

MANAGEMENT OF WEEDY LAND.

At this season of the year noxious weeds are pushing upward with amazing rapidity. In fields where it is not practicable to root them up with some implement or by pulling them by hand, the tops should be kept down by a frequent use of the scythe or horse mower. It is an exceedingly bad practice to allow noxious weeds of any kind to go to seed, as the mature growth strengthens and fortifies the roots of perennials against any injury, except the total eradication of every minute root. But if the tops are kept cut down short, the roots will be so much exhausted by reproducing new tops that grass will soon gain the ascendancy over the weeds and maintain it. The grass of a meadow that is infested with so many weeds that it is not practicable to pull them before the crop is fit to be moved should be cut as soon as the blossoms of the weeds begin to appear, even if the grass has not attained half its usual height. If weeds are permitted to remain until the blossoms have fallen, the seeds will mature and be distributed over other fields. In many pasture fields large bull thistles throw out such broad leaves and branching tops that more than one acre out of six or seven is so completely covered with this growth that domestic animals cannot reach the grass which grows beneath the spreading tops. When the number of such pests is small, the most economical way to exterminate them is to cut off the roots two or three inches below the surface of the ground with a sharp bog hoe or mattock, which will be the end of them, as this species of thistle is biennial, and root and branch will die at the end of the growing season. The object of keeping the growth down by mowing is to prevent seeding the next season, and also to allow the grass to grow instead of thistles. By judicious management all such jobs may be performed between showers and in wet and lowery weather, when laborers cannot make fences, cure hay or cultivate and hoe among growing crops. By adjusting the cutting bar of the mower to run four inches high, one horse would mow over one acre per hour with comparative ease. In case there is only a small patch of weeds here and there, let the tops be mowed frequently with hand scythes.—*N. Y. Times.*

PLASTER.—A correspondent of the *New York Tribune* says:—If a person will sow plaster where the land is dry and warm and likely to keep so for a few days, he will be surprised at the results, for plaster is a great absorber of carbonic acid gas, which is the life of plants, and not ammonia, as stated; but if he should undertake to sow it on wet land and in a cold bleak time in the Spring, when the silver drop hangs at the nose, he may look with both eyes for the good results, and he will fail to see them.

Orchard and Forest.

INFLUENCE OF IRON ON THE PRODUCTIVENESS OF FRUIT TREES.

In the last number of the *Advocate* was an article on the beneficial effects iron was thought to have on fruit trees. We now give another testimony to the same effect, that we have met in the course of our morning's reading:—

IRON FOR DRESSING IN ORCHARDS.

At a recent meeting of the American Institute Farmers' Club, Mr. Wagner, who lives on Long Island Sound, about fifty miles east of New York, exhibited some prunings from his orchard to illustrate the effect of putting iron around trees. He took an old place with twenty trees in the orchard, full of dead limbs with yellow leaves, and the crotches oozing thick gum. He gave the earth a good top-dressing of iron, breaking up old plows and scattering the fragments. The effect has been marvelous. The trees have renewed their youth, and now look strong and thrifty. The bark is tight, and the leaves are green, and the borer has disappeared. He thinks the standard iron fixtures, ground up and spread on orchards will prove a valuable fertilizer for fruit trees of all kinds.

LIME FOR SOILS OF FRUIT ORCHARDS.

On most soils, or in most localities, a proper dressing of lime is useful to both peach and pear trees. There are some soils where it will not prove of much benefit, but we are unable to give a certain or infallible indication by which the propriety of its application may be known before making the trial. It would not be so likely to be useful where the ground has been previously repeatedly or heavily limed, or where the soil was poor for a want of the application of yard manure or by plowing under green crops. We have known it to double the growth of trees on soils that appear to be quite similar to others where no benefit was produced. Over doses, or uneven application, might be applied safely at the rate of 100 to 200 bushels per acre, but magnesia lime should be used very cautiously. There is no material difference between common stone lime and burnt oyster shell.

MULCHING FRUIT TREES.

Every year shows the advantage of mulch-fruit trees. In the first place, an abundant mulch of straw or chip litter, leaves, or what not, retards the development of the fruit buds, and saves them from the late frosts, which this year have destroyed half the fruit crop. Then it retains the moisture longer in the soil, keeps it more uniform in temperature, keeps the fertilizing elements in a more soluble state, and makes stronger and better growth of wood; and all of these unite to produce more perfect fruit. Mulching is the surest means especially in dry or well-drained soils, of securing vigorous and healthy trees, and it is only such trees that will withstand the ravages of the borers, caterpillars, and other diseases to which our fruit trees are subject. We have this season noticed many instances where fruit trees have been mulched with straw only, and in every case the benefits to the tree were most remarkable. Instead of burning the straw, put it around your fruit trees.

ORCHARDS.

In our little rambles about town and through the country we are in the habit of walking with our eyes open. We do not merely have them open to see that we are going the right road, or to enable us to avoid any obstacle in our way, but open also to observe and note down in our memory much that others, though having as good eyesight, might pass by unobserved. In this manner we treasure up little items of knowledge for future use. We observe the care bestowed on gardens and fields, and we partake, with the owner, the pleasure of the well-kept border of flowers, and the sweet scent of the orchard bright with blossoms.

We do not always see matters so well managed and in such good order. We have taken down a few hints about orchards: Some farmers seem to think that when they have planted an orchard they need take no further care of it, and leave it to itself. In this they are much mistaken. The young orchard will doubtless thrive better the more carefully the soil is tilled. Frequent tilling of the soil serves to enrich it, keeps it free from weeds, and helps also to keep away injurious insects. Thousands of these pests find a breeding-place and a safe retreat in the weeds that should be carefully extirpated. Till the soil of young orchards frequently with the fork or hoe, not with the plough, as it would be apt to disturb and injure the tender roots of the trees.—Have a root crop in the orchard—mangolds, turnips, potatoes, or anything else that will need frequent hoeing. The crop will pay you for the labor in the culture. Keep the soil in good order and the bark of the trees clean, and if inclined to be bark-bound or overgrown with moss or lichen, scrape the bark down with some blunt instrument, and occasionally wash the stems and limbs as you would wash yourself. Cleanliness contributes to the health of the trees as much as to your own. All this care requires little labor, but it is necessary to the well-doing of your orchard. By keeping the bark of the trees clean you will in a great measure prevent its being the receptacle of insects. Remember that preventative is better than cure.—[*Ass't Ed.*]

COVERING FOR THE WOUNDS OF TREES.

We have all found, to our cost, how injurious wounds are to trees, and more than once have we seen highly valued trees die from the effects of neglected wounds. We give from the *Horticulturist* the following recipe:—"The following compound we have found to be the best and most lasting covering for wounds, viz.: rosin, 1 lb.; tallow, 1 oz.; alcohol, 5 oz.; spirits of turpentine, 1 tablespoonful. Melt the rosin and tallow together over a slow fire; then remove and add the turpentine and alcohol, turning in the alcohol slowly and stirring briskly, being careful not to have the rosin too hot or the alcohol may take fire. Stir the mixture until nearly cold, then turn into a wide-mouthed bottle, and keep corked when not in use. Apply this cement in a thin coating with a suitable paddle, when the alcohol soon evaporates and the cement becomes as hard as the wood itself, and will remain on the wood for years.

FOREST CULTURE.

Time after time have we urged upon the farmers of Canada the good policy of protecting and preserving at least some portions of their noble forests, and of planting trees for shade in exposed places.—What we have so incessantly pleaded for is being done by our neighbors over the borders. For shade for cattle and crops, and for the prevention of too great evaporation of moisture from the soil, it is necessary that we plant and preserve timber. At the National Agricultural Congress, recently held in the United States, the following resolutions were passed:—"1. That we recommend farmers throughout the United States to plant their hilly or otherwise waste lands, and at least ten per cent. of their farms, with trees, in such manner as to provide shelter belts or clumps of rapid-growing and useful timber. 2. That we solicit the legislatures of the several States to pass laws providing bounties for planting trees, encouraging the planting of the highways, and for the provision of State nurseries of young timber trees, and also the appointment of an arbor day for the annual planting of trees, as has already been done in the State of Nebraska. 3. That we ask the Congress of the United States to require, so far as practicable, that railroad companies and settlers hereafter receiving the benefit of the homestead and other acts donating lands, shall plant with timber trees one-tenth of the land so donated."

PLANTING FRUIT TREES.

Some people planting fruit trees prefer getting them of such an age and size that they may soon begin to bear and repay them for their expense and labor. Having seen the results of planting trees at too great an age, we would give our readers a few words of advice on the subject:—

A gentleman wished to plant some fruit trees, and was desirous of having a return for his labor as soon as possible. He planted trees twelve years old. He took the greatest pains in planting them, taking care to remove from the nursery those with large roots, and had large holes prepared for them, applied good compost to them, and during the summer had them well watered. He has watched them now for more than four years, and from all his trees he has not yet had a peck of fruit, though they had begun to bear the season before their removal.

This is but one instance of many illustrating a lesson in planting, never plant any but young trees. If you do your expectations of succeeding in fruit raising are sure to be disappointed, and what little fruit you may be fortunate to get from your old transplanted tree will never be as good or as large as if the tree had been planted when young.

In planting shade and ornamental trees we prefer, in like manner, to plant young trees. In the first place, there is less risk

of any failures; secondly, we can train a young tree in the most desirable form, and thirdly, young trees when transplanted grow faster, so much so that if trees of different ages be transplanted at the same time, the young trees will in a few years have outstripped in their growth those that were planted much older and larger.

Of all trees, none of the cone-bearing species should be planted after they are five or six years old; after five years it is very doubtful if they will succeed.—[*Ass't Ed.*]

From the April number of the *Gardener's Monthly* we take the following:—

"In regard to the yellows in the peach we have little more to offer than we stated in our January number. We there suggested it was owing to the fungus at the roots, the effects of which pervaded the whole tree. Since then Dr. Taylor, the microscopist of the agricultural department at Washington, acting on our suggestion, has taken the inner bark of a stem of a yellowed peach tree, taken just above the ground, and found it infested by a moldform, thread-like fungus, as we supposed. When the season arrives for getting in the ground, he will go to the root of the thing."

We are safe in saying that the right direction has at last been reached in the investigation of this disease and its remedy. As yet the subject has not been exhausted, nor has it certainly been reached in the eradication or cure of the evil. This, however, is certain, that the application of hot water and ashes has saved many trees. Query: Is this due to the action of heat alone; and if so, would not a peck of unslacked lime about the collar of the tree well covered up, by slacking produce heat enough to accomplish the same result?

Every tree in every orchard ought to have a pail of hot water poured around the collar of the tree every spring. This would accomplish two results, namely: It would kill the peach borer or grub, and arrest the yellows in its incipient stages. Either one of these results would amply compensate the labor involved.

CURCULIO ON PLUMS.

I have various methods for keeping these insects off plum trees, but none so simple nor yet so effectual as the following:—Soak corn-cobs in sweetened water until thoroughly saturated, then suspend them to the limbs of the trees a little while after blossoming, being sure to burn the cobs after the fruit ripens, as they will be found full of young insects. A good plan is to change the cobs every few weeks. My theory is this: that the insects deposit their eggs in the cobs in preference to doing so in the young plums. The first season I tried it upon one or two only, and in the summer was rewarded by a good crop of as fine plums as ever ripened, while those on the other trees fell off when about half grown. Next spring found sweetened corn-cobs dangling from the limbs of all my plum trees, and the summer found them full of delicious fruit. I have never known it to fail, and I hope every one who has a plum tree will try it.

WORTH KNOWING.

A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* says if copperas and saltpetre water is used around pear trees, the tree will show the effects in a large yield of fruit. He tried this on a Bartlett pear tree that had yielded no fruit for two years previous; that very year it yielded one hundred and fifty-five large, fine pears, and the following year two hundred and fifty large ones, and is still doing finely. If pear trees want iron, which most soils are deficient in, sulphate of iron, or copperas, is a good way to supply it.

BUDDING.

"The season for budding depends upon the proper condition of the stock intended to be worked, and upon the maturity of the buds to be used. Standard pears usually require attention first, as the stocks are among the first to mature their growth, and, as a rule, they are budded as soon as buds can be had mature enough to be worked.

"The buds must be hard, &c., well matured. This is particularly true of pears, cherries and plums.

"The budding season begins about the middle of July, commencing with standard pears, then follows plum on plum, cherry on Mazzard, dwarf pears, plum on peach, cherry on Mahaleb, apples, apricots, nectarines and peaches, in the order named, as near as can be enumerated. The stock is in the best condition to work at the time it begins to show signs of cessation in growth. When the growth is very rapid the sap is thin and watery, with little disposition to heal. Cherries are the most particular as to proper condition of bud and stock, while peaches are the least so.

"The leaves as so branch with the bud with sticks in dam as prepared, very thin paper to leave this stocks.

"In cutting knife out all point and stock for the cut should be an angle of ground. The point is thus the bark with that will not of the handle budding. The best for it.

"Careful age should be below, drawing tie will warp.

This is the commonly called the bark into a convenient placed under portion will be dried and wanted for ten or twelve then subdivided eighth of an cannot be of twine are used.

THE BOM habits of the tablish the promptly a hardly fail extent, from tacks strong those that, ed, or from stunned, tall, naked ing rays of thickened especially s receive the the hottest as an invitation borer, prod "sun scald" invariable insect.

After a proposed, we would most effect the consists throw any cured; let for an hour cool, apply large limb same as of drenching July. At no danger. the watch pathway of a wire after with soap.

A wide completed most a can be kept the tree d is nearly a

MANU keep ore often ma measure, the trunk mulch, and spring, tree fifteen twelve to still fast hair-like nearly a. Conseque plied wh years old trunk; 1 years g feet; an