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HORTICULTURE

Orchard and Garden Notes

Plan the garden and fruit plantation for next year. Send to reliable dealers for seed and fruit catalogues.

Sharpen and repair the garden tools for next season's use.

Go over the fruit and vegetables in the cellar, and throw out those decaying.

Much the strawberry bed especially if it has not been done, especially if the snow is thawing off rapidly.

Send orders for seeds and fruit trees and shrubs early. Purchase those from reliable dealers as near home as possible.

Don't wait till planting-time to secure seed, and then buy package-seed from the grocery store. This seed is apt to be of inferior quality.

Rhubarb which was dug in the fall, and frozen, may now be put in a cellar or other dark warm place, thawed out and watered, when it will begin to grow.

A good way to give house-plants the thorough watering needed when they are dry is to set the pot into water and leave it until the soil is thoroughly moist.

A good way to prevent the settling of the snow, during the winter thaw, from injuring the plants is to scatter ashes or sand over the crust. This melts the snow in spots, and the branches are able to break through it easily.

Visit your district school, and note the conditions under which the children and teacher are working. Is there a good windbreak about the yard? Are there any shrubs or evergreens planted on the place? This is a good time to plan for new shrubs and plants on the school grounds, and to order them. Get the school children and the neighborhood interested.

I enclose \$1 to renew my subscription to Farm and Dairy. It is a most valuable paper and extremely reasonable in price.—Wm. Bate, Richmond Co. Que.

Cooperative Society's Success

D. F. Hamlin, Sec'y, Huron F. G. A., Huron Co., Ont.

Our Fruit Growers' Association was organized last spring with 27 members. We packed only about 2,000 barrels this year, as the crop was not heavy. The members seem to be well satisfied with the work, and there are a number of other fruit growers whom I think will join during the next few months.

The main benefits that have been derived from the Association so far have been in the better care of the orchards. Spraying and cultivating have done a great deal for the crop. Instead of having nearly all culls, the fruit is packing up nearly all No. 1 grade, and growers are getting a better price for their apples on that account. They thus see the results of co-operating in the care of the orchards.

We do not expect to have much difficulty in getting a large organization another year, as Huron county is well adapted for growing the fruit if properly cared for. And not only apples. I am growing peaches as well on my farm. I have 20 acres of peach orchard now under cultivation. Fifteen acres of two-year-old trees have grown fine. So far the trees that have been set a few years had a nice crop of peaches this year. I am satisfied, therefore, that we can grow peaches here as well as in any other part of Ontario.

Apples for Middlesex Country

We are planning to plant 100 acres of winter apples. Kindly advise me as to matter of varieties.—O.B.M., Middlesex Co., Ont.

You state that you intend to plant winter apples. I believe I am correct in stating that those who have given most thought to the question of varieties for Southern Ontario are using a good many fall varieties. Following is a list of those I would recommend for the locality in which you propose to plant. Personally I would feel very much like including Duchess in the list, although Duchess is an early apple, ripening in August. I am quite convinced that Duchess properly handled in Southern On-

tario would be a very profitable proposition. Alexander, Wealthy, Snow, McIntosh, Blenheim, etc., are good. Baldwin, Spy would be my choice. Alexander is ripe in September, and the others follow in the order named. If you desire to confine yourself entirely to winter varieties you will, of course, use the last three. Blenheim and King are classed as late fall or winter, as are also Snow and McIntosh.—Prof. J. W. Crow, O. A. C., Guelph, Ont.

Factors That Influence Color

W. T. Macoun, C.E.F., Ottawa, Ont.

Our object in the management of an orchard should be to get the largest crop of No. 1 fruit possible and of the highest color. High colored apples sell better than those not well colored. Points which influence the color of fruit are as follows:

Anything that matures the fruit quickly increases the color.

Fruit on young trees is not so highly colored as on old trees. Fruit is of a better color where the wood ripens quickly.

It is often said that certain fertilizers will increase the color of fruit. None have done so with us, and there are no reliable experiments to show that potash influences color. Fertilizers, however, such as nitrate, which causes late growth, will lower the color.

Insufficient nutrition will lighten color. If you will but notice that when a branch breaks partly off and the flow of sap is impeded the apples on the broken branch will be of higher color than those on the rest of the tree.

An orchard in sod has high colored fruit, but both the fruit and the total profit is small.

Cover crops increase the color of fruit by robbing the tree of moisture and hastening maturity.

Checking growth to induce high color will also induce the formation of fruit buds for the next season's crop.

Sheep are excellent animals to have in an orchard that is to be pastured. Care must be taken in any case that the trees are not injured by the stock that pastures in the orchard.

Don't sit by the fire

You can't work in the orchard these days, of course, but that is no reason why you should waste all the winter months. We can help you put them to good use.

It is easy to sell "Brown's trees" because everybody knows that "Brown's Trees are good trees." It is pleasant work selling "Brown's trees" because you get all around the county seeing old friends and making new ones. It is instructive work selling "Brown's trees" because it gives you a chance to exchange ideas with other good fruit growers. It is profitable work selling "Brown's trees" because you get liberal commissions on your orders.

Just cut out this ad., write your name and address on it, and mail it to us. We will do the rest.

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