

to sell," said he "is the water, which does not cost me anything. The flesh of my plums is nearly all water, while the pit contains 4 per cent of mineral matter. There is a law against selling water and calling it milk, but there is no law against selling water in the shape of fruit, and the more you can get in it the better the buyer is pleased. We want *big fruit*, the *bigger the better*." The way to get it was to give attention to all cultural details, e. g., we must *spray* to keep the foliage clean—he would use Bordeaux, $\frac{1}{4}$ strength for plum trees, and do it thoroughly; we must *cultivate*; we must *feed*; plums will take any quantity of manure, it will not hurt them. Mr. Woodward had picked six consecutive crops of Bradshaw off the same trees while most people only took a crop in alternate years. He fully expected another crop in 1903; he did not expect to skip any fruit season; and what was the explanation? It was *high manuring*. He applied eight or ten loads of stable manure an acre every year, and it paid him well. We must also *prune*; the branches and twigs must not grow so thick as to exclude the sunlight, so they must be well separated; and then they must be cut back annually to prevent a sprawling habit. And we must *thin*. By this thinning he had raised Bradshaw plums—well "not quite as big as my fist," said he, "but very near it."

By attention to these details we can grow plums that will bring high prices. Size has a wonderful effect upon the price. "Last year," said Mr. Woodward, "my Bradshaw plums brought me 60c. a basket, and a neighbor's Bradshaws only brought him 6c. a basket! What made the difference? Just the size."

DISTANCES TO PLANT FRUIT TREES.

THERE has been a tendency among fruit growers to plant trees too close together. Some have planted apples 25 or 30 feet apart; cherries, plums and pears, 15

feet; peaches, 12, and dwarf pears, 10. There may be some varieties of less vigorous habit that will flourish at such distances, with close pruning. Indeed, we all know about the miniature old trees of the Japanese gardens, and the possibilities in this direction. Mr. Brennan, of Grimsby, has his peach trees 12 feet apart, and gives them such close and constant shortening in that he has excellent results, and is an ardent advocate of his system. But in general practice close setting is a serious mistake, for in after years when the trees reach full maturity, unless much greater attention is given to pruning than is usual among fruit growers, the orchard will be a tangle, into which the owner can neither get his wagon or his spray pump; and into which the rays of the sun can scarcely penetrate.

Generally speaking, the following distances are advisable: Apples, 40 feet; pears (standard), peaches, plums and cherries (sweet), 20 feet; sour cherries, 15 feet; dwarf pears, 12 feet. Of course this general rule must be varied in some cases; for example, we know of a row of magnificent Flemish Beauty pears at Mr. E. C. Beman's place at Newcastle, each of which covers an area much greater than 20 feet in diameter; but this has a more spreading habit than most varieties.

Mr. Woodward plants his plum trees 20 feet apart each way, and he considers it a great mistake to plant trees too close together. "They need to have the sunshine on the *ground* itself between the trees," was his way of putting it.

VARIETIES OF PLUMS.

THE Bradshaw seemed to be Mr. Woodward's great favorite. Among other varieties he mentioned Reine Claude, Grand Duke, Felleberg, Monarch, Arch Duke and Prince Englebert.

What do you think of the Red June? we asked.