

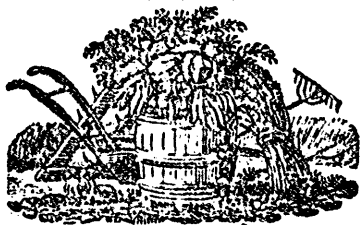
# THE COLONIAL FARMER,

DEVOTED TO THE AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS OF NOVA-SCOTIA, NEW-BRUNSWICK,  
AND PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND.

NO. 2.

HALIFAX, N. S., OCTOBER 1, 1842.

NO. 7.



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### TRANSPLANTING FRUIT TREES.

Fruit trees in this Province should have a sheltered situation. On the Southern coast a Northeast aspect is in many places the best, because the cold sea breeze of summer is most frequently from the southwest, but let it be a general rule to chuse a situation exposed considerably from all winds and particularly from those which come from the sea. The apple will thrive in most rich soils, especially if they are wet and springy; and generally rather better in a soil than in one that is free from stones. In the spring is the best time for transplanting, but in some springs the time is very late, as the work cannot be done before the ground is thawed, and should not be done after the buds begin to swell. In the fall there is generally more time for this work, and it will succeed as well as in the spring, provided the ground about the trees is well covered with moss, straw or other litter to prevent it from being injured by the frost.

In deep, rich, dry, cultivated ground it is not necessary to make the holes any larger than what is required to spread the roots properly; but where the soil is shallow, resting on a barren subsoil, the holes should not be less for Apples and Pears than two feet deep and as broad, however small the trees may be. Should the subsoil be hard, it will be necessary that the ground be sloping, and that a drain be made from each hole far enough to take off the water.

The holes must be partly filled before the trees are set in, as they must not be planted deeper than they stood in the nursery. They may be filled with a good soil mixed with brick rubble, round stones, bones, old shoes, oyster shells, and old plaster. The roots should be spread in their natural position. Particular care should be taken to ram the earth firm and solid under the crown of the roots, (directly under the stem,) and to leave no loose place about any of the roots, the earth should be well trodden, and beat hard with a rammer next the sides of the holes to prevent the rain water from running down. It should be raised a few inches above the level of the adjoining land, as it will settle closer, when well trodden down. In general it is best not to cut any of the branches from the trees, but the twigs should be shortened so as to cut off about half the buds, which will prevent their springing from too much leaf before the roots can assist them. The following year they may be grafted. Chuse the scions for grafting from healthy trees that bear well, for a scion from a defective tree rarely thrives. Many good kinds of apples are now failing in age, and it is necessary to raise apples from seed constantly to

keep up good varieties. The most valuable kinds of good apples are those which ripen early, and those which keep well through the winter. Plumb trees require a very rich soil to produce fruit of good quality, but as they are often injured by cold seasons, they hold out best on a very rich soil, not more than fifteen inches deep, and resting on gravel. In a cold summer the young shoots do not always have time to ripen their wood before winter, which always kills those shoots that it finds in a soft herbaceous state, and when the ends of the twigs are killed, the heart of the tree dies with them, and it will rarely produce any more fruit that will ripen well. But the plumb tree will strike roots to the bottom of the rich mould, though it should be three feet or more, and will always be later in ripening both the wood and the fruit than trees which are in a shallow soil. An Apple tree that is dead at the heart often continues to bear for a number of years, but if the ends of the twigs of a plumb tree appear generally to be dead in the spring, cut it down immediately, and do not plant a sucker that springs from its roots for it will always have the same defect. Plumbstones should be often planted to keep a nursery for the purpose of replacing those that are winterkilled, and if the kernels of good fruit are planted, the greater part will produce good fruit. As soon as the leaves fall, it is best to lay some straw or litter about the roots of Plumb trees. When the leaves of the Plumb are beginning to open, the insect that produces the Black canker commences its operations; the branches should then be narrowly watched, and wherever a swelling appears on the bark it should be shaved off to the wood, which may be covered with grafting clay. At this time the worms will not be visible, but the bark will be three or four times the natural thickness, and very tender. If you wait till these swellings become dry black lumps, it will be of no use to cut them out, for the worm before that time will have become a fly, and have left the tree. There are various species of this troublesome insect, some of which attack the Apple and Cherry. Near to uncultivated ground that produces any considerable quantity of the wild red Cherry, it is very difficult to keep the common Kentish or garden red Cherry from being much injured by the Canker insects, as they are always to be found upon the wild Cherry. The broad-leaved early cherries will never do well except in very warm and well sheltered situations, but it is probable that if successive generations of these Cherries, and of Peaches, were raised as fast as possible, in those parts of the Province where they will ripen in the open air, our grandchildren might have varieties which would be sufficiently hardy. All useful vegetables, as well as animals possess a capability of accommodating themselves to different climates. The Indian corn, while it thrives in the hottest part of Central Africa, has formed varieties which will ripen in colder climates than ours. Wheat is cultivated in most climates, and cabbage will grow in the coldest situations that are ever cultivated by man, while it thrives remarkably in very hot climates. It is true that the plants that are most useful and necessary to man, possess in the highest degree the power of forming innumerable varieties, but there are very few that do not possess it in some degree. Suckers which spring from the roots of healthy Plumb trees grow faster at first than seedling plants, and soon begin to bear; they are often large enough to bud upon, the first year that they spring up, and the second year they are of a good size for grafting, which is better than budding for