

PLANTING ORCHARDS.



RECENT bulletin issued by the Cornell Experiment Station, by L. A. Baily, treats this important subject at some length. We condense some of the more important paragraphs as follows :

Preparation of Land.—It is generally best to put the land in hoed crops the season before planting, as most soils need the cultivation to bring them into a mellow and uniform condition. If the subsoil is hard and impervious, plow very deep, and in some cases, as for dwarf pears, subsoiling will pay well. Lands which hold surface water must be tile drained, whether flat or rolling.

When to Plant.—My own opinion is that fall planting is generally preferable to spring planting upon thoroughly drained soils, particularly for the hardy tree fruits, like apples, pears, and plums ; and if the ground is in good condition and the stock well matured, peaches can sometimes be set in October with success. The trees for fall planting should be well matured. Some nurserymen strip the leaves from trees before growth is complete, in order to put the trees on the market for September delivery. This weakens the trees and is the cause of many failures. Place your orders for trees in August and September, with orders to let the trees stand unmolested till the leaves begin to fall. Get everything ready, and plant the trees as soon as delivered, without heeling in. Trees are mature enough to take up, in New York, in late September or early October. Unless all conditions are right, spring planting is safest.

Distance Apart.—Do not set too close. Trees are wide feeders. Roots nor branches should interfere. Do not set aside rows close to fences. Trees must be sprayed, and they should be planted so as to be most easily accessible. The following represents the outside average limit when the trees are allowed to take their natural form :

Apples.....	40 feet each way.
Pears, standard.....	20 to 25 ft.
Pears, dwarf.....	12 ft. to 1 rod.
Quinces.....	1 rod.
Peaches.....	20 ft.
Plums.....	20 ft.
Apricots.....	20 ft.
Grapes.....	6 x 8 to 8 x 10.
Currants.....	4 x 6 to 6 x 8.
Blackberries.....	4 x 7 to 6 x 9.
Raspberries.....	3 x 6 to 5 x 8.

Where the soil is strong and the grower makes a thorough work of cultivating, fertilizing and pruning, these distances may be reduced somewhat, except with apples. In general it is not best to plant shorter-lived trees between, but a first-class orchardist may do so with profit.