

and the sun, by starting the sap early, might be injurious. Perhaps a forest or a mountain at a distance would be the best protection. Evergreens planted singly or in groups all through the orchard might do good. Some years ago I saw in some paper a novel idea. Instead of belts around the orchard, the writer planted them in this way among his trees. He claimed that they stored up heat during the day, and drew heat from the soil. Now it may be possible to change or effect the climate greatly by the destruction of large forests, but how a few spruce trees would keep an orchard warm is not so plain; but the shade may have caused the results which he accounted to storage. Every one who has had house or garden plants frozen knows the effect of a hot sun on them. If two plants are equally frozen, and one of them be left in the sun, while the other is placed in the shade and well watered, the former will be found to be ruined, while the latter will be but little injured. A friend of mine planted half a dozen trees of the Fameuse, and they all failed but one. That tree was planted near the west end of the house, and partly shaded with trees; the sun's rays do not reach it till near noon. He has never pruned it, so that it is a mass of brush, but is beginning to bear. It is the only Fameuse that I have seen here that looked like living.

Another thing that has a good effect is summer pruning, and topping back all the young shoots late in summer, and if they sprout nip them off again, but this plan would only do for the amateur.

### PEAR BLIGHT AND PLUM CURCULIO.

A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* asks:—

"Is there a blight proof pear tree, and a plum that the curculio will not sting? I have a thrifty apricot tree that blossoms, but bears nothing."

To which Mr. J. J. Thomas replies,

"There is no pear that is absolutely blight-proof, although a few varieties are nearly so and are rarely attacked by the disease. Of these, Duchess d'Angouleme stands at the head; then Winter Niels, Seckle, Clairgeau and Beurre d'Anjou. The new Kieffer's Hybrid is thought by some to be perfectly blight-proof, and it is doubtless nearly so; but we have seen it slightly affected. There is no plum proof against the curculio, but these insects are easily destroyed if the work is properly performed. The loss of your apricots is doubtless from the sting of this insect, which you may easily determine by examining for the small crescent marks in the young fruit when as large as peas. The jarring process will save them if vigorously applied, which very few persons have the industry to do."