

**GARDEN AND ORCHARD.****ORCHARD PLANTING.**

The superintendent of the grounds of the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Washington advises the following plan of setting fruit trees. He says:—

"It is a common observation that the outer rows of trees in established orchards are finer and more productive than the trees in the interior of the plantation. This superiority is all the more conspicuous if the orchard is bordered by cultivated fields, and it is fair to presume that the extra luxuriance is owing to the trees having a greater extent of unoccupied soil for the ramification of the roots. Something is undoubtedly due to the greater space available for the expansion and spread of the branches; but it is in accordance with all experience in the cultivation of plants that a rotation of crops is absolutely essential towards securing the best results of the fertility of the soil. Keeping these facts in view, it is suggested that an improvement upon the present method of planting two rows of trees from eighteen to twenty-five or more feet apart depending upon the nature of the trees, and alternating the plants in the rows. Then allowing a space varying in extent from 300 feet to any greater distance before planting another series of rows, and so increase the plantation as far as may be desired. The intervening spaces between these double rows of trees would be available for the cultivation of the ordinary crops of the farm. The roots of the trees would not only participate in the benefits of cultivation, but would also have, practically, unlimited room for extension before meeting with others of their kind. Immediately under the trees, and for a distance on each side of the rows, as the branches spread the surface could be kept in grass. If not sown down immediately after planting, which might not be desirable in all cases, it should be done after the trees attain a fruit-bearing size, or from five to seven years after setting out. The shelter which will be afforded to other crops by these orchard belts will be found valuable as protection from winds as in forwarding the crops. This method is particularly applicable to apple and pear trees."

**THE PROPERTY OF TOMATO LEAVES.**

One of our exchanges thus recommends tomato leaves as a banisher of insects. We give it with the statement that we planted tomatoes close to cucumbers, without success. Tomatoes grow so luxuriantly, however, that it will cost our readers nothing to try it:—

"I planted a peach orchard," writes M. Siroy, of the Society of Horticulture, "and the trees grew well and strongly. They had just commenced to bud, when they were invaded by the curculio (*pulyon*), which insects were followed, as frequently happens, by ants. Having cut some tomatoes, the idea occurred to me that, by placing some of the leaves around the trunks and branches of the peach trees, I might preserve them from the rays of the sun, which are very powerful. My surprise was great upon the following day to find the trees entirely free from their enemies, not one remaining, except here and there, where a curled

leaf prevented the tomato from exercising its influence. These leaves I carefully unrolled, placing upon them fresh ones from the tomato vine, with the result of banishing the last insect and enabling the trees to grow with luxuriance. Wishing to carry still further my experiment, I steeped in water some leaves of the tomato, and sprinkled with this infusion other plants, roses and oranges. In two days these were also free from the innumerable insects which covered them, and I felt sure that had I used the same means with my melon patch I should have met with the same result. I therefore deem it a duty I owe to the Society of Horticulture to make known this singular and useful property of the tomato leaves, which I discovered by the merest accident."—*South and West.*

**POTATO VARIETIES.**

*Early Rose.*—Early, productive, fine quality when the seed is pure, which is not always, and a very valuable potato every way, but somewhat less vigorous than it once was.

*Early Vermont.*—Much like the Early Rose, perhaps a little earlier. It is extremely hardy, very productive, and we would choose it at random above all other potatoes for general crop. It is superior in every way to the Early Rose.

*Beauty of Hebron.*—We have succeeded with this. It is new and clearer than either Vermont or Rose. Early as the Rose and firm as to quality, we like it for its delicacy, for our own use, better than any potato we ever tasted. It is an excellent keeper. Our crops were large.

*Burbank's Seedling.*—It is white-skinned and profitable; fine of flavour and delicate. It is very beautiful in appearance, being a blonde to the Beauty of Hebron's brunette.

*Alpha.*—Earlier than the Rose. It is good for an early market, but not for a general crop.

*Early Ohio.*—A good potato of the Rose kind, and a little earlier. Not so good as Vermont.

*Early Snowflake.*—A magnificent potato. Harris says he would not know whether to decide for one potato of fine quality between the Beauty of Hebron and the Snowflake. It is not early, but is good for a general crop. Now, we think that the difference is this:—The Snowflake is, without doubt, the finest potato for baking that was ever put into an oven. It is as white as snow, as dry as feathers, as mealy as the finest corn starch, and as delicate as can possibly be. When opened, it falls into light dry meal. The Beauty of Hebron is firmer, higher of flavour, and better adapted for boiling or frying. It is the best frying potato in the world, as the Snowflake is the best baker.

Mammoth Pearl is highly recommended by those who have tried it. It is not a regular-shaped potato, but it lives well in the hill, does not easily rot, and its tops are so strong that the bug does not injure it so much as some other varieties.

WHEN trees are transplanted the roots are always more or less injured, hence, it is best to cut back the tops to correspond with the roots left.

**CURRENT NEWS ITEMS.**

It is estimated that the grain crop of 1881 on St. Joseph's Island exceeded 20,000 bushels.

MR. DINNIN, of Lumley, has sold his farm to Mr. John Allison, of the Thames Road, for \$57 an acre.

THE Christie farm in Brantford, containing 525 acres, has been purchased by Captain Milloy, of Brantford, for \$36,000.

THROUGHOUT Kent the fall wheat is reported as looking remarkably well, and almost entirely free from the bad effects of changeable weather.

MR. ROBERT KYDD, of the 6th concession, Usborne, has sold his farm of fifty acres to Mr. Robert McDonald, of the Thames Road, for the sum of \$3,000.

A CONSIDERABLE portion of the present inhabitants of Berlin, says the *News*, are retired farmers who have moved into town to spend their declining years.

MR. GEORGE ARMSTRONG, of the Thames Road, has bought of Mr. James Armstrong, twenty acres belonging to lot 6, North Thames Road, for the sum of \$1,500.

THE enterprising farmers around Lansdowne have imported a very fine Percheron stallion at a cost of \$1,800. The horse arrived on the 20th ult., and is said to be a beauty.

THE bee-keepers of Hastings, Prince Edward and Northumberland met at Wooler on the 21st of March, to discuss the best means of developing their popular and important industry.

A FARMER in Dover Township set fire to an old straw stack to scare out a fox, and three tramps crawled out of the smoke and upbraided him for his carelessness in not first jabbing around with a pitchfork to see if anybody was there.

THE *Waterloo Chronicle* says: "The black-knot bids fair to destroy our cherry trees without mercy. It might be advisable to instruct the town constable to enforce the law strictly in this matter, though we doubt whether anything will save the trees now."

MR. SAMUEL SMITH brought to Sarnia on the 20th ult. two head of cattle of the Durham breed, that turned the scale at three thousand seven hundred and fifty pounds. They had been sold to a dealer for shipment, and were undoubtedly magnificent samples of what Lambton farmers can do in the cattle-raising line.

THE total crop raised by the Indian bands in Manitoba and the North-West is estimated by the Indian Commissioners as follows:—Wheat, 6,172 bushels; oats, 4,580; barley, 8,900; peas, 333; potatoes, 19,891; turnips, 24,855; carrots, 1,299. Total, 66,030 bushels, valued at \$118,854. Hay cut and stacked, 2,582 tons, valued at \$8 per ton, \$20,656. Land broken, 4,575 acres, at \$5 per acre, \$22,875. There were erected on the Indian reserves, including instructors' farms, 768 dwellings, and other buildings sufficient to make a total of 1,030. Total expenditure for Indians during the year is given at \$780,847, of which \$726,728 was in Manitoba and the North-West, and \$42,318 in British Columbia. There were sold of Indian lands 32,293 acres, which realized \$50,447. The quantity of lands still in the market is 538,000 acres.