

prevent the stems being broken or bruised. Weeds must be drawn out as soon as they appear.

To such as have a desire and opportunity for raising fruit, which contributes so essentially to domestic comfort and the health of a family, the subjoined directions taken from *Barry's Fruit Garden*, an excellent, practical treatise, will afford to amateurs and residents in the country some useful aid:

The formation of a fruit garden requires a consideration of the *soil, situation, enclosures, laying out, selection of trees, selection of varieties, and planting.*

1st. *The Situation.*—This is generally governed by the particular circumstances of the proprietor, those only who build with reference to the location of the garden, or who have a large domain at their disposal, having an opportunity of selection to any considerable extent. Persons who live in cities and villages, have to make the best of their situation. As it is, if it be exposed, they can only give it protection by lofty enclosures, that will break the force of the winds. The *aspect* they cannot alter, and must adapt other circumstances to it. Those who can should select a situation convenient enough to the dwelling, to render it at all times easy of access, in order to save time and labor in going to and from it. It should also be sheltered from the north and west winds. The former are destructive to the blossoms in spring, and the latter frequently blow off the fruit before its maturity. In sections of the country subject to late spring frosts, an elevated situation is to be preferred, as in the case of orchards. A full eastern or southern aspect should be avoided, because in them the sun's rays strike the trees while the frost is upon them, and produce injuries that would be avoided in other aspects. Where artificial shelter is required, a belt of rapid-growing trees, composed of evergreens and deciduous trees mixed, should be planted on the exposed side, but at such a distance as to obviate any difficulty that might arise from the injurious effects of shade, or from the roots entering the garden. Such a belt of trees might, at the same time, be made to impart a pleasing and highly ornamental appearance to the grounds.

2d. *The Soil* is a most important consideration. As in a garden a general collection of all the fruits is to be grown, and

that in the highest state of perfection, the soil should be of that character in its texture, depth, and quality, best adapted to general purposes. It should not only be suitable for the apple and the pear, but for the peach, the cherry, and the plum—a good, deep, friable loam, with a gravelly clay subsoil, and entirely free from stagnant moisture. In this country, our warm summers, and frequent, protracted droughts, render a deep soil for a garden absolutely necessary. *Two feet* is little enough, and three would be still better. The means for deepening, drying, improving, and changing the character of soils have been already pointed out under the general head of soils, and need not be repeated here. Suffice it to say, that it will always be found true economy to be liberal in the first preparation of the soil; for after a garden is laid out and permanently planted, improvements are always made with greater difficulty and expense.

*Enclosures.*—The cheapest and most ordinary kind of enclosure for gardens in this country, is the tight board fence, and the picket or paling fence. The former should be made of stout cedar posts, set at six feet apart, and three or four feet in the ground, the ends being previously charred to increase their durability, connected in the middle and on the top with cross-bars or rails which may be two by four inches. The boards should be well seasoned, matched, and securely nailed to the cross-bars. Where the fence is required to be higher than the posts, the boards can extend above the top rail two, three, or even four feet, if necessary. The picket or paling fence is made in the same way, as far as the framework, posts, and crossbars go; but, instead of matched boards, pickets, from three to six inches wide, and pointed on the top, are used, and a space of two inches left between each. Where the proprietor can afford the expense of a brick or stone wall, it will prove the most permanent, and, in the end, the cheapest enclosure. The height of the fence or wall depends somewhat on the extent of the garden. In ordinary cases, eight or ten feet is the proper height, but when the garden is very small, five or six feet is enough; and the open paling will be preferable except on the north side, to the tight board fence, as it offers less obstruction to the air and light. A high fence around a very small garden, besides being injurious to vegetation in it, looks quite out of character, giving to it the appearance of a huge box. Live hedges, as recommended for orchards, might be employed around coun-