefully carried to the fruit house. It is well not to put a large quantity into any one vessel—not more than one bushel and a half—that quantity is preferable. I have kept some of the larger sorts very well in half flour barrels, i. e., a flour barrel cut in two, with rope handles put in them; by that means they are handy to move about. These with a little hay or straw at bottom, placed in a cool, dry cellar, seem to answer very well. By keeping the fruit in a lower temperature than usual, most varieties have been later in maturing than former years. There are now (Dec. 1st) *Beurre Basc*, *Beurre Diel*, *Duchesse D'Angouleme*, *Napoleon*,—all of which have matured three or four weeks earlier in former years. In concluding this paper, I may state that I have tried several experiments in keeping late pears; but hitherto they have not been found superior to half barrels or small boxes, and treated as above. So far as my experience goes, pears should be gathered carefully—not too late—put away in a cool room or cellar—have plenty of air, and removed to a higher temperature (60° or 65°) for a few days before using.

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DOCKING AND NICKING.—These barbarous methods of depriving the horse of his natural form and appearance, in order to make him conform to the fashion of the time, is, fortunately very fast going into disuse. If the tail of the horse were given him for no good purpose, and if it were not a design of nature that he should have the power of moving it forcibly to his sides, there might be some excuse for cutting it off, within a few inches of his body, or for separating the muscles at its sides to lessen this power but, that this is not the case, must be acknowledged by all who have seen how a horse, whose tail has been abridged by "Docking," or weakened by nicking, is annoyed by flies.

If a horse has a trick of throwing dirt on his rider's clothing, this may be prevented by cutting off the hair of the tail, below the end of the bones, as is the custom with hunters in England, where the hair is cut squarely off about eight or ten inches above the hocks.

No apology is offered for not giving here a description of these two operations; they are so barbarous and so senseless, that they are going very rapidly out of fashion, and it is to be hoped that they will ere long have become obsolete, as has the cropping of the ears, formerly so common in England.

A more humane way of setting up the horse's tail, to give him a more stylish appearance, is by simply weighting it for a few hours each day, in the stall, until it attains the desired elevation. This is done by having two pulleys at the top of the stall, one at each side, through which are passed two ropes which come together and are fastened to the tail, the ropes having at their other end weights, (bags of sand or shot are very good for the purpose) which must be light at first, and may be increased from day to day. The weight should be continued until the tail has taken a permanent position as desired. It is true that this method requires a somewhat longer time than that of cutting the muscles, but while it is being done the horse is never off his work, and he suffers infinitely less pain.

The method of nicking or pricking, as usually performed in this country, is not quite so cruel, nor so hazardous as the cutting of the muscles.
—*Herbert's Hint's to Horse-Keepers.*

HORSE SHOES FOR SNOW.—A correspondent of the *American Agriculturist* suggests that the balling of snow on horses' feet may be materially lessened, by making the upper side of the shoes wider than the lower side, so that the inner edge will be beveling outward. If constructed in this way, the balls of snow would more readily fall out than if held by square-sided shoes. The suggestion is not a new one—at least we have heard of it before, we believe—but it would seem to be valuable, and worthy