

Editorial Notes and Comments

TOP BUDDING.

GRAFTING has usually been looked upon by the farmer and fruit grower as the only method by which the top of a tree might be changed to some other variety. The operation of budding, which is really grafting with a single bud instead of a scion with two or three buds may, however, be practised in almost every case with as much success as grafting. Grafting is best done early in the spring, at which time there is often such a rush of other work that it has to be put off and is then neglected. Budding is done during the summer, when it is usually more convenient to get time for doing it.

The practice of budding is particularly adapted to the top working of young trees when the main branches are not more than an inch or so in diameter, for the buds may be inserted on branches of this size, and the wound made when the branch is removed heals over readily. Detailed directions for budding may be found elsewhere in this number.

A WARNING TO FRUIT GROWERS.

THE Fruit Division of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, issued the following warning to fruit growers about the last of June: It is to be feared that the wet weather at present prevailing will lead a good many orchardists to neglect spraying. Last year the summer and autumn were wet, and many growers of fruit failed to give their orchards more than two or three sprayings. Cool moist weather is peculiarly favorable to the development of fungous growths, and it is only by seizing every opportunity and spraying whenever a day or two of dry weather comes along that sound clean fruit can be secured. Wet weather should be an incentive to greater diligence

in spraying, rather than an excuse for not spraying. Eternal vigilance is the price of safety in fruit growing, and it behooves every one who desires a full crop of first-class fruit to spray early and often.

ORCHARD CULTIVATION.

THERE is a danger that on account of the wet weather orchards will not receive their usual cultivation, which is urgently needed to destroy weeds, aerate the soil, and conserve soil moisture for future use. If the ground is not stirred it bakes, cracks open, and evaporation goes on rapidly. By stirring the soil through frequent cultivation, thus keeping a loose mulch on the surface, capillarity is broken up and moisture retained. As soon as it is possible, therefore, to get on the ground after a rain, the cultivator should be started in the orchard and kept going as steadily as time and weather will permit.

FRUIT PROSPECTS.

THE following is a summary of the crop report, as obtained by the Fruit Division of the Dominion Department of Agriculture: Early apples are reported a good crop in all sections. Winter apples will be only medium. The fruit has been singularly free from the ravages of insects and fungous diseases, though a few correspondents are noting the development of some scab since the wet weather has set in. The fruit division a few days ago issued a timely warning that spraying with the Bordeaux mixture would be doubly necessary as long as the wet weather continued.

Pears in Southern Ontario and Georgian Bay districts are a good crop. In Eastern Ontario they are a failure in many places.

Plums are a heavy crop in all the plum growing sections, but the rot is developing