

**Plum Trees.**—The plum fruit is borne upon spurs, consequently this tree is to be pruned in the same manner as directed for the apple. Plum trees are liable to become *gummy*, and also to be troubled with *black gum*. The former proceeds from the effects of a living worm, which in the course of time changes to an insect. The latter is a black, cancerous wart, and which spreads rapidly. Worms, similar to those before mentioned, are sometimes found in the black gum; yet their presence therein is purely accidental, and hence such cases are complications of the two evils. Remove all limbs infested with black gum, unless it should spoil the shape of your tree. In such case, cut the gum out, back to the quick and sound bark, but it must be thoroughly done, for, if you leave a particle of spongy or speckled bark, you might as well leave all. The wound is no worse than that occasioned by removing a limb. It will heal readily, if cut far enough back. In regard to the worm, cut him out with a good narrow-bladed knife, (our own pen-sharpener laughs—well, well, it has dislodged many a one,) cut back to the quick, as above mentioned. It will frequently happen that the amount of dead bark to be removed is great, but still better removed than remaining. The worms will inhabit the tree, in line, from top to bottom, and are apt to girdle it at the root; yet the knife, governed by patience and perseverance, will effectually remove the difficulty. Score, or slit the bark, up and down, as this tree is very liable to become hide-bound. The latter difficulty arises from a neglect of both the soil and tree.

**Benefit of Pressing the Earth.**—A correspondent of the *Michigan Farmer* writes.—A few years since, I was employed to make a garden. The soil was a gravelly loam. Among the beds made, was an onion bed, about 5 feet by 20. The earth for this bed was carefully spaded up to the depth of 11 inches, and with a garden rake, made very mellow. The next day the seed was sown in drills, crosswise the bed, the drills being about seven inches apart. Immediately after sowing the seed, one half of the bed was stamped down as hard as the weight of a lad of 15 years of age, by pressing once or twice in a place, would make it. The other half was left light. Shortly after the onions were up, they were weeded and carefully thinned, so as to stand about three inches asunder in the drills all over the bed. The soil during their growth, was not moved any more

than was incident to the pulling up of the weeds. With regard to the result, suffice it to say that the onions which grew on the part of the bed which was stamped, came up first, grew more thickly, and were more than double the size and quantity than those on the other half—being to fact, as good a yield as I ever saw."

**Manures.**—We are too close upon the period for action to lose much time in disquisitions respecting the various methods of treating the animal and vegetable matter accumulated upon the farm, and intended for manures. Those who are in favor of long manure, have but to haul it to the fields, while others, no doubt, who favor the short muck doctrines, will suffer the products of the barn-yard to remain until fall. It would be our pleasure to advise a medium course between these practices. That is, we would not ferment, but decay, or crumble manure, which is readily done by means of a little alkaline and earth. One bushel of finely and freshly slaked lime, ten bushels of common earth, and thirty of barn-yard manure, intimately mixed, dampened, and well trodden will soon heat, and crumble into a fine mealy mould. In the early spring, the manure is sufficiently damp, and therefore will not require wetting. There is no need of measurement—a good practical hand will readily judge the quantities of lime, earth and manure. If well formed, the heap will be ready in from two to three weeks' time. The same thing can be done by means of ashes, using two bushels thereof in place of the one of lime. The heap must be damp and trodden down, or the ashes will not act. And again take the proportion of ten bushels of earth, and thirty of manure, mix them thoroughly together, and they undergo the same change, and will, no doubt, be ready in season for planting corn or potatoes. But if you try it, do not pretend to form the heaps by layers, it will only prove to be lost time.

**To protect Sheep from the Gad Fly.**—In August and September this fly lays its eggs in the nostrils of sheep, where they are hatched, and the worms crawl into the head, and frequently they eat through to the brain. In this way many sheep are destroyed. As a protection, smirch their noses with tar. Lay some tar in a trough or on a board, and srew fine salt on it; the sheep will finish the operation. The tar will protect them, and what they eat will promote their health.