

PRUNING AT MIDSUMMER.

It is many years since, from our own experience, we recommended people to prune at midsummer, although we knew it was opposed to the views of many eminent horticulturalists. At that time it was regarded as a bold innovation on established rules, and we have often since seen articles to show that summer pruning must be wrong. The reasoning by which this is supported is no doubt very good. It does seem by the reasoning we have referred to that it ought to be wrong to prune at that season, but, on the other hand, we have the evidence of our own senses not only that no harm but absolute good resulted from the summer pruning of trees.

But it seems to be forgotten by many good people that there are two sides to every story—two sides to winter pruning and two sides to summer pruning. Few of these horticultural operations are unmixed good or unmixed evil. In any case that we have to accomplish is to be gained, sometimes at a little expense of good points. So in this summer pruning. It is said by persons whom the whole horticultural community respect, that "winter pruning strengthens, while summer pruning weakens trees," and if one were to deprive a tree of the whole of its foliage, this would probably be true enough to work serious injury. It is on the principle on which noxious weeds are destroyed. Denuded of every leaf as fast as one appears, a plant is often killed in one season. But may this not be different when only a few branches are taken off? The remaining leaves and branches have more food at their disposal. What was intended for a thousand branches is now to be divided among nine hundred. But we are not disposed to enter into these minute points of physiological science. It is enough for practical men to know that the cutting away of a few branches has never been known to work any serious injury; while the ease with which the wound heals over is in striking contrast with the long time it takes a winter wound to get a new coat of bark over it. We have seen in a vigorous, healthy tree a stout branch of two inches in diameter taken off, in which the new bark nearly covered the stump in two years. In winter the same spot would have been several years in closing over, and perhaps the parts would decay first, and thus lay the foundation of future disease in the tree. So well is this known that in many places where winter pruning is practised to any great extent, it is not unusual to have shellac or some other composition ready to paint over the wounds to keep out the weather until it shall have closed over by the new bark.

Of course a heavy loss of foliage would be a serious loss to a tree; but it is very rare that any tree has been so much neglected as to need the half or even the fourth of its branches taken off in summer time. But there are in many cases branches here and there along the trunk of trees which it is an advantage to the tree to lose; and thinning, which may be done in various ways to advantage, and in such cases summer pruning will tell a good tale. —*German-town Telegraph.*

THE BEARING YEAR IN APPLES.

1. Take scions from a tree in 1873, and put them into a good and thrifty tree, and do the same in 1874, and you will get fruit in alternate years.
2. If you cut off of thrifty trees the growth of 1873 in the last of July, leaving three or four buds that would come out in 1874, you would force out the next year's buds and gain one year.
3. If you remove all the blossoms on one-half of your tree in the bearing year, you will have fruit on that half the odd year. These things I have done successfully.
4. I have now in bearing the Victory apple of the odd year produced in this way; next year the scions of the last year will bear on the regular year. —*S. A. S. in N. Y. Weekly Times.*

BEAUTIFY YOUR HOMES.

The question of how farms and homes are to be improved should naturally lead the farmer to think first of the surroundings of the home. The need of giving attention to this department is apparent to persons who go about the country and see the door yards and the slovenly manner in which farming is carried on by some.

The suggestion for improvement frequently receives the reply: "It costs too much money." But this is not true. Farmers who have the most money and are possessors of bank stock, sadly neglect their premises, while others, with an eye to neatness and a taste for improvements, have everything in good shape, with but little means to do it with. The example of England and France is an illustration, and shows how the humble peasant who cultivates but a small piece of land makes it not only pay largely, but also an attractive home-like residence by the culture and taste displayed in its surroundings. A large sum of money is not required, but simply a little taste in arranging things to make them look pleasant and inviting to the eye.

What a change would be wrought in the aspect of our farming districts, if the gardens and dooryards, which are too frequently filled with wood piles, heaps of rubbish, a mixture of shade trees, weeds, and grass, were converted into a smooth lawn with tastefully arranged fruit trees and shrubbery. Tree culture, from the seed or transplanting, costs but little effort and no money, and how much they add to the ornamental as well as useful! Let some farmer take the course of improvement suggested, and it would do much to educate the taste of the whole neighborhood. We have in mind an illustration of this in one of the hill towns in this vicinity. The church without a

pastor, looking seedy, the houses and fences were unpainted, and the enterprise of the town had run at a low ebb. A new minister took up his home there, bringing with him a wife who, like himself, possessed culture, taste and refinement. The parsonage was first painted, new fences and a new barn were built, the surroundings of the church yard were improved, trees set out, etc., which was a suggestion to others, and the neighborhood was soon improved in the same manner.

How much more attractive are dwelling-houses and farms surrounded with trees, and it really costs so little to do it! —*Springfield Homestead.*

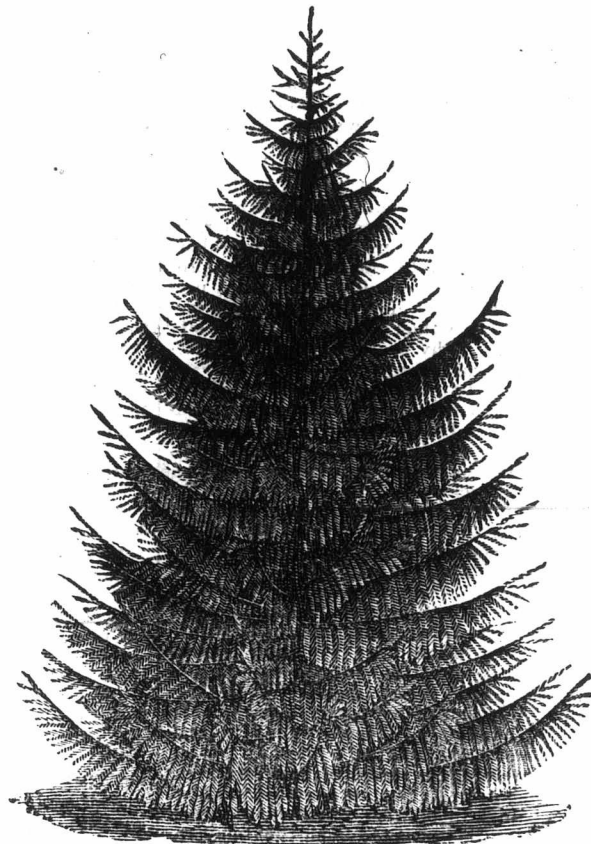
European Larch.

This will most probably become the most general tree for planting for fencing, building and fuel purposes. It is a rapid grower and a durable timber. Of course when planted for timber the lower branches die, and it runs to a great height in a short time.

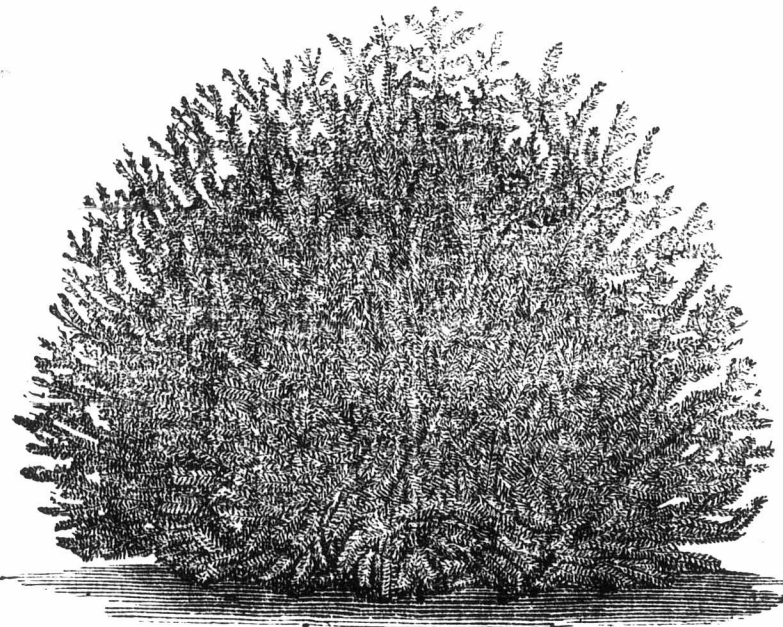
Arbor Vita.

Hints for the month.

We do not wish to remind you of too many things, or we may fail in our present attempt—that is to cause a greater number of trees to be planted. Many of you no doubt have attempted planting evergreens in the fall and early in the spring; some may have lived, many have died. The best time to plant evergreens is during the month of June, say from the 1st to the 25th. At this season the roots are sending out little white fibrous feeders, which will imbed themselves in the earth and grow as soon as they are replanted. There is one particular thing to be observed in transplanting evergreens, do not let the roots become dry. As soon as they are dug up, if they have not a ball of earth



THE EUROPEAN LARCH.



ARBOR VITA.

attached to the roots, keep them from the dry, scorching sun or drying wind, either by packing wet hops or damp straw around the roots, if they have to be carried any distance. If you choose a wet or damp day, and can get them removed in one day, by all means do so. Never leave the roots of an evergreen exposed to the sun or drying wind. Some of you may desire to plant an evergreen hedge, a row, a clump, or a single tree—if possible, spare a day or a half day this month. You can drive to some pinery or cedar swamp, or to some hemlock knoll, and get a load and beautify your grounds, or plant wind brakes to protect your cattle in winter. You may save the price of many an animal by making your barnyards, your stables and sheds warmer by having a good belt of trees at a convenient distance from your buildings. Just give it a trial this month. Do not put it off till next month. As soon as you have read this, make up your mind to hitch up the first

damp day, and plant some evergreens. The nursery trees are the surest to grow, but they cost money, and many of the varieties growing wild are good enough, but if you want a fancy variety you must go to the nurseries. If you get the cedars from the swamp, be sure and get a lot of the fibrous roots and muck with them; those growing on dry land are much more likely to live. This is also the right season to prune your evergreens. Many of you have them growing, but you let them destroy themselves by running too wild. Cut off the tops, and cut back all branches—they will grow thick and ornamental by so doing. Many there are that let their evergreens, close to their houses or gardens, grow to unsightly objects. Take the axe, the saw and the knife, and cut your evergreens back, and make them thick and bushy. Do not be afraid of killing them. Now is the time. If you will not attend to this hint for the month, we need give you no more.

WEeping TREES.

With a fine well kept and velvety, green lawn, tastefully planted with ornamental trees and shrubs, the grounds around the dwelling may be rendered very charming, but the effect can be increased by a judicious selection of weeping trees. We name some of the most beautiful:

European Weeping Ash, Weeping Beech, Cut-Leaved Weeping Birch, Camperdown Weeping Elm, White Leaved Weeping Linden, Weeping Mountain Ash, Weeping Poplar, American Weeping Willow and Kilmarnock Weeping Willow. —*Rural Home.*

PROSPECTS FOR FRUIT.

Apples are not generally very much injured by our severe winter, owing no doubt to the fact that last fall was quite dry and unfavorable to late growth, and trees went into winter well ripened up and in splendid condition. I find, however, that Early Pennock, Rambo and a few others have had their fruit buds materially injured. Dyer, Lowell, Fameuse, Jonathan, Janette, White Winter Pearmain and many others do not seem to have a fruit bud injured. Thus you see the prospect for an apple crop is good, but the danger is not yet over. We may have weather so warm as to start the fruit buds, and then cold enough to kill them.

Cherries are not much hurt. The Early Richmond has many fruit buds killed, but still quite enough good ones left to make a large crop. On the English Morello I cannot find a fruit bud that is injured. The Late Kentish has not escaped quite so well. I have, however, observed that cherry buds may show but slight injury from severe winter and come out in the spring, blossom free, but yet bear little or no fruit.

Plums do not look so promising. Lombard, Imperial Gage, Green Gage and a few others do not seem injured, but Cox's Golden Drop, Washington, Blue Gage, Jefferson and Minor are badly damaged. The Wild Goose has buds so extremely small that it is difficult to estimate the amount of injury in its buds, but the last year's growth in limbs have suffered considerably.

Pears seem to me to be the most damaged of all other fruits. I have not been able to find a single fruit bud but what has suffered from the winter, and my prediction is that the pear crop will be quite light the coming season.

Peaches are about all killed. Currants and gooseberries are all right, and promise a full crop.

Fruit trees have seemed to suffer but little from the severe cold, though some apple and plum trees have split open, to some extent.

Grape vines that were unprotected are considerably damaged, and a crop of fruit is extremely uncertain. I find the Concord the least injured of any other varieties.

It is not always that a severely cold winter is certainly going to damage the fruit crop for the following season, but much more depends upon the condition of the trees in the late fall. If the fall is dry and trees have ripened up their wood, and with an ordinary winter a crop of fruit is almost certain the following season. —*Cor. Iowa Homestead.*

SMALL FRUITS FOR THE FARM.

The berries, or what are usually determined the small fruits, are really of as much importance to a family as the larger kinds. The plants cost but a trifling sum, and they commence bearing almost as soon as planted, consequently are extremely valuable to those who desire fruit of some kind as soon as possible. For the purpose of showing how simple a matter it is for a person to supply himself with a succession of fruit during the summer, we will give a list of varieties and the number of plants and their cost, sufficient to supply a family of ordinary size.

Of course we expect that the plants will be given good care, and the weeds and grass not be allowed to grow up and smother them from the very beginning. As a rule, farmers have little time to care for such plants; therefore it is always best to plant in rows, and where they can be cultivated with a horse and plow. A plot 50 by 100 feet will answer our plan of a small fruit garden, the soil being well prepared and enriched, if necessary, before anything is planted.

We will begin with currants, planting one row of Dutch, and the same of the Red Dutch. These two sorts are good in quality as any, and equally productive, although not quite so large as some of the new sorts. The plants should be set four feet apart in the row, and the rows five feet, requiring twenty-five plants for each row 100 feet long.

All the following named fruits may be planted at the same distance, and the same number of each will be required:

One row of gooseberries will answer and may be placed next to the currants. The Houghton is an excellent variety and succeeds well in all the Northern States, although the berries are very small.

One row of red raspberries will yield an abundant supply during the fruiting season.