



An Out-of-Date Method of Pruning, Well Demonstrated

Nowadays progressive orchardists aim to have their trees low-headed, in which case much labor is saved in pruning, spraying and in harvesting the fruit, and there is not the same loss from wind-falls as with the old time high-headed, high-trimmed trees. Except for the method of pruning being followed this young orchard shows that it is receiving good care.

orchard after the trees require the land. I have seen orchards where the limbs have been meeting in the centre and underneath the branches in the shade were to be found raspberries growing for the purpose of producing a crop, and a revenue. The raspberries prevented an economical and proper management of the orchard, consequently the orchard suffered, and besides the raspberries could not possibly be returning much of a crop from the manner and circumstances in which they were growing.

In the orchard that is intercropped there is a double demand on the fertility of the soil. Provision must be made for this in the way of fertilizers, of which barnyard manure is the most satisfactory. Cover crops can not be readily resorted to where small fruits are grown; consequently it is more difficult, and in fact almost impossible, to keep the land in the best physical condition. After the small fruits have been removed from the orchard, it is very desirable to grow, as soon as possible, some cover crop, clovers and vetches being among the best, in order that it may be incorporated in the soil. Of course if the land has been well fertilized with barnyard manure, it may not need the cover crop.

CULTIVATION

Early and frequent cultivation is necessary, chiefly to conserve the soil moisture. If frequent cultivation is not given early in the season and there should be a scarcity of rainfall, as there usually is at the time when it is most needed, the small fruits will suffer considerably at fruiting time and the trees cannot be expected to do their best. Cultivation

should never lose sight of the fact that his orchard is the chief consideration and that the small fruit is only of secondary importance.

Spring Cultivation

Grant S. Peart, Burlington, Ont.

The scientist tells us that plant food the soil must be in solution before it can be utilized by the plant. It is necessary, therefore, that the soils of our orchards shall be kept in a moist condition during the growing season if we expect to get sufficient wood growth and good-sized fruit. In many parts of Ontario the growers have to contend with a month or more of drought during the growing season, and at this time they cannot afford to let the fruit and trees stop growing. The value of conservation of moisture, to offset the dry weather, thus becomes important. The fact that thorough cultivation tends to conserve soil moisture constitutes one of the first principles in horticultural work. Many of our Ontario growers do cultivate their orchards, but some commence this operation too late in the season to produce any beneficial effects. It is not uncommon to observe orchards with heavy clay soils being worked during July, for the first time that season. These orchards are generally dried out before they are plowed, so that the ground turns up very lumpy and rough. When in this condition it is with great difficulty that the lumps can be reduced sufficiently to obtain the desired mellow mulch.

A light dressing of nitrate in the spring has been found of assistance to fruit trees at the time of setting the fruit.



A Well Kept old Orchard That was Neglected When Young

Notice that several of the trees have been allowed to develop from sprouts or suckers and that no care has been taken whatever to direct the growth or shape.