

Horticulture.

THE ORCHARD.

The White Willow

(To the Editor of the CANADA FARMER.)

SIR:—Please state in next issue of the CANADA FARMER whether the enclosed cutting is that of the real white willow; and if it is not, would you inform me where the genuine article is to be had? Do you recommend it for fencing?
Yours, &c.

A HURONITE.

It is impossible to tell the particular kinds of willows from a leafless cutting. There are several species of willow that have been sold by white willow vendors, as we have been informed, all of which are represented by the sellers to be the genuine article. We do not believe there is any value in any of them as a hedge plant for Canada.

Orchards and their Care.

At this season of the year but little of a practical character can be done in the orchard, and we must content ourselves with considering what the proper course is to pursue when the time for activity arrives.

The orchard has, within the past few years, become almost a necessary part of every well managed farm. The time was, and that not very long since, when we could ride for miles through some sections of country without discovering the slightest traces of fruit culture of any sort, but to-day an orchardless farm is regarded by most people as somewhat of a curiosity, and the possessor of such a property as admirably adapted for "filling the bill" only in the ages gone by.

Nor is the increased number of orchards throughout the country the only improvement in this very important branch of farm economy. The subject of fruit-growing generally has of late engaged the attention and careful study of some of the leading agriculturists of the country, and to-day it ranks as a science second to none that can claim the consideration of either the curious or the practical every-day farmer.

We are fully convinced that there is no department of the farm that can be made more prolific of genuine pleasure and hard cash than that of fruit-culture; but in order to attain these, the hap-hazard system now so prevalent must be done away with, and a common sense course adopted. We have been raising wheat, oats and peas all our lives, and their manner of growth, habits and needs are known to us without special study. It is not so however with fruit-raising. We have had fewer opportunities of studying the various causes of failure and noting the requirements necessary to success. It is absolutely necessary therefore that we give the whole subject very much greater thought and attention than we have hitherto done, and when can there be a more suitable time for the purpose than during the long winter evenings with which we are now favored, and which are so eminently conducive to study and reflection.

If we intend setting out an orchard next spring, or adding to our present one, the first thing to be considered is the particular sort or sorts of fruit we wish to have; i. e., whether it is to be for family use, the home market, or for exportation; because the selection which will answer very well for one purpose may not suit for either of the others. It is on this rock that many who have planted orchards have made horticultural shipwreck. Too many kinds are selected with the avowed purpose of suiting all comers, and it is not to be wondered at that in this as in most other attempts at practically testing the "two chairs" theory, the unfortunate experimenter should find himself "floored."

We throw out the foregoing introductory remarks for the purpose of eliciting the opinion of such of our readers as are practically conversant with the following points:

- 1st. The best apples and pears to plant for family use.
- 2nd. The best apples and pears for the home market.
- 3rd. The best apples for exportation.

It would materially enhance the value of the information given in response to the above inquires, if the writers would state in brief terms the reasons for the selections made. We propose to go more into detail on this subject in our next.

Dead Leaves--A Hint to City Authorities.

The removal of all debris and other offensive accumulations from our streets and frequented thoroughfares, is in these days of advanced sanitary science, one of the most important subjects that can engage the attention of the civic authorities. In no well regulated community should the sight or odor of anything offensive, or that is likely to generate malaria be tolerated for a moment. The general health, apart from all other considerations, forbids the slightest relaxation in this respect.

The *Gardener's Magazine*, in a recent article on the pestilential effects of allowing dead leaves to become incorporated with the mud, &c., of our streets and pavements, remarks :

Leaves trodden into paste are as injurious to health as their appearance suggests, and it is a matter equally painful and surprising that in the suburbs of towns, where deciduous trees abound, the leaves are usually left to make autumnal pedestrianism unpleasant, and spread poison through the common atmosphere. Wherever clay soil prevails the evil attains a maximum, for the slightest shower makes the surface greasy, and the clay works up amongst the leaves, and the result is a sticky, mucky, and stinking roadway, generating malaria day and night, and offending the eye no less than the nose of everyone who goes abroad to enjoy a gleam of autumnal sunshine. Where chestnut-trees abound the case is desperate, for their huge leaves come flopping down without intermission until the trees are quite bare, and the complete stripping, if no frost occurs, is usually spread over a term of three weeks. One big horse-chestnut-tree is capable of shedding leaves enough to sicken a village, if the leaves are allowed to remain where they fall, and are well trampled to promote hasty decay. The elms and thorns are the least offensive, for they hold their leaves until the winter is somewhat advanced, and then shed them slowly a few at a time. As leaves are always worth storing to rot down into compost, it ought everywhere to pay to remove them from the thoroughfares; but, as regards the public health, their removal is a matter of most serious importance, and it is one of the curiosities of local government in these days of advancement in sanitary science, that, in very few instances, do the parochial authorities or public scavengers take any notice of dead leaves. When laid up in heaps they are harmless, when much mangled by feet and wheels they constitute a seed-plot of pestilence.

Our Apple Orchard—How we Manage it.

One of the very best things a man can put on his farm, especially a young man, is an apple orchard of choice varieties, for it will be a source of revenue for very many years, if properly attended to. You will have to wait several years for a paying crop from your trees, but that time is not lost, nor is the ground devoted to the orchard entirely useless for any other crop. Let me tell you how we manage our apple orchard, and how we planted it. It is now in splendid order and cannot be excelled by any orchard of its age in the country, and seldom can we find its equal. This has required constant work and some outlay, but we have always gotten our money back by cropping the orchard with small fruits or with garden vegetables.

The way we did it was this : the land selected was a sort of clayey loam, with a good clay subsoil. It had been in corn the year previous to setting out the trees, which cleared the ground from weeds and sod. The trees were planted in the fall of the year by merely drawing deep two-horse furrows, thirty feet apart each way. At the intersection of the furrows we dug holes sufficiently large to contain the roots without cramping them, and taking especial pains to prune off all bruised or broken roots and branches before we set the trees out in the orchard. We put as fine earth around the roots as we could, pressing it down firmly with the foot after the hole was filled up. With all of our fruit trees we take the precaution to wet the roots well with a thick mud, in which there is some little manure water, to make the fine dirt adhere well and cause the tree to start off and grow rapidly from the commencement. We have always found it go much towards insuring the growth of trees, this wetting the roots with mud.

After the trees are planted, we go over the orchard and straighten up all the leaning ones, so as to make the work look as if it had been done by a careful person. We then throw two good furrows to the trees on each side, to protect them from the frosts of winter before they have started to grow. They were left in this way until spring, when the whole piece was plowed towards the trees, well harrowed, and corn planted in it. Of course we supplied the soil with manure to make our corn crop, as well as to thereby benefit the trees. The year following we set out about half of the orchard, some four or five acres, in strawberries, while we put the other half in white potatoes, supplying both crops liberally with manure. We made a good crop of potatoes that year, and got an excellent stand of strawberry plants, the latter picking, the two following years, heavily; stable manure being applied as a top-dressing each year. In the other half we, the following year, grew a heavy crop of sweet corn for the Baltimore canning market, that crop being followed the next year by a crop of early tomatoes. We then grow early peas, planting canteloupes

between two rows of peas, so that when they came off (the peas) the canteloupes could have full possession of the land. In this way we got paying crops yearly off our orchard, and also greatly benefited the trees with the manure annually applied and by the constant and thorough cultivation. We now have the orchard down to clover alone, not any other kind of grass seed being sown with it. We will let the clover remain in the orchard for one, or at the most two years, when we will again put the plow in and raise a heavy crop of corn. The reason we put it down to grass is to prevent an over-production of wood to the detriment of the fruit, resulting from liberal applications of manure annually, to make the other crops pay. Further than this, I do not believe in the grass system of growing fruit.

Besides the apples, we have the Early Richmond cherry trees in the same land, thus :

the large marks being the apple trees thirty feet apart, and the smaller marks being the cherries. By this means we can cultivate one way just as readily as if there were no cherry trees planted, while, when cultivating the other way, we have nearly fifteen feet, which gives us room enough. We had a few cherries this last season, and from the healthy look of the trees we can reasonably expect a crop.

We wash the bodies and larger limbs of our apple and cherry trees with a wash made by mixing about two tin cupsful of ordinary soft soap in a bucket of water and applying it with a long-bristled whitewash brush. This keeps our trees clean, healthy, and free from bark insects. In my next I will tell what apples have suited us best, in regard to profit and other qualities.—D. Z. EVANS, JR., in *Rural Home*.

A Plum Curculio-Proof.

Travellers on the North Pennsylvania Railroad from Philadelphia during early Autumn can enjoy the rather novel sight of whole trains of cars loaded with plums. Every farm along the line of the road for some distance has its complement of trees, and the amount of fruit is annually swelled to hundreds of baskets. The variety grown is a seedling from the old Blue Damsen, and originated in Bucks County, where it is called the Richmond. The fact that it is almost curculio-proof is the great reason for its popularity in this section, because it is very far from first quality in point of flavor. In size it is somewhat larger than its parent, and has a reddish purple skin covered with a bright bloom. Although not first-class the flesh is sweet, juicy, and refreshing. It is well adapted for the kitchen, and this accounts for the Philadelphia market.

The tree is a straight, upright grower, quite hardy, and an early and regular bearer. It is generally propagated from suckers, a method not to be recommended; far better to have them budded upon non-suckering stocks. We know that in some sections of the country where curculio is not so plentiful, and where the fruit men can save their crops by jarring the trees, that this plum would be entirely ignored as worthless, but for the majority of our farmers and small places one or two trees will always yield sufficient for family use and will answer quite well while experiments are going on with the thin-skinned, delicious varieties that fail in the majority of localities. Do not understand that we wish to discourage any one from fighting the "Little Lurk" from his plum orchard, but where one industrious cultivator, like the horticultural editor of *The Country Gentleman*, can save his crops, hundreds of others, through lack of perseverance, never obtain a solitary specimen; and to this latter class we recommend the Richmond—*Trilune*.

Destroying Curculios.

The following extract has been going the rounds of the agricultural press for some years. Have any of our readers tried the experiment, and if so with what measure of success :

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 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 trees 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 they were about half grown. In accordance with this result, next spring found sweetened corn-cobs dangling from the limbs of all my plum trees, and the summer found them full of delicious fruit.

PARTIES in Annapolis, N. S., are preparing to ship 3,000 bushels of apples to England.

A PHOTOGRAPH has been forwarded to England which has aroused the astonishment of their distinguished men. It is taken of a branch of pears, grown from a tree on the ranch of Mr. Kercheval, near Sacramento, Cal. The branch was four feet, six inches long; carried 265 pears, (most of which were about five inches in length) the whole weighing about 110 pounds.