

STARVING ORCHARDS.

It is a very common mistake of growers of the apple and pear to suppose that they need very little manure. While still young they are kept thrifty by manure applied to the crops, but when once they reach bearing age they are left to shift for themselves, and when they cease to grow with any vigor or to yield scanty crops of scrubs, he blames the orchard for its barrenness when he should blame himself for starving it.

It has been stated on very good authority, that a crop of one hundred barrels of apples per acre, draws as heavily upon the soil as a crop of one hundred bushels of wheat. In support of this, we call the attention of our readers to the following table, showing the amounts of the most important fertilizing elements which are withdrawn by three of our most common fruits. The first line for example, shows that 1000 pounds of apple substance contains  $\frac{8}{100}$  of a pound of potash, and, therefore, a crop of 20,000 pounds takes from an acre twenty times that amount, or sixteen pounds of potash.

APPLES.	Potash. lbs.	Phos. Acid. lbs.	Nitrogen. lbs.
1000 pounds.....	.80	.03	.6
Crop of 20,000 pounds per acre...	16	6	12
PEARS.			
1000 pounds.....	1.8	.5	.6
Crop of 20,000 pounds per acre...	36	10	12
GRAPES.			
1000 pounds.....	5.0	1.52	1.70
Crop of 10,000 pounds.....	50	15.20	17

But the great question is, how to get enough manure to feed these orchards; for that from the barnyard is altogether insufficient. Well, the commercial fertilizers are excellent and even 200 to 300 pounds per acre will have a marked effect, while 600 pounds per acre is none too much.

The cheapest fertilizer for orchards on sandy loam is our common wood-ashes. Our American friends appreciate their value and are buying Canadian ashes by the car load to enrich their orchards and gardens. Canadians so little value them that they sell at five cents a bushel to speculators, and then they