

The Farmer's Orchard

W. T. Macoun, Horticulturist, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa

The farmer may plant his orchard either with the purpose of growing fruit for home use alone, or selling what surplus he does not use, or he may plant his orchard with the main object of selling the fruit. Many of the most profitable small orchards to-day were planted solely with the idea of growing enough fruit for home use, but when the trees began to bear large quantities of fruit it was found that the surplus could be sold, for remunerative prices. It was found that for the area of ground occupied the apples brought in more money than any other crop. This has caused the sons of many of the farmers who planted for home use to enlarge the orchard with the main object of making money out of it. We should recommend every farmer who plants apple trees, where apples can be grown commercially, to plant them with the idea that he is not only going to supply his family with fruit but that he is going to make money out of his fruit.

If the trees are planted a fair distance apart, say 30 to 36 feet, there is no good reason why the farmer should not continue to obtain a considerable revenue from his land from ordinary farm crops until the trees come into bearing. At least four feet should, however, be reserved on each side of the young trees to prevent too great encroachment of the crops, which, if planted close to the trees, would check their growth too much. This strip should be kept cultivated at least until the end of June each year, when clover or vetch could be sown for plowing under the next year. Potatoes, beans, and root crops are among the best to grow in the young orchard, but a rotation of crops would be desirable. The fertility of the soil must, however, be kept up for best results. The farmer's orchard should be on well drained soil. Good drainage is more important for fruit trees than rich soil.

BEST VARIETIES TO PLANT

A farmer with 100 acres of land in districts where winter apples succeed well should make no mistake in planting five acres to apples. Apart from the few trees of early varieties necessary to supply fruit for family use, the trees should be early winter or winter varieties. Farmers will not take the time to pick apples in harvest time, and the market for early apples is much more uncertain than that for late fruit. The Northern Spy, Greening, Baldwin, King and Blenheim will, we believe, for a long time to come be in great demand, and where these sorts succeed the farmer will, we feel sure, be safe in planting them. For colder districts up to latitude 45 degrees, McIntosh, Baxter, Wolf River, and Milwaukee might be planted. While the varieties mentioned in the first list do not come into bearing as soon as some other sorts they are always sought for; whereas, on the other hand, apples of inferior quality, such as Ben Davis and Stark, while early bearers, are not, and will not be, so much sought for. These varieties, no doubt, have been very profitable, but the price obtained for Ben Davis, especially, is gradually decreasing. These apples also lack acidity and as the supply of apples increases those varieties which are sprightly or more acid will be the most in demand, as people prefer the more acid fruit in winter.

Although there is never an over-production of apples, there is often a glut of apples through lack of proper distribution. This is likelier to occur oftener in the future than it has in the past. In such cases the apples of better quality will be the ones which it will pay to have. If the farmer is making money out of the crops growing between his apple trees he can afford to wait until later bearing sorts come into bearing.

While the apple is the only tree fruit we should recommend for the average farmer to grow for commercial purposes every farmer should see to

it that his family has a plentiful supply of not only apples, but pears, plums, cherries, and peaches, where they can be grown. Bulletins issued by the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, and the Department of Agriculture, Toronto, give lists of the best varieties, both for commercial and home use in the various districts.

Pruning Cherries and Plums

A. E. Sherrington, Bruce Co., Ont.

Among all tree fruits the cherry requires less pruning than any other species. Still it does not do to neglect it. The saw should never be used in the cherry tree for pruning, unless it is to remove dead or decayed branches. If large limbs are cut out, they will not heal over so readily as in the case of other tree fruits; hence decay and rot will set in, and the tree is ruined. Our method is, as soon as the young tree is planted, the head of the tree is formed by removing all surplus branches but those required to form the head or what is to be the top of the tree and these are cut back to about one foot in length.

Each succeeding year, the trees are gone over and all limbs are removed (with the knife or pruning shears) that are growing inwardly or crossways on the top of the tree. Others are thinned out wherever they are found growing too closely together, aiming to have the limbs growing straight out from the tree, so as to form a well balanced top. This method is practised until such time as the tree comes into full bearing. After this, little or no pruning will be necessary, for once the tree comes into full bearing the growth of the tree is so slow that pruning will be found unnecessary in most cases.

PLUMS

Our method of pruning plums is practically the same as that of the cherries, except that when the young tree is planted, we cut the head back more severely than the cherries and early in the spring of each year following, the previous year's growth is cut back from one-third to two-thirds according to the vigor and habit of the tree. We find by this method we get a strong sturdy, hardy tree. It is furthermore one method of thinning the fruit

Some Precautions with Lime-sulphur

W. J. L. Hamilton, Nanaimo Co., B.C.

Since I have taken to singing the praises of lime-sulphur as an all-round spray, many of my fruit-growing friends have come to me and, with reproachful looks, have shown me badly burned hands and complexions rivaling a Chinaman. And the best of it is they expect me to sympathize with them and look ashamed of myself for the advice I have given!

A little thought and common sense will obviate all this trouble. First, have a drip guard immediately below the spraying nozzle. Next get a shut-off tap that does not leak, and make sure all joints are tight, and then get a pot of vaseline and some gardening gloves. Now, smear the face, hands, and wrists with vaseline (lard or grease is good enough if you are not too dainty), give the gloves also a good treatment with the same substance, put on your oldest clothes and go ahead.

Of course, if you spray right in the teeth of a wind you will probably get more sprayed than the trees, but that is your fault. Absence of frost, a calm day, and no immediate danger of rain, give ideal conditions for spraying.

Culture of Tomatoes for Canning

S. J. Foster, Prince Edward Co., Ont.

In order to grow tomatoes successfully the growers must have some knowledge of the different varieties and the different soils upon which these may be grown. The late varieties may be grown on nearly any kind of soil that is in a good state of fertility, but the early varieties, such as Earliana and I.X.L., require a deep, rich warm loam to get the best results.

The next thing is the preparation of the soil. For best results, I would choose a clover sod plowed in the fall and covered with fine manure during the winter. This should be worked well into the soil as soon as it is possible to get on it in the spring. Continue frequent cultivation until setting time, thus storing all the moisture possible in the soil to start the plants off.

Now comes setting. This is perhaps the most



An Important Operation in Orchard Management is Regular and Judicious Pruning

There are thousands of orchard trees in this country that have never felt the pruning knife. Many of these trees will bear large crops, but the fruit is small and almost worthless. Systematic pruning, combined with proper fertilizing, cultivation and spraying, will make these trees yield fruit of the best quality.

and strengthening the tree so that it will be able when in full bearing to carry a crop without the tree going to pieces.

critical time of the whole season as the success of the crop largely depends upon the start the plants get. The time of setting varies consider-