

condition of the subsoil ; and because the surface roots have by this time extended themselves so as to interlock with those of the adjoining rows, but of this, more hereafter.

How best to get the orchard grown to the time when it is in full bearing, is now to be considered. First, the land should be reasonably dry. If it is very wet, it should be made dry by draining ; if only slightly wet, the field may be thrown into ridges as wide as the rows of trees are to be apart, and if the plan is not to drain the land after the trees have begun to bring an income, then the rows and ridges should be wider ; that is a little land may be sacrificed in order to save the expense of draining, and where the land is not too dear, this is often the cheapest and the best way to solve a somewhat embarrassing problem. Having decided the method of drainage, a full year should be given to preparing the land. It should be plowed deep, and often ; if thrown in ridges or lands, then it will be well if the subsoil plow be used freely in the bottom of the dead furrows. If the land is at all sandy and poor, the plowing should not be less than four times, and none of them should be later than the middle of September. With this start, for the next five to fifteen years, according to the variety of trees set, enough plant food can easily be set free by shallow ploughing, cultivating and by the use of plants. Many a young orchard is ruined by over feeding with manures, as are also many by starvation, while the soil contains an abundance of food for all necessary growth. The trouble in this case is, the orchardist lacks both skill and forethought. The tree is too often treated like the unwise dairyman treats his stock which are fed to repletion when young, and semi-starved at maturity when the demand for food is great, especially if a large surplus product is to be secured ; by such treatment both alike are greatly injured, the tree not less than the animal. Healthy, continuous, hardy growth, and not too much stimulating nitrogen, is what is wanted in both cases.

In rare instances the land may be deficient in fertility ; in that case, a little mineral fertilizer will be all that will be needed. When the orchard begins to fruit readily there will be an extra demand on the soil for food, and that must be met—and in a liberal way if large supplies of fruit is secured. As the roots have been growing upon this soil for several years and as they can find no soil from which they have not already extracted the supply of the readily soluble food, the fact that the quality and quantity of the fruit diminishes and the tree

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