

We feel confident that the country is too young and capital too scarce for much to be done in cultivating live fences, for some time to come,—a commencement, however, has been made, and the result has been crowned with success; we would therefore urge upon each Canadian farmer, whose eye may meet these accompanied remarks, to collect at least one bushel of haws the ensuing fall and to test the matter by following out the few plain and practical directions which we will venture to give on this subject. That portion of our readers who are Canadian born, are unacquainted with the operation of cultivating thorn hedges, and of the management of propagating and cultivating hawthorn hedges. The haws should be collected in the autumn and buried in a pit, similar to potatoes, and should there be allowed to remain, during the following summer, winter, and spring. A seed bed should be formed in the month of May, and the haws thrown over the bed, so as to cover it about half an inch thick with finely pulverised mould. They will require no more attention for two years, further than keeping down the weeds, which will not be troublesome if the plant be thickly covered over the ground. When the plants become two years old, they must be transplanted in trenches about 2 feet apart, so as to admit horse-hoeing, and they may be set as thick in a row as gardeners would sow pease; they must remain in the rows two summers, and will then be old enough for transplanting in the hedge row.

The ground for the hedge row should be thoroughly summer-fallowed and manured, which may be done in the following manner:—A row of stakes should be set up in a straight line, in the line of direction which the hedge row is to be planted, and a clever ploughman should form a ridge about ten feet wide, which should be harrowed down smoothly,—he should then ridge it a second and third time; and harrow it as before. A furrow should be ploughed exactly in the centre of the ridge in a straight line, and another one turned in an opposite direction, which will give it the appearance of the last two furrows of a ridge.—The harrows should then pass up and down two or three times, which will leave it smooth and as finely pulverised as an onion bed, and although a ridge, it will have a dish-shaped appearance in the centre, which will retain the falling rains, and prevent injury to the young plants from drouth. The ploughman should set up his stakes in the centre of the ridge and plough a neat trench furrow, as straight as a line can be drawn, in which the young hawthorns must be transplanted at an equal distance of three plants to a foot.—During the first summer the ground on each side of the young hedge row should be harrowed at intervals of every six weeks; and the plants should also be hand-hoed. The second year, the ground each side of the row will require to be cultivated with a spade, to prevent grass from growing, which if allowed to grow, would form a harbour for

the field mice. Every nurseryman is acquainted with these destructive animals, and use similar means to the above, to prevent them from girdling the young trees.

When the trees in the hedge row have been planted two years, they must be shorn close to the ground with a sharpening hook. From each plant, a number of young healthy suckers will spring up, and will grow in five years from that period to the height of six feet, and so thick, that a robin could not fly through it—during the five years just alluded to, it would be well to continue the spade husbandry, recommended for the second year, and it will also add to the beauty and uniformity of the hedge, to shear the tops and sides off with a pair of large shears made for the purpose.

In seven years from the time the young plants were planted in the hedge rows, the protecting fence on each side of the rows may be removed, and no further trouble or expense will be required, unless it may be to shear off the long branches, and to lay down a tree, (by cutting it about two thirds off near the root,) where there may be an opening that pigs or fowls may enter.

If that class of farmers who feel themselves able, would devote each summer, a few weeks of their attention to this subject they would confer an inestimable blessing upon future generations, and would to a certain extent relieve the hideous sameness of the zig zag worm fence, which is every where presented to the eye of a critical traveller, and would also in the end, be a great saving both of time and labour.

We would recommend that the best varieties of apples, pears, plums, and cherries, should be planted out in the row with the young hawthorn, from twenty to twenty-five feet asunder, so that in a few years the whole labour will be repaid by having the hedge rows adorned with a profitable crop of fruit trees of every variety which is adapted to the country. To accomplish this, set out the pits from the best variety of fruit, and manage them in every way similar to the plan we recommended for the thorn, and plant them out in the hedge rows at a uniform distance asunder; as these fruit trees will not require any cutting or pruning, further than is usually given to young fruit trees, they will out-grow the hawthorns, and may be trimmed at the proper height for heading, in five years from the time they were planted in the row. The natural thorn which is found in every portion of the Province, will form nearly as good a hedge as the hawthorn, if the same attention be bestowed to its culture.

Our St. Catharines correspondent is not aware that the English hawthorn is admirably adapted to the climate of Western Canada.—An acquaintance of ours in the township of Tecumseh, enclosed a garden about fifteen years since, with the above variety of thorn, and they have never suffered from frosts or blight.

Mr. GEORGE SIMPSON, of Newmarket Grange, has between two and three hundred perches of the English white hawthorn fence on his farm, the most of which has been planted upwards of eight years, and are in an extremely healthy state, and may be

considered a safe model for Canadian farmers to follow. The above gentleman entertains the opinion that the Canadian or American thorn, would answer quite as good a purpose for fencing as the hawthorn, and is disposed to try them on a large scale.

The introduction of live fences is a subject well worthy the attention of Agricultural Associations.

Such of our readers who may have had experience in cultivating live fences in Europe, would confer on us and the public generally a great boon by favouring us with their views on this subject.

While on the subject of fencing, we would just say that a very neat mode of fencing has been lately introduced in the Home District. A ditch is dug about two feet deep, and common rails seven or eight feet in length, are set end downwards as close together as they can be made to stand, the ditch is then filled up, and rammed similarly to planting posts. An inch board, four inches wide, is nailed edge upwards, near the top of the fence, to each of the rails, and such as project above the board are sawn off. This kind of fence will stand for many years, without any expense for repairs:—

“Samuel Wood, Esq., the Secretary of the Society, has sent you a short report of the last Fair held at St. David’s, there was one thing that I was desirous should be mentioned, which he forgot, and that is the beautiful white thorn hedge on the premises of Humphrey Teuch, Esq., near Queenston.—Seeing the timber disappearing so fast in many parts of the country, it has been a matter of much consideration with me what should be done in the course of time for timber to make fence with. In many parts of the country it is expensive at the present time to obtain rails, and where timber is plenty at the present day it is certainly a costly mode of making fence. When I come to consider the beautiful and durable hedges of white thorn I have seen in the old country, I have often thought what an advantage it would be to this country if the same kind of fences could be made, I have my doubts whether the English white thorn would thrive in this climate, in many parts of the United States it does not, being destroyed by a white insect, with which it is in many places covered; but I have always been of the opinion that the natural thorn of this country would answer an excellent purpose for fences. A few years ago, I intended to try the experiment and obtained a quantity of haws for the purpose of sowing, and had them buried by my man in the garden, but he leaving me before the spring opened I was not aware of where they were buried and in consequence I could not try the experiment. I have been told it is rather difficult to get the haws to sprout, the best way I have been informed, is to make the stone bare, by pounding or scraping. Mr. Teuch tried the experiment by planting the haws whole, and planting some scraped, the result was that those scraped came up and grew well, when the others did not vegetate at all. Mr. Teuch has fully tested the experiment in the thorn hedge on his premises near Queenston; it has a beautiful appearance, and will last for ages with a little care, he is deserving of much credit for the experiment he has so well proved, it shows there is little trouble in raising the natural thorn for hedge fence, and will answer equally as well for such purpose as the English white thorn. The hedge answers a twofold purpose, for fencing and for draining. As it is I believe admitted, that the best way of raising thorn is to throw up a small ditch and plant them on the face, which protects them in some measure from being broken or cut off by animals.”