

eighty-five barrels on an average. Cultivation was continued up to this date, and he thought it was now time to seed down to grass and clover. The next year the product fell to eighteen barrels, or less than one quarter. Cultivation was then resumed, and the second year it bore 225 barrels. The owner concluded to keep up clean culture in future.

Early in spring the trees should receive a liberal supply of manure spread over the roots for quite a distance from the trunk as a centre. Nothing for general use is equal to stable manure, as it contains all the essential elements of plant food, both organic and inorganic, and it must continue to be in the future as in the past, the main dependence of the fruit grower. But, as orchards are increasing rapidly, and farm yard manure is required for other crops, we must supplement it by commercial manures or compost. Potash can be supplied in the form of hardwood ashes, and should be used wherever attainable. Phosphoric acid is supplied in the form of bone dust, and superphosphate and nitrogen is often attainable in the form of peat or muck. Every summer a compost might be formed of muck or black mud, ashes, bone dust, with any waste material about the farm. Build these into a heap, using plenty of fresh slacked lime for each alternate layer; cover the whole over with ground plaster to arrest the ammonia set free by the lime. In a few months the whole may be turned over, when it will be in a condition to apply to the land. This will form an almost perfect fertilizer for orchards.

When there is danger of over-bearing thinning the fruit is of great advantage. Do this first with the pruning shears when the trees are in bloom, then again after the fruit is formed thin out until you think there are few enough; again after the fruit is half grown all injured and inferior specimens should be removed. Like pruning young trees, there is not much danger of thinning too much. The error will probably be in the opposite direction. This treatment will accomplish two things—it prevents over-bearing, and has the effect of securing an annual yield. As many bushels can be got from the trees in the fall, as if good and bad mixed together had all been allowed to grow. The labor of assorting will be less, and they will bring a better price in the market.

It is impossible for me to say what is the best time to prune trees. If this has been properly attended to from the time the tree was

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