

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.**THE CULTURE OF APPLES.**

When advised to set more apple trees, the average farmer answers: "Orchards do not pay. If apples are selling at a good price, it is the year my trees do not bear, and when I do have a good crop apples are so cheap that they scarcely pay for picking."

Something of truth in that; but it is not quite the truth. When apples are at the lowest price, a man can make pretty good wages in picking, assorting and barrelling them, even though he has but a small share of the products of the orchard for his labour.

The day's labour spent in an apple orchard usually yields better pay to the farmer than any other farm work that he does. Compare the time necessary to get a barrel of apples ready for market and that required to grow and harvest a barrel of potatoes.

The increased demand for apples for exportation is likely to make better markets and better prices for this fruit in the future than we have had in years of plenty in the past. The evaporators or fruit dryers, and the conversion of cider into apple jelly, enable those whose temperance principles would not allow them to make cider to be used as a beverage to feel that they can now convert their cider apples into a wholesome food.

Better cultivation and better varieties of fruit will make better crops and better prices. In the matter of fruit, also, increased supply seems to create an increased demand. Witness the quantities of strawberries, cranberries, and other small fruits now sold in our markets, and then think of the time thirty years ago, when scarcely one-tenth as much was sold, and yet prices have not declined very much.

Of all our fruits, none other is as valuable as the apple. It can be had in perfection at almost all seasons of the year; it can be eaten raw or cooked in a variety of ways; it is healthful and nourishing, and it can be found in the greatest variety of flavours, enough to suit all tastes. Therefore, we repeat, plant out more apple trees; get good healthy trees grafted with good varieties of fruits; put them in good soil; prepare the land carefully, and give the trees good care, and you will find that they will prove profitable.—*American Cultivator*.

THE KEEPING OF FRUIT.

The proneness of some thin-skinned and tender-fleshed kinds of fruit to go off with rot when they have not even reached full maturity, is vexatious. Some of the fine, luscious gages and handsome, refreshing heart-cherries are thus taken away from our very lips with Tantalus-like tease. There is no trouble about growing the trees, and they set fruit almost unfailingly, but as unfailingly, for us, they all spoil before one has its mature flavour or colour. Fruits equally sweet, but with thicker skins, keep well, but very acid fruits, as a general rule, keep best. The lemon, the currant, the gooseberry, are examples. Green gooseberries keep well in water even without being heated themselves. Currants will hang on the bushes through all the heat of the summer, if protected from the birds by a net. Dr. A. B. Barnes, Southington, Conn., has sent a sample of cranberries, in their natural condition, kept over two winters; and, although frozen many times and softened, neither the flavour nor colour has been lost; on the contrary, they seem the richer for age. The apples make an exception to the general rule of acid fruits keeping best. The sweet varieties are usually more easy to keep long in good condition than sour ones. We have

at this writing—July 27—a few left of the Lady Sweet, kept headed up since November in a barrel in an ordinary house-cellar, which are not in the least withered or decayed, and scarcely inferior in flavour to that excellent sort at its best.

RASPBERRY CANES AND CROP.

I used to think it of little consequence when the old canes of blackcaps were out. Wild raspberries continued to bear well, though the old wood was never removed. But recent experience and experiment have convinced me that they should be removed as soon as the fruit is gathered. At this season the old bearing canes are yet alive, and may be cut easily with a sharp hoop attached to a handle two feet long, after which the field may be more thoroughly cultivated and hooped than if the encumbering canes were in the way.

But aside from this the old canes appear to draw out the vitality of the plant, and seriously affect its subsequent capacity for bearing fruit. It is now held by scientific men that a dead branch exhausts the vitality of the tree as much as though alive. The dead canes on raspberry bushes would appear to affect them in a like manner. Bushes not cleared of old canes produce small, defective, crumbling specimens. The first year or two the bushes are not so seriously affected. Hereafter we will trim ours as soon as the fruit is gathered, sweep them out of the spaces between the rows with a one-horse rake, similar to a steel-toothed hay-rake, but very short, no wheels, burn them and save the ashes.

Blackcap raspberries are one of the most certain crops and are as sure of sale as wheat. If not wanted fresh-picked they pay as well evaporated. After one learns how to manage them there is no more trouble to harvest them than most farm crops. A young girl often has charge of fifty pickers on our place, but it pays to have a competent person walking about to see that the work is well done. Our blackcaps bring in about \$100 per acre, gross income, on the average, for the fruit alone. The crop of plants from the same acre is as valuable as the fruit, often far more so. The blackcap abhors low, wet ground; but, if such is drained, it will thrive therein. Souhegan or Tyler, for early, and Gregg for late are the best varieties.—*Charles A. Green, Monroe Co., N. Y.*

REFUSE VEGETABLES FOR MANURE.

Weeds, if they are allowed to grow in a garden, should always go to the rubbish or compost heap before the seeds ripen, and if placed in alternating layers with manure or other decaying stuff will become thoroughly disintegrated. But no thrifty gardener allows weeds to grow or reach any size, being destroyed as they reach the surface of the ground. But there are many refuse portions of vegetables, as potato-tops, tomato-stalks, cabbage stumps, lawn-mowings, thinnings of various crops, etc., which may be turned to good account if the heap is moistened with refuse soap-suds, treated with hen-house cleanings, various slops, and the many other matters too often wasted. Ashes, lime, brine, etc., may be added as opportunity presents. It will be observed that every good manager clears up these waste materials to keep the premises in neat condition, and he may as well turn them to good account as to lose their benefit. In addition to the advantage obtained from the intermixture of these materials, the ingredients of common yard manure are more valuable if well incorporated together. A late writer remarks that he finds a mixture of cow and horse manure the best of all fertilizers. He throws them together, mixing well, and if they lie in a

heap ten days or two weeks before applying they never become overheated by fermentation. In wintering cows and horses, one of our best scientific farmers has the rear of the lines of the stalls of these two animals placed together, so that the drier horse manure tempers the more liquid cow droppings, renders the attendance easier, and makes an excellent fertilizer.

SEEDS BEST SOWN IN AUTUMN.

Most people have observed, no doubt, that self-sown seeds that have dropped from the growing of the previous season, sometimes produce the strongest and most healthy plants that bloom the most freely. This is true of several kinds, but particularly those that suffer under exposure to our midsummer sun. The reason is that self-sown seeds get a very early growth in the spring, vegetating as soon as frost is gone, and are good-sized plants by the time we usually put seeds in the ground, even if they do not start in the fall. They thus mature and flower during the cool weather of spring. The clarkias and nemophilas and annual larkspurs are noted examples. There are also several varieties of hardy annuals that do well with spring sowing that will bear autumn sowing in open ground, and reward us with early spring flowers. Sweet alyssum and white candy-tuft will give us abundance of white for early cutting, if sown in the fall. In a sandy soil the portulacca may be sown in the autumn with good success. Seeds of biennials and perennials, if sown early enough to produce strong little plants, will flower the next summer. Pansies and Chinese pinks, though they bloom the first summer if sown in the spring, will make much stronger plants and flower more freely and earlier if young plants are grown in the autumn.—*Western Farmer*.

EXPERIMENTS IN CULTIVATING.

W. W. Higbee, of Vermont, writes to the *Practical Farmer*, giving some of the results of his experiments in cultivating orchards, which, although according with the experiments of others, may be useful if briefly stated in enforcing their teaching. Sowing wheat in an orchard always seriously checks the growth of the trees, even if the ground is manured. Oats are exhausting, but less so than wheat. Corn and potatoes both answer well, and the cultivation they receive benefits the trees. In one instance, half of an orchard was sown with wheat, and the consequence was it was put back two years as compared with the other half. Wheat in a thrifty young plum orchard ruined it. To these statements we may add the following: A neighbour set out a hundred peach trees, cultivating a part of the ground in potatoes, and the remainder was in wheat. None of the trees in the potatoes grew less than a foot and a half, and some sent up shoots two feet and a half. None of those which stood in the wheat ground grew more than three inches.

SAVING CABBAGE SEED.

A writer in *Gardening Illustrated* gives the following practical suggestions:—Cabbage seed is by no means easy to secure pure where it is saved in a small way; not only does the cabbage cross most freely with broccoli, but also with all kinds of the *Brassica* family, and if there be any diverse sorts growing not merely in the same garden, but in any other near, the chance of securing true stocks is very doubtful. A few plants saved to bloom, and purposely blocked in together, may be largely protected with fine netting. If a garden is isolated from all others, and no members of the *Brassica* family are permitted to bloom in