

Practical Pointers on Pruning Fruit Trees.

Do not prune unless there is positively good reason for so doing. Usually a good reason is not difficult to find. Prune to accomplish something. Know what you want to accomplish and do it.

Begin to prune as soon as trees are put into the ground. Continue doing so at the same time each year removing as near as possible the the same proportion of wood each time.

Start most young trees at about three and a half or four feet from the ground.

It is usually advisable to maintain a central axis. If two or more main shoots are left, see that they do not form a fork.

Trees inclined to grow very upright should be cut back to induce them to spread. If this is kept up for a few years, the tree will eventually abandon its upright habit.

Keep centre of tree open to admit sunlight. This improves the quality of the fruit. Inside pruning also facilitates harvesting. Thin out shoots or water-sprouts before they have made much growth, leaving only those that are necessary to fill openings in the head.

Remove all superfluous and dead branches and do not allow any branches to rub or cross.

Light pruning may be done at any time of the year; heavy pruning while the tree is dormant.

Spring pruning promotes wood and growth. Summer pruning checks growth and induces the formation of fruit spurs.

Unless absolutely necessary, pruning should not occur when sap is running.

Leave all wounds, clear and smooth, and paint those above one-half inch in diameter with either white lead or grafting wax. A good mixture for this purpose is gum shellac dissolved in one quart alcohol to thickness of paint.

A. B. C.

A not altogether unpleasing story of two street urchins has recently been told. One of them was munching a big apple.

No. 2 eyed the operation longingly, and finally said—

"I say, Jim, goin' t' gimme a bite?"

"No," was the curt reply of Jim, as he bit into the rosier part. "Makes yer mouth water, don't it?" he added.

The second boy watched the greedy fellow as the apple rapidly disappeared. Then he took off his hat and an apple three times bigger than Jim's rolled out. Jim's eyes grew almost as round as the apple, but he could only say in a sheepish tone—

"Yer think yer smart, don't yer?"—Chums.

More than possible—"My son," said the irate parent, "I am surprised, mortified, and amazed to find that you stand at the foot of your class. I can hardly believe it possible."

"Why, father," replied the son, "it is the easiest thing in the world."—Chums.