

Buying Cheap Fruit Trees.

We can not do a better service to our readers than to call their attention to the following article taken from the *Country Gentleman*. The Province was never before so flooded with irresponsible tree dealers, who lay up the cheapest articles they can obtain in the States, at auction or otherwise, and try to make Canadians believe they are getting great bargains because they get their trees cheap:

No man can obtain anything valuable without paying its full price. If he makes a purchase of a fine horse for a small sum, he will probably find that the horse has some hidden disease. If he attempts to build a house at a lower contract price than the builder can afford it, he will ultimately discover that a good deal of bad material has been used, or that he has a long string of "extras," which, by dexterous contrivance have been thrust in. It is so in buying fruit trees. If the purchaser finds "a lot" offered at low retail prices, he will probably discover that they have been badly grown, neglected, stunted, moss-covered or have been badly dug up with chopped roots—or consist of some unsaleable varieties, or have been poorly packed, or the roots left exposed till they have become dry and good for nothing. There are various other ways of rendering trees of no value, which need not be enumerated.

Now, suppose a purchase is made of one of these trees at five cents below the regular market price among the best nurserymen. The owner congratulates himself on having effected a saving of the sum of five cents. Now let us see how much he is likely to lose. If the tree is stunted, it will be at least three years before it can attain the vigor of its thrifty competitor. In other words, he sells three years of growth, three years of attention (if it gets any), three years of occupancy of the ground, and three years of delayed expectation—for the sum of five cents. Or, suppose that he buys a tree, and saves five cents as aforesaid, because the quality of the sort, or the honesty of the dealer, as to its genuineness, may be questionable. After several years of labour and waiting, it turns out to be a poor sort, and the tree, being left unchanged, continues to bear this poor fruit for thirty years to come. The fruit being unsaleable, will in no case bring more than ten cents per bushel. In thirty years the average annual crop will be about three bushels, or ninety bushels in all—equal to nine dollars total value. Now, suppose instead of this miserable specimen, the purchaser procures at full price at tree of one of the most productive and marketable varieties, such, for instance, as the Rhode Island Greening or Baldwin. The crop will always sell in market for at least twenty-five cents, and sometimes for fifty cents a bushel; and for the whole thirty years, will average at least eight bushels annually—sixty dollars for the thirty years at the lowest computation. Deduct nine from sixty (or the products of the first tree from those of the second), and we have fifty-one dollars, the difference in the profits of the two trees, being the amount lost by the purchaser of the first in his attempt to save five cents.

We wish to be distinctly understood. It is not the largest or finest looking trees that are the best. In fact, the eagerness to procure big trees at the expense of a full proportion of roots, which it is impracticable to take up with such trees, often results not only in the loss of the trees themselves by death, but it frequently requires years for them to recover and regain their thrifty state. Neither is it necessary that the tree be as straight as a candle, for a few years' growth fills up the crooks in a trunk, and makes it as straight, or nearly so, as any other. The three great points are: To have healthy trees—to take them up with as perfect roots as possible—and to keep them moist and uninjured till they are set out again. These three requisites cannot be easily secured by taking large trees, while those of moderate or rather small size will readily furnish them all. Small trees are easily dug without mutilating the roots: they are packed for transportation safely and with facility; the labour of digging and packing and the cost of transportation are much less than with large trees; and they commence growing immediately, with little check in their vigour; and, if well cultivated, make the largest as well as the best trees at the end of five years.

To sum up—procure small, healthy, well-dug and well-packed trees of the best proved sorts only from reliable nurserymen; let them be well set out and well cultivated for successive years, and they will afford a profitable as well as satisfactory result.

ASTERS.



Quilled Asters. These were very great favourites, but they were destined to be superseded by a yet higher advancement, and the past twelve years have wrought an almost entire change in the character of this flower. It would seem hardly possible that anything now remained to be achieved, for we have them as large, as double, and as perfect in form as the finest Dahlia. Truffant has made his name a household word with every lover of autumn flowers by the perfect PEONY FLOWERED ASTERS to which it has been linked. These bear very large flowers, of many colors, with long reflexed petals, and grow to the height of two feet. The FENIQUE POMPONE is one of the newer sorts, having the petals beautifully imbricated or overlapping each other, and sufficiently recurved to give the flower a fine globular form. It grows about eighteen inches high. The COCARDEAU or NEW CROWS is very double, having the central petals pure white surrounded by broader petals of some other color, crimson or violet or red, &c. The NEW CHRYSANTHEMUM FLOWERED DWARF grows only about a foot high, with very large perfect flowers of nearly every color. The NEW GIANT EMPEROR well deserves its name. Its flowers are enormous, nearly all perfectly double and of all colors.

All these varieties of the Aster delight in a deep rich soil and can be grown very easily. The seed may be sown in a hot-bed or in the open ground, and when the plants have attained the size of a young cabbage plant they can be transplanted as easily. The large growing sorts should be set about ten inches apart each way and the dwarf kinds six. It will be well, particularly in exposed situations to support the tall growing kinds by tying them to small stakes thrust into the ground near each plant. If these stakes are a few inches shorter than the plant they will not be conspicuous.

A bed of Asters in full bloom is a most lovely and attractive sight, amply repaying all the cost and care bestowed upon it. A few cents will purchase the seed and a very little labor in sowing, planting and weeding will furnish such a display in the autumn that no one who has once enjoyed it will ever be willing to forget the pleasure.

Curculio Remedy.

THE subjoined receipt was taken from some American magazine, now forgotten by me, or else I would feel pleasure in acknowledging the author. The same proportion may be used for any larger quantity of the following receipts:—

"To one lb. of whale oil soap, add 4 oz. of sulphur; mix thoroughly and dissolve in 12 gallons water. Take one-half peck quick lime, and when well slaked, add 4 gallons water, and stir well together; when settled and clear, pour off the transparent part, and add to the soap and sulphur mixture. To this mixture add 4 gallons strong tobacco water. Apply, when thus incorporated, with a garden syringe, to your plum or other fruit trees, so as to drench all parts of the foliage; if no rain succeed for three or four weeks, one application will be sufficient."

In offering my acknowledgment for the good received from this remedy, I do no more than "render unto Caesar that which belongs to Caesar." To remain quiet and not speak unto others would scarcely be making a suitable return for having perfectly and effectually saved my crop of plums for the last three years by means of the above receipt. But I have this remark to make, that it proved successful, not so much in its noxious compound as upon one single ingredient thereof. After several trials of the samples alone, the lime-water only defeated the "little Turk." Slake one peck of fresh quick-lime in a 32-gallon barrel, and as soon as thoroughly pulverized, pour in rain-water till full, and stir it rapidly, until the strength of the lime is taken up by the water; allow it to settle until it becomes quite clear, draw it off, and early in the morning or evening apply it as directed in the above receipt. It has several advantages, namely, in not discolouring the foliage. It is cheaper, more easily made, and much more agreeably applied, and can be oftener applied.

The refuse lime sediment can be thinly spread over the ground about the plum trees. The natural instinct of the insect prevents it depositing its eggs over a white or bright surface, either of water, boards, lime, or pavement.

Hamilton.

W. H. M

Fruit Growing near Dresden, in the County of Kent.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR.—My orchard has been in bearing for nine years, during which time it has not failed to yield a crop of fruit, with the exception of one season, when the June frost destroyed it. I have the Early Harvest, Sweet Bough, Fall Pippin, Gravenstein, Rambo's, Baldwin, Golden Russet, Northern Spy, R. I. Greening, Roxbury Russet, Talman Sweet, and a number of other sorts, all of which grow well and yield most abundantly. The Twenty-ounce apple is the sweetest bearer, and quality splendid. I have no doubt but that all the varieties usually recommended in the catalogues will grow well in all this county. It is not the apple trees nor the climate, but the people, that are to blame. They seem to expect that an orchard stuck in the ground any way, and never attended to after, will grow and bear fruit. This is a great mistake: the trees must be pruned and dug around every year. My neighbours think there is something wonderful about my orchard, but it is all in the way it is managed. I keep my trees as low as possible, and yet admit of the land being cultivated. When the trees were three years old I cut out the centre stem, which caused them to spread.

J. McD.

P. S.—Can any one tell what will keep the blue jays away from the fruit? Shooting them injures the tree worse than the birds do the apples.