



How to Plant Fruit Trees.

In planting an orchard it is advisable first to plow the ground into lands as wide as the distance between the rows of trees. The furrows should be turned towards the centre of each land, and the lands run in such a direction that the ditches left by the plow shall carry off all the surface water. The trees are to be set out along the centre of each land. The holes should be dug sufficiently large to allow of the roots being placed in their natural position, that is spread out as they grow, and not bent or doubled up in order to get them into the holes. It is well to dig them some six inches deeper than is needed to receive the tree and fill in again with well pulverized surface soil, thus forming a bed into which the young roots may grow. All bruised, broken or injured roots, should be pared smooth with a sharp knife, and the tree placed in the hole so that it will stand at the same depth in the ground when the earth becomes settled as it stood in the nursery. The mellow surface soil should be carefully worked in among the roots, in such a way that every root will be in contact with the soil and no vacant spaces left, and thus the hole filled up, gently pressing down the earth with the foot when there is no danger of injuring the roots. The top of the tree should also be pruned back, for in removing it from the nursery some of the roots are necessarily injured and others cut off, and it is desirable to restore the balance between the top and root by cutting in the branches. It is a good rule to cut back all the branches of the previous season's growth to within four buds of the base, besides taking off entirely, all that are not wanted. After the trees are planted the surface of the ground should be covered with partially rotted straw, leaves, or coarse litter, to the depth of from four to six inches, as far around each tree as the roots extend. It has been recommended to use manure for this purpose, but strong manure is not a safe article. It certainly should never be put into the holes among the roots, and there is danger of its being washed down into the soil, in too strong proportions when placed upon the top of the ground, particularly when the tree is newly planted. The object of covering the ground over the roots of the tree is to preserve a uniform degree of moisture, and temperature, so that the earth shall not be baked by the sun, nor the trees suffer in time of drouth.

Standard apple trees are usually planted about thirty feet apart each way. An esteemed correspondent residing at Woburn, strongly recommends that in this climate they should be planted much closer together, not more than 18 feet apart, for the reason that they protect each other. We have never seen such an orchard, nor are we sure that it will prove on the whole desirable.

Standard Pears, and Cherries of the Heart and Bigarreau varieties may be planted twenty feet apart each way; Standard Plums, Peaches, and Duke Morello Cherries at eighteen feet.

Dwarf Pear, Cherry and Plum Trees are planted ten feet apart each way, and Dwarf Apple Trees (on the Paradise Stock) eight feet. It is best to plant Dwarf trees so that the stock shall be entirely in the ground, but not any deeper. By the stock is meant that part of the tree below the place where the bud or graft was inserted; this part it is desirable to bury in the soil so that the place of union between the graft and the stock shall be just at the surface of the ground. Many trees are set out every year only to die before

the end of the season or to straggle only during a few years of unsatisfactory existence. It is important to success that trees should be planted in a suitable place and in a proper manner, but prominent among the causes of this loss is one thing that unfortunately cannot be wholly remedied by the most judicious selection of soil or the most careful planting. We refer to the mistaken anxiety to get large trees. At least ninety per cent. of the orders received by our nurserymen contain the injunction, "be sure and send nice large trees, I want them for immediate bearing." Now a large tree cannot possibly be taken up with as much root, in proportion to the top as a small one; if, then, the proper equilibrium between the root and the branches is to be restored a large part of the top must be cut away, much more than in the case of a smaller tree. This the planter is seldom willing to do, and in consequence the tree dies; and even when he does cut in the top sufficiently, the tree is never likely to thrive as well as if it had been transplanted smaller. Ordinarily the younger, smaller tree, treated with the same care, will in ten years not only have outstripped the larger tree in size, but have borne more fruit. The best trees for transplanting are those that are young and thrifty. Standard apple and pear trees at three and four years old will be transplanted with better success than at any greater age. Plum and Cherry at two and three years, and Peach at one and two, and Dwarf trees at the age of two and three years.

On the Best varieties of Apples for Market.

To decide absolutely as to what kinds are best under all varieties of circumstances, is what no one can do. And it is with great diffidence that I would hazard an opinion, when we see some hundreds of apples described in our pomological works as, "good, very good, and best," and perhaps any one of them would please a not too fastidious taste. Yet there are some varieties that are better than others, although what may be "best" in some localities, may be only second or third rate in others, owing to the great difference in soil and climate, more especially the latter; as in almost every section of the country the cultivator has an opportunity to choose his soil, at least to some extent.

If we plant with a view to the English market, there is no doubt the green Newton Pippin is the most profitable apple, as it is a good bearer and brings a higher price than any other, while the cost of transportation is no more than upon a kind that brings a lesser price. But the objections to it are, that it will not do well on every soil, nor bring a fine sample with indifferent cultivation. It requires a very deep rich clay loam resting upon lime stone, or else the land must be heavily dressed with lime, I need not say that it benefits largely by protection from the prevailing winds as, indeed, every kind of fruit does in a greater or less degree. As the tree is rather a slow grower, and late in coming into bearing, I would recommend the planting of the Baldwin, Northern Spy or any good fast growing tree, and when the trees are eight or nine years old, graft them with the Newton Pippin. But before doing so try if it will succeed in your locality by grafting some bearing tree with the Newton Pippin, and give it a chance, by good cultivation and plenty of time, and if you can grow good fair apples, free from black spots, you will be quite safe in going largely into them. The Lady apple commands a very high price as a fancy dessert apple, both in London and New York. The tree is rather small when full grown, but bears a heavy crop, the objection to it is its very small size. The Baldwin is an apple that takes well in the market. It presents a fine appearance from its high colour, uniformity of size, and freedom from blotches. The tree is one of the best growers we have and bears a large fine crop, but it is deficient in flavour. The Rhode Island Greening should not be passed by; it is one of the most profitable apples we have, but they should only be planted to a limited extent; as they are emphatically a cooking apple, and not fit for table use, and no dealer likes to buy a large quantity of them, without getting a lot of some other kind, yet from the immense crops they bear the apples can be sold at a good

profit, even at a lower rate than some other kinds would bring. The Roxbury or Boston Russet and the American Golden Russet, are both very good long keeping apples. The latter is smaller in size but higher in flavour and altogether a much finer fruit. The Roxbury Russet is a good late cooking apple, and the American Golden Russet is a fine late table apple, both are perfectly hardy and desirable varieties. The Ribston Pippin commands a high price in the English market. The tree is a good grower and the fruit here is much finer than can be grown in its native England. It bears a good crop every year, comparatively uniform in size and colour, and is a profitable apple, if sent to market not later than November, as it is past season early in January.

There is an apple which I believe has not yet been described, in any pomological work, but which in my humble opinion should as a dessert apple, rank among the very best. The original tree was grown by Mr. Swayzee, in the latter part of the last century, on his farm between Niagara and Queenston, and it is locally known as the Swayzee Pomme Grise. It is rather below the medium size, quite crisp, and of a very high pear flavour and a long keeper. The tree bears an average crop every year, and is no doubt quite hardy. From its great superiority to all other russets, in point of flavour, I have no doubt that if it were disseminated by some of our enterprising nurserymen, it would prove a great favourite. The original tree is or was standing a short time ago.

I might extend the list, but it is by no means desirable that many varieties should be planted, and having a list of good growing, good bearing, good eating, and good keeping apples, it is all that is required, unless it is to extend the season by including some of the earlier kinds. This has not been done, because except for domestic purposes it is better that they should be grown in the more Southern parts of our Province as they are only valuable if thrown early into the market.

R. N. B.

Niagara, March 17.

Hedge Plants.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—Fencing is an expensive item in the outgoings on a farm, especially when the materials have to be purchased at a distance. In some localities it is becoming absolutely necessary to plant hedges; and on this subject we want more information. The remarks in No. 2 of THE FARMER on the Buckthorn and Barberry, are encouraging. I have upwards of sixty rods of the Buckthorn, two and three years old, and can add my testimony as to its ease of transplanting, hardiness in frost, drought, &c.; its lack of sweetness to mice, cattle and sheep; but it requires a much more formidable-looking barrier than it now promises, to prevent cattle that have been "raised in the woods" from crowding through with their eyelids closed. If any of your readers—not having plants to sell—have succeeded in training a hedge of this plant, to be "bull-proof," (never mind the hogs—they ought not to run at large,) then I should like to know how it is done, and what its age.

The Barberry is slower in growing, and the plants more difficult to raise; but, to my mind, it is the plant above all others suitable for Canada, for hedging purposes. It can be trained to be not only bull-proof and hog-tight, but a bird or a snake could not go through. Its foliage is beautiful at all seasons, and when in blossom it is exceedingly lovely.

Woodstock, April 2, 1861.

R. W. S.

Asparagus Beans.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—Last season I procured from Mr. Simmers, seedsman, Toronto, a packet of these beans. Let all lovers of green beans try them. In my opinion they are superior to all others.

HOW TO COOK THEM.

Cut the pods, which are long, into lengths; cook and serve as you would asparagus.

FOR WINTER USE.

Pick them when fit to use as green beans; put into a firkin or keg alternate layers of common salt and beans; keep in a dry cellar. During the past winter I have had them preserved and cooked as above, fresh and green as if from the garden.

P. E.