REMARKS ON TRANSPLANTING TREES

It is frequently the case, that a tree which has received all the care and attention which can be bestowed upon it by the most experienced nurseryman, is transplanted to a soil of very inferior character, and being thus stunted in its growth, is the frequent cause of dissatisfaction to the purchaser. The planter should therefore bear in mind, that it is impossible for the soil in which a tree is planted, to be too rich, and that the rapidity of its growth, and its subsequent productiveness, are very much influenced by the promotion of fertilizing matter contained in the soil.

For planting an orchard, the ground should be well cultivated before and after the trees are planted, and as highly manured as the means of the cultivator will admit. It is impossible for a tree to flourish, as it should, when the roots are surrounded and covered with a thick sod. When the tree is isolated, as in a garden of lawn, a rich compost of earth and manure should be dmg in around the tree, care being taken that no pure manure be allowed to come immediately in contact with the roots. The ground about these, also, for the space of two or three feet, should be kept mellow until the tree is of large size, and it would also be well to dig in a portion of manure about the roots every Spring.

Many of the most experienced cutlivators regard the Fall, immediately after the first hard frost has arrested the growth, as the best season for transplanting every variety of trees but evergreens, which should be planted during the last days of Spring, or the first of summer. Where, however, it is not convenient for the cultivator to give them attention in the Fall, deciduous trees may be deferred until Spring.

The reason of this preference for the Autumn is obvious; when trees are transplanted at that season, the earth becomes, during the winter, properly settled about the roots, and they are ready to throw out fibres in the spring. The Spring is preferred for evergreens, for the reason that their period of hibernation differs from that of deciduous trees, and experience has shown that they succeed best when thus planted. When a tree is removed, great care should be taken to preserve the roots uninjured and entire; if this precaution has not been observed, the tops should be lessened in proportion to the loss sustained by the roots.

When the tree has been some time out of the ground, it is well to immerse the bodies and roots in water for about twenty-four hours; this will much benefit the tree, and advance its vegetation. The holes for receiving them should be sufficiently large to admit the roots without crowding or bending—from three to six in diameter, and from one to two feet deep, according to the size of the trees. The subsoil should be entirely removed to the depth, and its place filled with rich mould, well combined with compost or manure fully fermented. All bruised or broken roots should be shortened and smoothly pared with a knife. Let a person hold the tree upright, while the operator pulverizes the earth, and scatters it among the roots. Let the tree be shaken gently while this is being done, and let the earth be carefully filled in around every root, even the smallest fibres; it is all important that the soil should come in contact with every other portion of the root.—When the hole is three quarters filled, pour in three or four gallons of water, and after it has settled away, fill up the hole, pressing the earth around the tree with the foot. Earth watered in this way will retain its humidity a long time, while water poured on the surface, after the hole is filled is very injurious, causing the top of the soil to bake to such a degree as to prevent the access of air and light, both of which are highly essential to the prosperity of the tree. One of the most universal and fatal errors in planting trees, is placing them too deep; we have known many fine and thrifty trees die from this cause alone: they should not be planted more than an inch deeper than what they stood in the nursery, and if the frost is likely to have them the first winter, a small mound can be heaped about the stem, to be removed again in the spring.

By attending the preceding suggestion, we feel assured that the cultivator will be amply repaid for any extra trouble or expense, by the consequent increased growth, beauty, or productiveness of the tree.

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COMFREY.

PRICKLY COMFREY.—[*Symphytum officinale.*]—*If all is true* that has of late been published respecting this plant, it promises to become a very important acquisition to our agricultural products, not only as food for cattle, but for man. It was first noticed as an agricultural plant in London's Gardener's Magazine, in 1830, by D. Grant, of Lewisham; where it was tried by a number of cultivators. Cattle of every kind are said to be fond of it: and Mr. Grant thinks an acre might be made to produce thirty tons of green fodder in one year. The plant is of easy propagation by seeds or roots; it is also of great durability, and if once established would probably continue to produce crops for many years; and in that point of view, it would seem to be a valuable point for the cottager who keeps a cow. In the spring of last year, there appeared in the Keene Sentinel a letter from the Rev. E. Rich, of Troy, New Hampshire, recommending the cultivation of comfrey for its foliage as fodder for stock, and for its roots as an article of diet for man. He observes, "it will probably yet prove one of the best and cheapest articles of healthful diet now known; not outdone by the potatoe or Indian corn!" He then details some experiment in the preparation and use of the roots as food, by drying and grinding, then boiling as porridge, &c.; and says he found it very beneficial for colds and other diseases of the lungs and bowels. He advises mixing one-third of comfrey meal with wheat or Indian, for porridge, puddings, griddle-cakes, &c. Should the taste, at first, be in any degree unpleasant as is often the case with new things, any agreeable cordiments can be added. The letter further states, that the roots are to be dug once in two years, and that they will yield at the rate of more than two thousand bushels per acre; (!) and the two cuttings of the tops in one season, gave at the rate of six tons of hay per acre.

In an article on this subject in the Portsmouth *Journal*, last November, the editor, after alluding to the letter of Mr. Rich, states that Mr. A. Robinson, of that town, planted a bed of comfrey in his garden last spring, half a rod square, the plants set in rows fifteen inches distant. They scarcely started till July, and the season was very dry; but on cutting the plants in September, the product, when dried, was 22½ pounds. He has no doubt but that next season, when the roots become well set, the bed will yield, at least, two cuttings of twenty-five pounds each; or at the rate of about 8 tons per acre. Mr. Robinson says his stock of all descriptions eat it freely; and he thinks this plant will prove a valuable acquisition to our agriculture.

Comfrey is called a native of Siberia, but may be regarded as indigenuous to this country. It belongs to the order *Boraginæ*, which consists of plants not remarkable for useful or nutritious qualities.

The plants can be found in almost every neighbourhood, and it will be an easy matter to try experiments with it.—*New Genesee Farmer.*

German Method of Making Flowers Grow in the Winter.—We saw off such a branch of any shrub as will answer our purpose, and then lay it for an hour or two in a running stream, if we can find one. The object of this is to get the ice from the bark, and soften the buds. It is afterwards carried into our warm rooms, and fixed upright in a wooden box or tub containing water. Fresh burnt lime is then added to the water, and allowed to remain in it about twelve hours, when it is removed, and water added, with which a small quantity of vitriol is mixed to prevent its putrifying. In the course of some hours the blossoms begin to make their appearance, and afterwards the leaves. If more lime be added, the process is quickened, while if it be not used at all, the process is retarded, and the leaves appear before the blossoms.—*Western Far. and Gaz.*