

more harm than good. Before planting the young trees it is well to make a thin mortar of fine earth and water and dip the roots into it, in order to keep them moist; do not keep the fibrous roots exposed to the sun or wind. In planting, lean all trees towards the prevailing winds, so that in growing they may stand up straight, and if they should be inclined to lean the wrong way bank up with earth and press them over. When loaded with fruit they are very hard to keep in upright shape, and if once allowed to be bent over with the yield they cannot be brought back to stay in an upright position.

As to the distance apart in planting, 12x16 is sufficient for most varieties, but for some of the larger and more spreading growers 14x16 is better. Among these latter varieties are Glass's Seedling, Quackenbos, Gen. Hand, German Prune, Yellow Egg and Victoria, and where you have land to spare, and it is rather rich, give them plenty of room, and you will not be sorry.

CULTIVATION OF THE ORCHARD.

Having set out your orchard, plant corn, roots or potatoes, and give plenty of cultivation, and if your trees were in good order when planted you will have success. Do not sow grain or turn to grass until the trees are at least three or four years old, when, if they are growing too large and are not blossoming, one season of grain or grass will cause the fruit buds to form; then turn to cultivation again, and you will not be likely to have any further trouble on account of the trees not fruiting.

VARIETIES.

Look about your own neighborhood and see what varieties are doing well, and in what kind of soil. Plant the best and most successful of these suitable to your own soil and conditions, and you will not be disappointed. Add a few other varieties for testing, but be careful in buying, remembering that the climate and soil vary so much in Ontario that no list of varieties would stand everywhere in the Province. If growing for profit, I would advise the planting of only a few varieties of tried reputation. Do not take the advice of any agent who comes along as to what sorts to set out, as such individuals are generally most anxious to sell what has been sent out with much puffing, one-quarter of which may not be true. Buying after this fashion is filling the Province with worthless varieties of fruit. Do not buy more than a tree or two of any new variety.

My list of plums for my own locality, as well as for all the southern part of the Province and some of the northern portion,