

Young trees when they start to grow, should receive an annual pruning and washing of their stems and the thick part of the limbs with soft soap reduced one-half, and also a scraping and cleaning from filth of all sorts from the bark of the trees, to prevent the lodgment of insects. After management of trees consists in the cultivation of the soil among the trees, and pruning them to regulate their growth. For the first five or six years after planting, the ground among orchard trees may be advantageously cropped with potatoes, turnips, carrots and mangel wurzel. This will assist in defraying the expenses of the orchard. Grain crops should never be planted among trees, as they prevent the circulation of air which is so necessary to them. There is one fatal error common to most people in planting fruit trees, which is, that they never can get trees tall enough. When they go to the nursery to procure trees they pick out those that have eight to nine feet stem. Such trees, let me tell you honestly, will never be profitable, because, if they live, when they begin to bear, they get top-heavy, and the fruit is sure to be blown off by storms. Standard trees for a good profitable orchard should never be more than four feet stem. The plough will get as near to the roots of trees four feet high as it should to trees ten feet high. I make these remarks here in order to show, if possible, the foolishness of having high stemmed trees for a profitable orchard.

DISEASES.—In addition to the obstacles of the cultivation of fruit, the special difficulties of diseases, and the attacks of insects require to be well attended to. The work of destruction from either of these causes is often rapid and complete, but if watched, and proper remedies applied promptly, each of these may generally be overcome without great loss. The great evil is delay; insects multiply with such astonishing rapidity, and diseases spread so rapidly, that the dilatory man sees his fruit and his trees pass away before he is fully awake to the danger. Be sure to meet these foes at their first appearance and commonly you will get the better of them but if once they get established it will be hard to get rid of them.

FIRE BLIGHT—is a disease that is not very common in apple orchards in this country, but in the States of New York and Ohio, three years ago, it threatened to destroy thousands of orchards, and cut away all the pear trees about Cincinnati. Its ravages are confined to apple, pear, and quince trees. I have heard no complaint about the disease among apple trees in Canada, but I have seen great ravages done by it among pear trees, large and small, in my own nursery. It generally makes its appearance on the young shoots, or smaller branches, causing them to turn black and die in a few minutes. It is very contagious, and spreads like wild-fire, and the only remedy is quick amputation and that without hesitation, down to the ground, if required.

BLACK KNOT OR WART ON THE PLUM.—This disease is truly fearful in some sections of the country. I travelled a good deal during the last winter, and found the plums dying everywhere. Its first appearance is in the shape of a wart during the summer, and increasing during the growing season, which in winter becomes black and very unsightly, as far as my observation goes. It is pretty nearly confined to the common blue plum, so much grown in this country.

The remedy for this is the same as for fire-blight—namely, cut off all affected limbs, and burn them. I have found no difficulty in keeping my trees free from it, by cutting the wart clean out with my knife, and applying a plaster of cow-dung and ashes.

BURSTING OF THE BARK OF CHERRY TREES.—This is a disease common to all cherry trees in Canada that have a high naked trunk. It is supposed to be caused by the action of the frost and sun in the month of March. I find by various accounts from different parts of the country that dwarf trees are not subject to the bursting of the bark; and I am inclined to this belief, as my own dwarf trees have always kept free from it.

I have known cures by removing the dead bark and gum, and applying a plaster of cow-dung, tied round with a bandage to keep it in its place. Mr. Barry prefers a plaster of grafting-wax, or a solution of gum shellac put on with a brush, as recommended by Mr. Downing.

INSECTS THAT ARE INJURIOUS TO FRUIT TREES.—BARK LOUSE.—This is a brown flat scale, often the same colour as the bark of the tree, and is not seen easily unless looked for. It attaches itself to the bark of the tree, and is more injurious to apple trees than any other insect. It preys most severely on sickly stunted trees. Where they are thick, the only remedy is to scrape them off with a sharp instrument, and wash with soft soap and tobacco juice.