

SOIL FOR PEARS.

CLAY soil is considered best for pear culture, and still it should not be too tenacious and sticky. A pear orchard will not thrive so well on any soil that has not a clay sub-soil. Next to a friable clay loam, a gravel loam is most desirable. A light sandy soil is the least desirable of any, and yet pears can be grown on sandy soil.

Standard pears can be planted twenty to thirty feet apart according to circumstances and habits of growth. If planted thirty feet apart, dwarf pears can be planted between the rows each way. I prefer a standard pear for general orchard culture, for the reason that they require less fertility and cultivation, and for the further reason that they are longer lived and make larger and more permanent trees.

When the question came up for a vote, however, before the Western New York Horticultural Society, we found that the dwarf pear was the favorite for orchard planting or for garden. Dwarf pears have the advantage of coming into earlier bearing. The dwarf pear is not short lived. It requires more pruning and more attention than the standard pear. Many varieties do better on the dwarf pear than on the standard.

I should not locate a pear orchard or any other orchard on a low piece of ground. I should locate it on a hill-side. The pear is easily transplanted. I transplant several thousand every spring, and they do not lose on an average, one out of one hundred trees. Pear trees come into bearing earlier than the apple.

TEN CHOICE PEARS.

I WILL now give what I consider the best ten varieties of pears for export or home market or any purpose, for profit to the general planter, and I will start with Bartlett, Beurre Bosc, Beurre d'Anjou, Beurre Clairgeau, Doyenne de Comice, Duchess d'Angouleme, Sheldon, Lawrence, Doyenne Boussock, Ritson, and you may add the Keiffer, for the short time it will be in demand, and when there is no more call for it, you then could not have a better tree for top grafting, to any variety you wish, and in fact, if I was to plant a pear orchard, I would plant every tree Keiffer, and then top graft to what varieties I wanted, as there could not be a better parent stock to work from. Another good parent stock would be the old Edmonds or Church pear. I think if our Flemish Beauty

was worked on to either of these, we might get it back to its original cleanliness and good quality, and also a number of other varieties, such as the Brockworth Park, White Doyenne, etc. I think that the want of cleanliness and their tenderness is due to weak parent stock, and I do believe that if all varieties of trees were treated in the same way, that we would have less diseases, such as blight, yellows, black knot, scab, etc. I will now ask, since I have taken up the pear, who will start the peach, plum, apple and cherry, and give their opinion, as to what they think the best six to ten varieties for the general fruit grower to grow.

I will also add what I would consider the best twenty varieties for exhibitions: Bartlett, Beurre Bosc, Beurre d'Anjou, Beurre Clairgeau, Beurre Hardy, Beurre