

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

OLD ORCHARDS.

I do not intend to speak strictly of orchards planted a long while ago; but of all orchards that are dying out. I have one planted in the last century. I am sorry to say that it was mostly dead before I knew how to treat it.

My plan was, as soon as a tree showed signs of serious decay, to plant a young tree near by, that should take its place when no longer of any value. The young tree would thus get several years advance toward fruit-bearing before the old tree was removed. The plan was far from being the best. I find now that when the old tree has a solid trunk, or fairly so, it is advisable to allow a few suckers, carefully selected, to grow at the base of the limbs, and with them form a new top, cutting out the old limbs. This, however, cannot always be done, and will, perhaps, not always be desirable. But, at the roots, select two suckers that start a few inches from the trunk; trim away all others; trim these carefully and prepare them to take the place of the old tree. Select two to stand for a few years, since one may fail in some way to be reliable. These should be grafted in due time; and, when a fair selection can be made, cut away the poorest. A tree started thus on the roots of the old tree has a vast root growth to feed it and it will grow with enormous rapidity. Cut the old tree when desirable, or before the young is made unshapely, and you will hardly know you have had a vacancy.

The same rule holds good with blighted young orchards. Last year thousands of apple trees were killed in Central New York. I have seen whole orchards of fine young trees swept out, and nothing done about it. But I have rarely seen a tree thus killed that was not soon surrounded with scores or hundreds of twigs. Now let the owner clean away promptly all but two, care for these two, and then, in time remove all but one. In five years his orchard is all there again, restored with double vigour of growth and not likely to meet with another fatal disaster for fifty years.

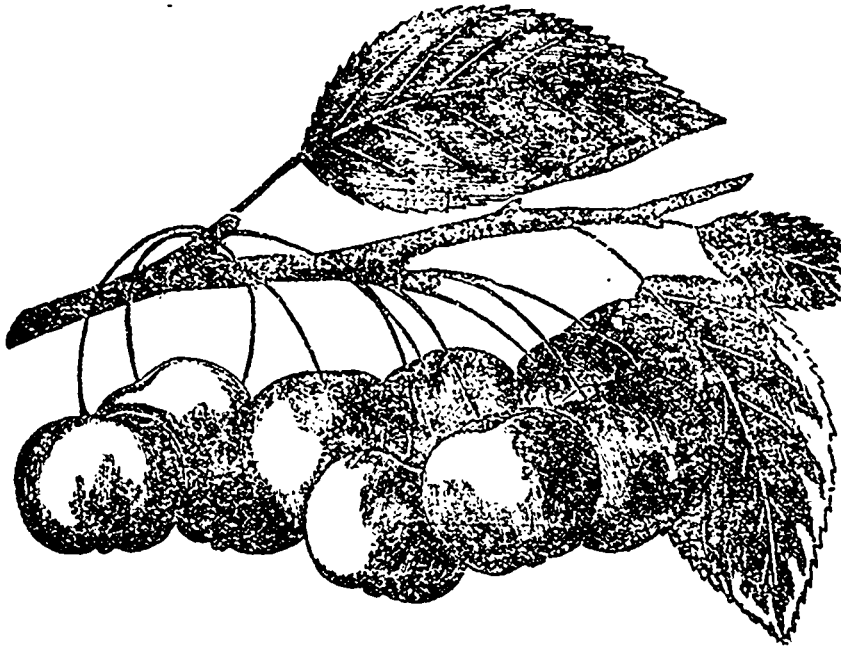
Driving by a large orchard of dead trees, lately, I asked the owner what he proposed to do about it. "I'm discouraged," he answered. "They had just begun to bear, and away they have all gone in a dash." "But," I said, "if you will spend one-half day now among those green twigs that shoot up at the bottom, you will not lose your money, your courage, nor your orchard. If you dig them out and set anew, it will cost a large sum." "That looks reasonable," he answered, as I explained the process. But two months have passed, and he has done nothing. So one year is lost and the end will probably be the axe or the spade.

It is getting to be a matter of a good deal of importance, also, for the public at large, that farmers who grow orchards eliminate varieties that are not hardy and profitable. In renewing an orchard, reduce your list of varieties. This exceedingly bad year I find but

one really fine lot of apples in my orchard. Every tree of the Kirkland is full of fine, clean fruit. It is a seedling of this section, of remarkably tough wood and hardy as an elm. The Hubbardston, Nonesuch, White Pippin, and Northern Spy are also doing fairly well. Greenings give considerable fruit, but not fair. It is a sharp test year on fruit, as the past two winters have severely tested the wood.

In renewing my orchard, I am inclined to secure, as far as possible, apples native to this latitude. The Spy, the King, the Kirkland, and the Baldwin are four varieties that do well constantly; but the King is utterly unsuited to graft in for renewal. When I succeed in making a new head for an old tree, my choice is to graft in the Baldwin. It will come to quick bearing and pay speedily for your trouble. The Roxbury Russet is also a good graft to speedily form a new head. The chief difficulty with the Baldwin is that it will overbear, and, as the wood is brittle, will split down. This makes it a better graft for old trees than for young ones.

Most of the difficulty with our old orchards



requiring renewal is the lack of proper and prompt trimming. Suckers take the life out of old limbs with great speed. There should be a regular annual pruning, as annual haying. You may as well expect your wheat to take care of itself as your apple trees.—E. P. P.

CRAB APPLES,

The leading varieties of Crabs grow in every part of Ontario and yield very large crops. At Arnprior, and in Muskoka, as well as in the front counties, the Siberian (illustration above), Transcendant, and Montreal Beauty are found to be equally prolific. The Siberian begins to yield fruit in four years after its removal from the nursery, and bears a profitable crop in six. The others are also early bearers.

THE LATEST NEW STRAWBERRIES.

A correspondent sends the following account of the latest remarkable new seedling strawberries to a New York paper. It is to be remarked that the descriptions sent are wholly in the public interest, and not from any selfish motive on the part of the writer, as he

has not a solitary plant for sale, and does not expect to have for several months to come:

"'Heliogabalus Double Early,' is a large and squat berry, with blue eyes and a coy, winning mouth, bursting all over with coquettish sweetness. It is a good grower, but requires judicious tickling with a straw to awaken it to a generous enthusiastic interest in its own cultivation.

"'Reddy the Blacksmith Round Top Seedling,' is a good family berry; but of no use in general society. The last crop was a failure, owing to the name, which weighed heavily on the berry, and retarded its growth.

"'Blue Jeans Late Canadian Songster' used to be fine, but has fallen into dissipated ways, and is more or less stunted, and has an acid flavour, like an old maid whose last hope has just been carried off by a red-headed girl with freckles.

"'Calithumpian Aurora' is a beautiful boarding-house berry, much admired by dealers. Owing to its modest and retiring habits which impel it to grovel on the cold, cold ground, it is enabled to pick up and retain large quantities of sand and dirt, on which account it is sometimes called 'Triumph of Real Estate,' or 'True Grit.' This berry may also be used by careful housekeepers in the place of bath brick.

"'Tuscarora Conquest' promises to develop to such wonderful proportions that two of them adroitly manipulated by street vendors, could be made to fill a box with bottom located about half way to the top. It also promises that each would be sufficient for a short cake. However, it is not great in size. It is probably as small as Conklings chances of becoming President. 'Tuscarora Conquest' is a slender, low-necked specimen of its kind, and, when feeling well, is productive as a Spring poet. The best way to raise it is with a pair of ice tongs.

"'Fur Tippet' I consider one of the finest berries I have ever seen. This berry is so phenomenally intelligent that it can be trained to jump through a hoop and do light chores about the house."—*Gardener's Monthly*.

GRAFTING THE GRAPE.

Professor Budd gives the following directions in the *Iowa Homestead* for grafting the grape. Root grafting, he says, is as easy and certain as grafting the apple. Scions of Delaware and other fine sorts may be grafted on such strong-growing vines as the Concord, inserting the grafts on the crowns of the roots early in winter, merely winding with waxed thread without waxed-plasters, and packing in boxes till spring. For out-door work wait till the leaves are about two-thirds developed, and set the scion, by whip or cleft mode, low enough to be mounded for covering the place of union; the graft will usually make a good growth the same season. Professor Budd has known the Delaware thus grafted on wild vines to bear a growth of ten feet the same season and make crop the next.