


TRAINING YOUNG PEACH TREES.

 CONSIDERABLE judgment needs be exercised in the training of a young tree, especially a peach, as it being a rapid grower, it requires more attention than any other of the tree fruits.

The training should begin at the moment of planting and be continued through the life of the tree. Growers differ as regards manner of thinning, at the time of transplanting, some prefer trimming to a whip, while others leave short spurs with one good strong bud on each. Although good trees can be grown by either method, the "whip plan" is preferable as stronger growth is more apt to be obtained. It is better to grow a low head tree, the first branches starting about 2 or 2½ feet from the ground. They will shade the trunks from the sun, which will lessen the liability to sun scald and be less subject to the forces of the wind. The fruit can be more easily gathered and pruning be greatly facilitated.

The trimming of the roots of the young tree is about as important as of the top. When the tree comes from the nursery, the roots as well as the limbs are more or less bruised. The machine used in digging them in the nursery, will often tear the roots in a severe manner. All the roots that have been broken or bruised should be cut off clean and the others, shortened in at least ¼, the cutting should be from the under side that the raw surface may be down. The care of a tree before and at transplanting, requires nothing but common sense to make a tree succeed. A tree will suffer as much when its roots are exposed to the sun and wind, as a fish will when out of water. Protect the roots and replace them in a position

as near their former one as possible, with the soil firm and of good quality and nature will do the rest.

It is well to have some definite plan as to the shape of the top to be formed. A good way is to sketch the outline of the proposed form, on paper, then when pruning, the plan may be carried along and the tree fashioned as near to it as possible. The trees must be watched closely the first season that all shoots which are not required to form the head, may be removed.

In forming the head, select four or five of the strongest branches which are distributed along the trunk for 12 or 16 inches and branch in different directions so that they may be evenly balanced. The following spring the top should be cut back ½, the place on the limb has much to do with the formation of the top.

If a tree be inclined to grow more rapidly in one direction than in another, by cutting back to a leaf bud located upon the inner or outer side of a branch, that branch may be made to grow towards or from the centre of the tree. I had several trees which had one part broken off, and by this plan I was able to re-grow a very evenly balanced top. Each succeeding spring the cutting-back should be ⅓ of the past season's growth, this answers also as a means of thinning the fruit when the trees come into bearing.

If this plan is followed, a block of trees may be grown which will be long-lived and profitable as well as a "thing of beauty" to the owner.

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