

Transplanting is satisfactory. There can admittedly be little pleasure in seeing a cemetery of bare stubs and red spruces as the sole and crowning result of one's labors.

#### HOW TO PLANT.

There is little excuse, however, of having trees die. A little care is all that is necessary in this, as in most other things. Trees may be planted either in spring or in fall, although the former season is the better; but, whether brought from the nursery or the woodland, the great necessity is that the roots shall not dry out. If from the nursery, they should come packed in damp moss; if from the woods, it is necessary that they be covered so that the wind and sun cannot work upon them. In either case, if it is not convenient to set the trees in their permanent places at once, they should be "heeled in"; that is, put in a trench, and the roots covered with moist earth, kept continually moist until time for removal. This applies to fruit as well as to ornamental trees. Before planting, a hole large enough to spread the roots out in without cramping, should be dug for each tree, and the soil at the bottom of it worked up, preferably with about a bushel of old manure, to a fine, rich bed, in which the first growth may be made. If the manure is at all strong or fresh, it should not touch the roots at any point. When the bed has been prepared, place the tree, spreading the roots out in a natural position. Care should be taken to distribute the roots not merely in a flat layer on the bottom of the hole, but vertically as well, so that the transplanted tree will be rooted in the natural way in which it grew. Fill in the soil, pressing it down firmly, but not so roughly as to break any of the fine fibres; then water well, so that the water will reach the very lowest part of the root; mulch with chaffy straw; and, if the trees are in a windy place, tie them securely to stout stakes, using sacking which will not abrade the bark. Some keep the mulch on for two or three years, as it helps to suppress weeds and conserve moisture; others merely keep the surface of the soil worked up, so as to produce a dust mulch. When regular cultivation can be given, the dust mulch will be sufficient.

Most trees need close pruning when transplanting. Cut away all roots that are broken or badly torn, just back of the injury. It is customary to cut off the ends of all roots the size of a lead-pencil or larger, for a clean, smooth wound is supposed to heal more quickly than a ragged one. Make the cuts from within outwards, so that the wound is more or less slanting across the roots, and so that it rests firmly upon the ground when the tree is set.

As half or more of the entire root system of the young tree is left in the ground when it is dug, it is evident that the top should be cut back an equal amount. In fact, the top should be shortened in more severely than the root, because the root, in addition to being reduced, is also dislodged from the soil, with which it must establish a new union before it can resume its activities. There are, says Bailey, two general methods of trimming the tops of young (deciduous) trees at planting time. One method cuts back all the branches to spurs of from one to three buds, or sometimes, as with dwarf pears, set when two years old, the side branches may be entirely cut away, leaving only the buds on the main stem or trunk. The tree "feathers out" the first season, making many small shoots along the main trunk. The following fall or spring the top is started at the desired height. The second method aims to start the top at the required height when the tree is planted. It is adapted only to strong and well-grown stocks which have a more or less forked or branching top. From three to five of the best branches are left, and these are headed back to a few buds each. Trees may be pruned before they are planted, although it is generally better to do it just after they have set. Plant one foot firmly at the base of the tree, and then, with one hand, the branch to be removed is bent upwards, and, with the other the knife is applied to the under side, and the cut neatly made.

Once planted and pruned, the trees should need little further attention for some time. Water may be given—plenty of it—during an exceptionally dry time; and, in the case of tender varieties, a protective covering of straw or sacking may be wrapped about the trunks for the first few winters. We would not, however, advise the planting of tender trees in Canada. There is variety enough, both for fruit and ornament, among the hardier species to preclude the necessity of worrying with the kinds that demand constant care.

In closing, may we say a word in regard to evergreens? It is a mistake to have nothing but evergreens about a place; the effect is too sombre. Yet, it seems as great a mistake to have none at all. Nothing makes as good a wind-break as a tall row or two of evergreens; nothing confers so much dignity as a judicious number planted along with hardwood varieties, and nothing is so desirable for adornment of the lawn in winter. In fact, one can scarcely conceive of a more attractive sight than a mass of

snow-decked evergreens, flanked, on the sunny side, with a mass of barberry or briar bushes upon which the scarlet berries and crimson hips still hang; or with an equally attractive mass of red or yellow-stemmed shrubbery, such as the bright-barked dogwoods.

Evergreens may be planted any time in May, or even during the earlier part of June. For best results, a warm, moist, rich root-bed is required, though Norway spruces are very hardy; the method of planting is similar to that of other trees, the pruning, of course, being omitted. Evergreens should never be trimmed into fantastic shapes such as are sometimes seen. They will, it is true, submit to it, but at the sacrifice of their native beauty. The only time a knife should ever be applied to an evergreen is when it is necessary to trim out the branches from below or to remove dead or unsightly limbs.

#### THE POTATO CROP.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

We had an excellent crop of potatoes last year. In the fall the men applied 15 spreader loads of manure to the acre, and plowed it down. In the winter the land was given a coat consisting of 20 loads of mussel-mud. In the spring the field was well harrowed before the potatoes were plowed in. Afterwards, the land was harrowed every week until after the potatoes started to come up. Then the man went through them with the hoe twice before they were ready to scuffle. The scuffer went through them every week until they were ready to mould. They were kept free from weeds and beetles. They were Early Rose and American Wonder. Our late potatoes were also an excellent crop. They were treated about the same as the early ones. Under one stalk there were 15 good-sized potatoes. They were Blues and Dakota Reds.

We had good seed. I cut the sets myself—large, fat ones, each piece containing two eyes. I didn't do as some farmers' wives, cut little thin scraps, almost like peeling, in order to save the inside of the potatoes for the animals. This is surely poor economy. The seed require to have substance in order to insure a good crop. We need not expect a good crop of potatoes if we become weary in well-doing. Farmers must keep hard at work cultivating, fighting weeds and beetles, in order to attain success. A. R. P. E. Island.

#### A FARMER'S GARDEN.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

No man enjoys good food, and plenty of it, more than the farmer, but, as a rule, most of it consists of such material as he produces for market purposes. The result is that, if he is some distance from a market, he is likely to think it not worth while growing fruit and vegetables that he cannot sell. For this reason, his family is often deprived of the luscious strawberries, the rich, juicy raspberry, the gooseberry, the grape, the cherry, and the plum. Nor does he grow the tender asparagus, the delicious, sweet garden peas or corn, the radish, lettuce, bean or beets, and often that wholesome and popular vegetable, the tomato, is unknown in a fresh condition on the farmer's table.

With a little labor, all this might be changed, and the farmer could have an abundant supply of all those fruits and vegetables which he is so capable of enjoying. If it is properly laid out, the horse and farm implements will do most of the work. The soil should be rich, and well drained. Proper preparation of the soil before planting will well repay all the labor put upon it, and after cultivation and manuring will not produce the best results unless this has been done. A good friable soil, well drained, given a heavy dressing of manure, plowed and harrowed thoroughly; or a better way would be to summer-fallow and manure well season before, which would bring the soil in prime condition for the reception of trees, bushes and plants. A frequent application of barnyard manure from time to time in the future will cause it to produce fruit and vegetables of the finest quality.

One-quarter of an acre, planted six years ago, produced sufficient small fruit to supply our family during the summer, leaving a surplus to preserve for winter, as well as selling enough fruit to buy sugar for preserving and table use the rest of the year. There was also left room to raise for the table enough of those vegetables which are not grown in the field. My garden is laid out as follows: The rows are 200 feet long, starting on one side of garden, 6 feet from fence, giving good space for cultivation. Three rows of raspberries are planted, rows 6 feet apart, with bushes 3 feet apart in rows, of early and late varieties. The Cuthbert does the best with us. Next row consists of one-half Hilborn blackcaps and dewberries, planted same as raspberries. Fifth row, currants, planted 4 feet apart in row; varieties, Victoria black and Wilder red; also six bushes of Pearl gooseberries. Sixth row, grapes, planted twelve feet apart in row, making 16 vines,

trained on 4 wires, 1 foot apart on posts 4½ feet high. Here is where we get the most pleasure out of our garden, training and growing the grapes to perfection. Last year they were four years old, and we won first place on all our exhibits at Goderich Industrial. We train on the horizontal plan, one vine on bottom, and one on third wire. In the seventh row is planted roses, 3 feet apart in row, and 6 feet from the grapevines. I have over 50 varieties; they bloom with perfection, as they are well cultivated and manured with liquid manure in summer, and covered with snow and sawdust in winter. The eighth row was planted last year with grapes. Our plan of training is to prune back the first and second years; third year leave vine on bottom wire; fourth year we have a full vine. Strawberries did not produce good results in this garden, as the soil is a little too heavy. We found it necessary to have our patch in lighter soil, enriched well with potash, which we supplied in hardwood ashes.

Vegetables are grown in rows two feet six inches apart, which gives room for using a horse cultivator. The distance apart of the rows is made as uniform as possible, without undue waste of land. The saving of labor is usually more important to the farmer than a little soil, and it will pay well to lay out the garden in such a way that most of the work can be done with a horse. G. L. Huron Co., Ont.

#### LAYING-OUT A LAWN.

As I wish to lay out my lawn and plant some trees this spring, I should like to get advice as to the best way of doing it. I do not know whether questions of this kind are answered by your paper, but I do know that "The Farmer's Advocate" takes an interest in making the home beautiful. The north and west is very much exposed to wind and cold, so wish to plant something for wind-break. How would maples and Norway spruce, alternately, do along the new fence? Also, what would you advise for the bare space between house and road? I am fond of flowers and shrubs (but the latter must be hardy). Where would you plant those, and would you prefer a walk in from the road, or a walk from lane leading to house?

#### A SIMCOE CO. SUBSCRIBER.

To lay out and develop beautiful home surroundings is the work of an artist, yet this does not put the work beyond the possibilities of the ordinary farmer, for every country home should be a picture in itself, with the dwelling as the central feature in the picture, with trees and shrubs so grouped about it as to frame and finish the picture. This subject was treated at more or less length in a series of four articles given in "The Farmer's Advocate" the latter part of April and beginning of May last year, and I would refer our reader to these articles for further information than can be given here.

In brief, I may say that the first consideration is usually the removal of unsightly and, in most cases, unnecessary fences, levelling and grading the grounds, and seeding down with a good lawn-grass mixture. The paths should enter at the side of the grounds, without cutting directly across the lawn, and in this case had better enter from the lane or at the corner of the lawn near the main entrance, and wind gracefully around toward the front of the house. Maples or elms should be planted along the roadside the entire length of the farm, and Norway spruce or other evergreens should be grouped about the sides and back of the house to give it a background, when viewed from the road. A clump of large evergreens at the north-west corner of the lawn would also help to protect the building from cold winds. A collection of hardy flowering shrubs, such as you will find given in the articles already referred to, should be grouped about the house and sides of the lawn. The front lawn should not be filled up with trees or shrubs, nor spoiled by cutting flower-beds in the greensward. A good border of hardy perennial plants might be laid out along the path leading to the house, or at either side of the grounds near the house. For a selection of suitable plants for this purpose, see "The Farmer's Advocate" of May 9th, last.

O. A. C.

H. L. HUTT.

The worst neglected department of farm management in Western Ontario is the apple orchard. Culture and marketing are alike neglected. Poor culture means small quantities of inferior fruit, and slow sale at slack prices. Lack of good marketing facilities dampens interest in improved culture. A radical change in both ends is necessary, and experience indicates that it is best to begin at the commercial end. Where co-operative associations have been formed we find shining examples of the possibilities in up-to-date orcharding. Co-operation is the bright hope. In its wake follow pruning, spraying, cultivation, fertilizing and intelligent general care. A well-managed farm orchard is a splendid proposition.