

transmission of the disease by cohabitation, as if that were not seen and demonstrated every day, and on a larger scale a thousand-fold than could be done in a few experimental animals under the eye of an expert.

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Pear, Cherry, and Plum Culture.

The late James H. Springle, in the report of the Montreal Horticultural Society, for the year 1876, gives the most interesting essay on the subject of Pear Culture in Quebec. So practical and exhaustive is this paper that we cannot do better than make a few extracts from it.

Enquiring into the reasons why the Pear tree of this region is so much shorter lived at present than it was in the days of the old French régime, Mr. Springle says: "It is well known that the early French colonists planted a great many pear trees which were evidently well suited for the climate, for they grew to a great size, produced an abundance of fruit, and lived as long as such trees do in parts of the world considered to be the natural home of the tree. An impression prevails that in consequence of the settlement and clearing of the country and the disappearance of its forests, a change of climate has taken place which is unfavourable to the growth of varieties of fruit which formerly flourished here in great abundance. But these suggestions, although important, are insufficient to account for so complete a failure as Pear growing in Quebec has proved to be. Within the last forty years, at least twenty-five thousand trees have been planted on the Island of Montreal alone, and I am confident I am within the truth in stating that there are not five per cent. of those trees now living, and not two per cent. of them in a healthy condition." Mr. Springle goes on to relate his own experience with both new and old varieties, and gives, as the result of it the opinion that the principal causes of failure have been, first the forcing of the young trees in the nursery, and second the use of manures to stimulate the growth of the tree; thus, preventing the new wood from ripening sufficiently to endure the severe winters of our climate.

The best situation for a Pear orchard is upon a southern, or south-eastern gentle slope at the base of a mountain, where shelter against cold winds, if none exist from neighbouring woodland, should be provided by planting a close border of ever greens as we have already recommended for an apple orchard in a previous number of this journal.

Mr. Springle recommends that the trees be planted much more closely together than is customary, not more than ten feet apart, on account of their sheltering each other in winter. Any well drained and cultivated soil, except gravel, will answer, and the ground should be spade trenched all over, instead of merely digging holes for the trees as we advised for the apple.

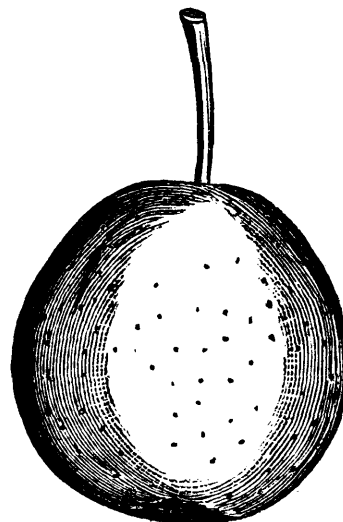
The trees should be procured in the fall, choosing those which are not less than seven years old, and which have never been forced in the nursery; have them heeled in for the winter and well covered with good surface soil. The transplanting of trees of this age has a tendency to cause early fruiting which checks a too vigorous growth in the tree, thus ensuring the ripening of the young wood and fitting the tree to endure our severe winters without injury. After the tree comes into bearing, a light top-dressing of lime, wood ashes, and ground bones mixed together, should be given before the snow comes in the fall.

Mr. Springle concludes his paper as follows: "In a word, successful pear growing, in this northern part of the Dominion, requires clean and early culture, so as to start the tree into growth, and have the wood matured as early in the season as possible, in ground sufficiently good to grow a moderate crop of potatoes. No manure (except as top dressing), pinch-

ing off the ends of all the rampant growing shoots, so as to equalise the growth as much as possible, and bring the trees early into bearing. I believe such culture as this will be good for the pear tree anywhere, but in this climate it is a matter of life or death."

The following varieties we name in order of ripening, and can especially recommend for general planting.

Doyenne d'Été.—The earliest good pear: small size, roundish.—Fruit grows in clusters, slightly russeted.—Colour: yellow, with red cheek: stem long, fleshy next the fruit. Ripens from 1st to 15th August. Does well on Quince, but, for this climate, is better on Pear stock.



Doyenne d'été.

Flemish Beauty.—This is undoubtedly the finest pear known for this climate. Size: very large; form: varying from regular pyriform to roundish obovate. Colour: pale yellow with crimson blush, and often partially covered with cinnamon russet. Quality: Melting, delicate flesh, which, though delicious, has the reputation of not keeping very long. It may, with a little care in handling, be kept in first rate condition from its time of ripening in September, to the end of October.

White Doyenne (or New York Virgalien).—This splendid old pear, which used to be brought in boatloads to the New York markets, is now scarcely to be seen there, the tree having failed, from some unknown cause, along the Atlantic coast. The tree, though not quite so hardy as *Flemish Beauty*, will stand the climate well if cultivated as recommended by Mr. Springle. The fruit is of medium size, and of the finest quality. Form: short pyriform, to roundish obovate. Colour bright yellow with blotches and stripes of crimson. Ripens middle of October and keeps well. This is one of the very few varieties which in this climate do well on the quince stock.

Napoleon.—One of the finest pears in existence and succeeds well in this climate. Fruit: Medium to large size, smooth, clear, light yellow. Shape: Regular pyriform. Flesh: Very melting, high flavoured, and the most juicy of all pears. Ripens, November.

Laurence.—This pear is unexcelled as an early winter sort. It originated at Flushing, Long Island. It is full medium size; pyriform in shape. Colour: Clear, uniform, light yellow. Flesh: Melting, buttery, juicy and aromatic. Ripens in December and January.