

Garden and Orchard.

Mountain Ash.

Herewith we give an illustration of this ornamental tree. It is perfectly hardy, and can be grown in almost any part of Canada. It grows to the height of twenty-five feet; the leaves are dark green, and somewhat similar in shape to the oak leaf. In summer it has a profusion of white blossoms, which are succeeded during autumn by large clusters of reddish yellow berries, which form a strong contrast to the dark foliage. It is a very desirable tree to plant upon our lawns or ornamental grounds, and makes a capital shade tree when planted along the roadside or field. An avenue of these trees planted alongside the lane leading to a house looks very beautiful, especially if well trimmed.

Preparing for Planting Fruit Trees.

Let us glance at the cardinal obstacles to successful fruit culture, and briefly suggest a remedy in each case, founded on experience in both gardens and fields. In many gardens that have for years been devoted to vegetable culture, the land has been dug deeply, or trenched, and manured liberally and systematically. Such soil is not well suited for fruit trees, as it promotes sappy, luxuriant, and fruitless growths. The best remedy to apply in such a case is lime and firm planting. But liming to be effective must be thorough; a mere sprinkling at the rate of 10 or 20 bushels an acre is of no use; such an infinitesimal dose is time and material wasted. The application should equal from 80 to 100 bushels per acre, or a little over 2 bushels to the rod of 30 square yards. Such an application in rich, "fat" garden land is the best dressing that can be given for all kinds of fruit, except, perhaps, strawberries and black currants, and half the quantity of lime will suffice for these.

Poor land must be enriched before anything can be properly grown on it; but, as a rule, it is not sound or economical practice to bury farmyard manure deeply for fruit trees. For mixing with the soil, half inch bones are admirable, farmyard manure being chiefly placed on the surface of the soil over the roots. If a fruit tree is planted in poor soil, a barrowful of good compost placed round its roots, and rich manure used as advised, the tree may be expected to flourish. The reason the manure is best placed on the surface is that it encourages roots there, and surface roots can be easily fed, while they always produce short-jointed, fruitful wood, deep or subsoil roots producing growths of an opposite character. From this fact, for fact it unquestionably is, it will be seen that the practice of digging deeply amongst the roots of fruit trees is pernicious.

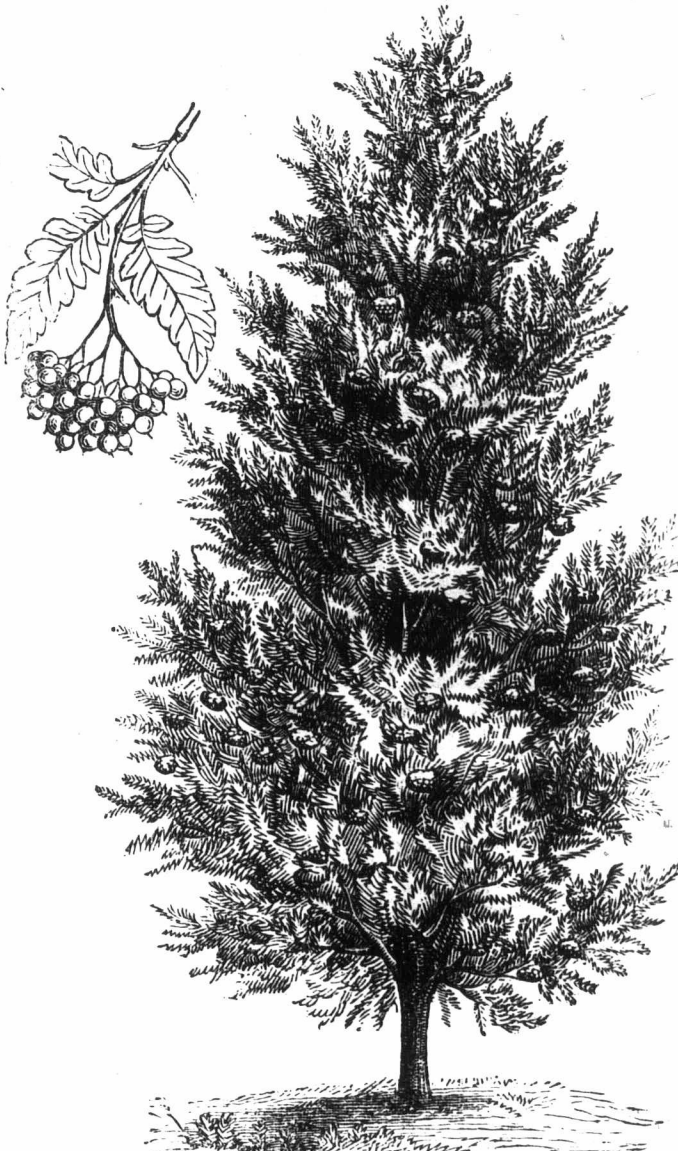
Too dry soils are those close to the shale, rock or subsoil. In such cases there must be a removal of the former and a breaking of the latter, so that during wet weather the moisture can pass down freely, and, what is equally important, pass up from the earth to the roots in dry weather. It ought never to be forgotten that a hard "sole" or cement-like subsoil—through which rain can scarcely pass, acts also as a seal to the subterranean reservoirs which, by the agency of the sun, yield up their supplies to the roots of trees and languishing crops in the hot summer months.

For wet soils the remedy is obvious—draining. No trees can flourish in water-logged soil, and drains cannot be effective for the purpose in question that are much less than three feet deep; but in soils such as clay, of an adhesive nature, there should be cross drains also of half that depth, to carry off quickly the surface water. In draining soil for fruit trees—in fact, for all crops—care must be taken that there are proper falls and outlets for the water, and that the latter be kept

clear, which is certainly not always the case, important as the matter obviously is.

Strong soils should have liberal applications of vegetable matter—old tan, spent hops, decayed leaves, wood ashes, the latter being especially valuable, long littery—not rotten—manure, grit, sand, or anything to improve its porosity; light land, on the contrary, should be dressed freely with marl, clay, or anything of a heavy nature; and if the clay can be charred before use, so that it can be broken into small particles, it will be of tenfold greater value than if used in a raw, tenacious state—in fact charred soil of any kind forms a splendid medium for fruit trees.

Preparing the soil on the lines indicated is the quickest, surest, and cheapest mode of ensuring success in the growth of fruits, of whatever kind they may be, and however small or large the scale on which they are to be cultivated.



MOUNTAIN ASH.

Raising Tender Seeds.

As the time for sowing tender seeds is rapidly approaching, it may be well to prepare those who are not professional gardeners with advice how to secure a successful result. When seeds don't come up, in nine cases out of ten it is the result of sheer ignorance as to their proper modes of growing and treatment, whilst it is the common excuse to throw the burden of failure upon the unfortunate seeds or their vendors. Amateurs often rely for their summer floral display upon plants raised from seed, and perhaps overlook the fact that their chances of success lie in an early sowing. It often, however, happens that this is neglected until it is too late, and the flower garden suffers in consequence; and with the limited means at command, great difficulty is experienced in getting the plants fit to put out until the season is far advanced. Of course, if a properly heated house or pit is at disposal, no great difficulty need be experienced, but

this is so seldom possessed by the class of persons referred to, that the idea may be at once dismissed, and we prefer to say that an ordinary frame, assisted by heating material, is the next best place; but care should be taken that a gentle warmth should be maintained for a few weeks until the seedling plants have become strong and the sun shines rather more light and heat. There are very many persons, however, who will not care to take the trouble that is involved in the making of a hot-bed, and, therefore, whilst it is generally a successful contrivance in the hands of those who understand it and don't mind the cost, the greater number of amateurs will be content with the means which a green-house affords them for seed raising. In such a place some means must be adopted in order to raise the temperature a little, and the simplest and cheapest plan is to make a frame on a small scale by means of two boards of any required length, the back one being about nine inches and the front one six inches deep; to these add two short pieces for ends, and a miniature form is found, on which squares of glass can be laid, the edges touching each other. This small box will get and retain more warmth than exists in the open house. If a more elaborate affair is desired, a groove cut along on the inner top-edge of each board will allow the glass to slide along and prevent it from falling or slipping off. In such a close box as this, all sorts of tender seeds can be raised with considerable ease, and when large enough to pick off, the green-house will certainly afford the required warmth and shelter. There are in most greenhouses odd places in which such a contrivance might be fitted up, and it would prove extremely handy for many purposes, not the least of which is that mentioned, and also as affording considerable aid in the striking of cuttings of tender plants. The size of the glass must, of course, be a matter of convenience, but panes twelve inches by sixteen inches would prove exceedingly useful. In such a small frame, pots of such a size should be used as will allow the most to be made of the limited space within, and they should be filled with clean, sandy, finely-sifted soil, and the seeds be but thinly covered over, then gently pressed down and watered with tepid water, the same precaution being taken in future waterings until the plants are strong. When the sun shines strongly, a newspaper might be thrown over the glass to prevent scorching, but it should be removed directly the danger is passed away.

Apple Culture in Ontario.

BY J. MCLACHLIN.

Whilst Ontario is noted for the excellence of its cheese and beef, and for its large export of grain, it has not yet attained the position it deserves in the culture of fruit. Our farmers have, as yet, reaped an inadequate return from their orchards. Year after year they have planted trees, expended both money and time on the cultivation of fruit, but in far too many cases the result has not been as encouraging as they anticipated, at least the net proceeds of the orchard have not been what they should be.

Why is this? Is our climate at fault? No. Ontario is admirably adapted to apple culture, as any one can learn by visiting our fairs, or by the reputation of our apples in the English market. As a further evidence of the excellence of Ontario apples, a Middlesex farmer received one of the medals given at the Centennial Exhibition, for apples grown in the township of Delaware.

So then, whilst we admit, and know from personal experience, that there are a few favored spots in Canada, such as the Annapolis Valley, N. S., better adapted to apple culture than Ontario, still we claim that our Province is, on the whole, well fitted for producing a large variety of apples.

Are the trees planted of inferior quality? Certainly not. Our local nurseries, as well as those in Rochester and elsewhere, supply good healthy trees, generally true to name and of the variety ordered. In fact we have the same class of trees that are sold in Annapolis and Kings Counties, N. S.