

Horticulture

DIRECTIONS FOR TRANSPLANTING AND MANAGING APPLE TREES, TILL THEY ARRIVE AT A BEARING STATE.

(From the *Lanark Observer*.)

In giving a few brief directions, the result of my own observation and experience, on the transplanting and subsequent management of Apple Trees, I will commence, in the first place, with the distance they ought to be kept apart. I consider about twenty feet distance, each way, quite sufficient for a Kitchen, or close bearing Orchard. The holes for the reception of the trees, I make from five to six feet in diameter, and two spades deep—say, eighteen or twenty inches—nine or ten inches of the surface soil, if good, to be put in a heap by itself, and the subsoil in a heap also, not to be put in again, but scattered on the surface after the tree is planted. Put in a larger quantity than of the subsoil, of well-fermented manure, or rich mould from a field of summer fallow, or newly cleared land; then put in the surface soil first taken out of the hole, and then plant your tree. Shallow planting is of course recommended—say, one inch deeper than in the Nursery bed. The roots should be pared on the under side with a slope, to take away all ragged wood, and all cross roots. When the roots are so trimmed, a rush of new roots will grow from the surface of the slope, and the growth of the tree will be promoted by that means. When there are a great deal of small roots together, under the surface roots, I prefer cutting them short, rather than planting them in a warped state; the extremity of the roots should be kept up, corresponding to the natural slope from the trunk or base of the tree. In transplanting, two persons can perform it to better advantage than one; any young person with do to hold the tree in a perpendicular position, which will very much facilitate the work. If the ground root be long, cut it off with a slope, then hold up the ends of the roots with one hand, spread, and cover the under roots with the other, going round the tree, laying one layer of roots after another, and packing them well with fine mould, tho' not pressing too hard, for fear of straining the roots.—When the surface roots are bedded, put a few spadefuls of good earth round the extremity of the roots, then cover up. Now is the time to give your tree the set you want, and as the prevailing winds in this latitude, during the summer, are from the west, I would decline it a little in that direction, holding tree steady with one hand, and pressing the earth with the foot, commencing at the ex-

trernity of the roots, and proceeding towards the tree. Press gently at first, rather repeating the operation two or three times, so as to sink all equally. When the tree is planted, it should be two or three inches above the level of the surrounding surface, to allow the whole mass to sink, as it will do, after the first winter's snows and rains.

Trees newly set out would be much benefited the first summer, by the application of two inches deep of well rotted dung, for about 18 inches around their roots. They should also be frequently well watered, during the warm weather about sun-set, or after the heat of the day, and always making a point of beginning at the top or head of the tree; I use a watering pail for that purpose, which answers very well. As the top of the tree is of course deprived of its usual quantity of sap, by the trimming and shortening of the roots, I would therefore recommend what is generally termed "pruning in," that is, taking a few inches off the ends of the branches. Branches should never be lopped close off, till the tree is in a vigorous state of growth, and the wounds heal quickly, when covered with a piece of grafting wax. The following is the composition I use for that purpose, viz.—Four parts of rosin, two parts of bees' wax, and one part of tallow, melted together; when cold enough not to run through spread with a brush on the cheapest kind of Cotton cloth, and cut in squares, according to the size of the wounds.

As to the proper time of pruning, there is a great diversity of opinion; I consider the best time to be from the 20th of June till the 10th of July. As that is the time of the fall growth commences, the sap naturally flows to the outside of the tree, and the limbs being pared off close to the trunk with a sharp knife, they soon heal over, and by this method the growth and health of the tree are insured. Young trees should be washed, every spring at least, with soap suds, or unleached ashes and water mixed together, and applied to the main stem of the tree, with a brush, or a piece of woollen cloth fastened on to a stick, so as to insure the safety of the hands. They ley loosens the moss, and kills any larvæ of insects that may be deposited behind the rough bark.

Frequent top dressings, particularly in spring, are of much benefit to a young orchard, as they keep the ground cool and moist in the summer season, and so promote the growth of the trees; less watering is thus required. Rough manure from the hog pen, the straw being well saturated with urine, is as good a top-dressing for Apple trees as anything I know of. Unleached ashes, say, one peck round each tree, will kill all insects