

cultivation of a young orchard, that it is an impossibility to take a grain or grass crop from the soil without positive detriment to the trees until they have reached a considerable size and become firmly established in the soil, in fact have arrived at that period of growth when Fruit should be looked for, then it sometimes is a benefit to check the wood growth by that means and so induce the formation of Fruit buds. That being once accomplished the cultivation should be again resumed and continued, for it is a generally received axiom among Fruit Growers all over the world, "If you want good Fruit you must give good cultivation."

PRUNING.

This is one of the most necessary operations of the Fruit Grower, and it is a subject on which he can get less practical information from books than almost any other in the whole range of Fruit culture, simply because so much depends on the skill, judgment and experience of the cultivator. The reason is obvious when we remember that every tree is endowed with the mysterious principle of life, and being so each one has its own idiosyncrasy and utterly refuses to grow after any set pattern unless tortured into it. Here is where the skill, judgment and careful management of the experienced cultivator is required; here where the close observations of the habits and characteristics of the different varieties of trees will do him better service than all the information to be obtained from books on the subject.

There are general principles and rules however to be gathered from the writings and experience of others. The lamented Downing says and his words should be treasured by every one who has the care of young Fruit trees: "A judicious pruning to modify the form of our standard trees is nearly all that is required in ordinary practice. Every Fruit tree grown in the open orchard or garden as a common standard should be allowed to take its natural form, the whole efforts of the pruner going no further than to take out all weak and crowded branches, those which are filling uselessly the interior of the tree, where their leaves cannot be fully exposed to the light and sun, or those which interfere with the growth of others. *All pruning of large branches in healthy trees should be rendered unnecessary by examining them every season*