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suckers, of which they usually throw up an abundance from about their spreading roots; but these do not sucker at all, but late in the autumn the tips of the canes and their branches become very drooping, and finally reach the ground, and then from the surface of the tip there springs a cluster of rootlets, which strike into the soil and soon form a well rooted plant. The Doolittle and the Mammoth Cluster are the chief varieties grown.

THE BLACKBERRY.

The blackberry is as yet but very little cultivated; the most promising varieties at present known are the Kittatinny, Sable Queen, and Wilson's Early. The Lawton is too tender for most sections of our Province.

THE SOIL AND ITS PREPARATION.

In the selection of a suitable spot for a fruit garden, the soil is a matter of importance, for if favourable conditions in this respect are not provided, the labour will be greatly increased, and disappointment more frequent. The first requisite is dryness. None of the plants or trees we cultivate for fruit will grow with their roots continually immersed in water, so if the soil is wet it must be drained. It often happens that these retentive soils when drained are the very best for the purpose, and as the labour and expense connected with draining an ordinary sized garden plot is small, a location otherwise suitable need not be rejected on this account. Many fruits thrive well on a light sandy soil, even with little care or manuring, but the growth is usually poor, both in wood and fruit, as compared with similar trees in a richer and stronger soil. A rich deep loam, partly of clay and partly of a sandy character, with an underlying stratum of gravel, or gravelly clay, is perhaps the most desirable for the purpose. The pear and the plum, especially, delight in a strong rich soil, but the apple will grow and thrive on almost any sort of soil. A suitable spot being provided, the next thing is the preparation of the ground, which should be well stirred as deeply as possible. A small piece can be trenched with the spade, to the depth of eighteen or twenty inches, but on a large scale this method is too expensive, and the plough must be relied on. If a good deep furrow, say eight inches, is turned over with an ordinary plough, and a second team follows in the same line, with a subsoil plough, the surface may be thoroughly loosened to the depth of fourteen or fifteen inches, and thus leave it in very good condition for planting.

PLANTING AND MULCHING.

Ordinary standard apple trees should be planted about thirty feet apart each way; standard pears and cherries from twenty to twenty-five feet; dwarf pears about ten feet, and plums, peaches, and apricots from sixteen to twenty feet. After planting, trees should be thoroughly mulched, that is, the surface of the ground around them covered with some material which will retain the moisture in the soil, such as manure, chip rubbish, saw-dust, chaff, or litter of any sort, or small stones. These all operate beneficially, by preventing the surface of the ground from becoming dry to any depth, which would cause the young and tender rootlets near the surface to wither; and such material as will decay slowly and enrich the soil would be a benefit in that way also.

Simple as the operation may seem to be, there are many people who do not know how to plant a tree properly; a deep hole is often dug, scarcely large enough to crowd the roots into, and these, when stuffed into this small aperture, have the soil well packed down on them above, and then they are let alone to struggle on as best they can; and where the trees fail to grow, as is very commonly the case, the nurseryman who furnished them gets all the blame. Before planting a tree, its roots should be examined, and if there are any among them injured, or partly broken, they should be cut off back to a sound part, with a sharp knife. A hole should be dug always somewhat larger than the entire circumference of the roots when laid out in a natural position; the roots should then be well spread, and fine soil worked in among the smaller fibres with the hand, so as to prevent their being crowded together. If proper care be taken in this way, the roots will occupy after planting much the same relative position as they did in the nursery rows from which the tree was taken. It should not be planted too deep; it is safe in this respect to give it about the same position in the soil as it has occupied while