

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (HORTICULTURAL BRANCH).

PROPAGATION AND SELECTION OF
NURSERY STOCK.

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THE propagation of nursery stock is a business which is largely confined to nurserymen. Although this is the case, there is no reason why a fruit-grower with a little study and practice cannot grow some stock, if he so desires. It is not the intention of the writer to give this circular to the public to take business away from the *bona-fide* nurseryman, but it is written with the intention of assisting any interested party or parties who desire to propagate nursery stock either for pleasure or profit, or both. It would not only be inadvisable, but impossible, to drive the nurseryman out of business, as: (1.) The majority of fruit-growers are willing to allow the nurseryman to grow their stock, providing the prices charged are reasonable and the grade of trees is satisfactory. (2.) This is an age of specialization, and the nurseryman is better equipped, and in a better position to grow stock, than the average grower is, as the latter has his orchard-work to attend to during the year, at a time when the nursery-work requires attention. It will be possible here to give only a brief outline of a few of the more common methods of propagation of large and small fruits, ornamental and shade trees.

No variety of fruit will come true to name from seed, so it is necessary in the case of the fruits to grow the seedling tree, and insert in or on it a scion or bud of the variety which is desired. Besides propagation by budding and grafting, which are the two most common methods, some fruits are propagated by wood-cuttings, root-cuttings, layering, and from runners or cuttings. A great many of our shade and ornamental trees are propagated from the seed.

BUDDING.

Budding is practised during the growing season when the bark slips well, and after the buds on the same season's shoots are well formed. In the propagation of fruit-trees, the buds are cut from limb sticks or branches taken from the best trees of the varieties which it is desired to propagate. Well-developed buds only should be used. They are inserted just under the bark (next the cambium layer), in a T-shaped cut made in the stock, and tied there with raffia or string. They are left in this condition until a good union