

the nursery agent, is : I am sure much injury has been done to the fruit-growing industry, through the greed of unprincipled agents, and would caution you against such. But a lengthy apology is not necessary to a brief effort, and we will take up what seems next in order to secure success in fruit culture and that is :

PREPARATION OF THE SOIL upon which to grow fruit. One requisite is necessary to the growth of all kinds of fruit, and that is, thorough drainage. If you attempt without it, you will end in failure, and that will discourage you. If you have a piece of sandy loam, with a gravelly subsoil, it may serve to attempt on without much draining, but all soils where clay enters largely in their composition, must be underdrained ultimately, or you need not expect success. While your trees are young, or if you only attempt small fruits, surface drains may do for a time, but it is economy ultimately to underdrain, say two and a half or three feet deep. Many who have desired to grow fruit, have neglected the necessary precautions in the choice and preparation of the ground, have failed and become discouraged. To such we say, try again with proper treatment and you will succeed.

ORDER YOUR TREES for the Spring delivery as a rule. Why? Because you avoid the risk of damage by mice or other accidents, and you can have your ground ready to plant them in on their arrival in the Spring as you unpack and thus save labor. If you do order for the Fall delivery, care must be exercised in burying them. Choose a dry ridge, away from any mice harbor, as fence, out-buildings or stumps; dig a trench, say two feet wide and two deep. At one end have a slope of a foot or so, that the first trees you lay will have the top at least a foot above the root, bury that layer with dirt enough to cover well, then two or three more with the same incline, until your stock is done; raise a little ridge over them that you may know just where to dig for them in the Spring, carefully removing the earth first from the last layer you put down, taking up the root first, that you may not mar the body or top. Before planting

PRUNE YOUR TREE WELL. Cut back any long tap roots. This will cause more fibrous or fine roots to grow on the main ones, and these fibrous roots are the true feeders of the tree. Cut off any marred roots if you can do so without lessening the volume of your root too much; and then prune the top back to balance with the root, as the main thought in pruning is to have a healthy balance between the root and top. The secret of growth in your tree, lies in the ample supply of sap which the roots feed out of the ground and send upward in the tree, and if you leave more top than the roots can feed and nourish well, your tree will languish and perhaps die. Do not expect your newly transplanted trees to carry the same top that they have when you receive them from the nurseryman, as if you do, and fail to cut back the top, your tree will not recover the transplanting and become a healthy tree.