

tion should be constant. It is altogether a mistaken notion that quince trees, or any other trees, will thrive under neglect. True, heavy mulching will to a large extent make up for cultivation, but material for this purpose is not always at hand, and, as a rule, the best plan is to use the plow and cultivator frequently among the trees, thus exposing the land to the action of the air, without which the elements of fertility will long remain locked up from their roots. Another important point is liberal fertilizing. The quince tree is a great feeder, and the soil of the quince orchard should be manured heavily, favoring perhaps the ground near the trees.

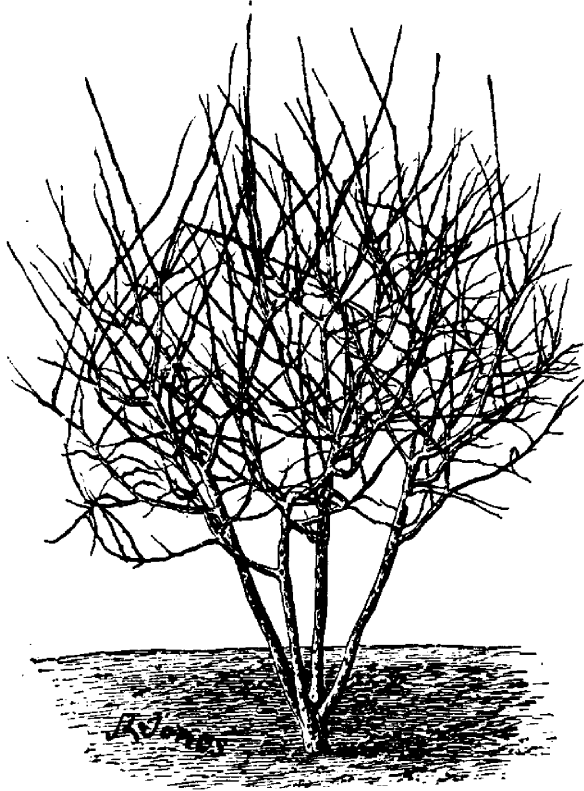


FIG. 24.—QUINCE TREE BEFORE PRUNING.

Some writers recommend, in addition, an annual application of salt, say about a quart scattered broadcast under each tree. Those who have not fertilized their quince trees liberally have no idea of the fruit which can be got under proper treatment. One might even doubt the identity of the same variety when grown under circumstances of neglect, or of careful cultivation. The