

DWARF PEARS.

As stated elsewhere standard pears are grown on seedling, largely imported, pear roots. A few for purposes of dwarfing are grown on quince roots.

It is claimed for the dwarf trees that they come into bearing more quickly, that more trees can be grown to the acre, that the trees are more blight resistant than standard trees and that the quality of the fruit is higher. Undoubtedly the trees are smaller, and more trees can be grown to the acre, but the first cost of the trees (not individually) per acre is higher, the number of baskets produced per acre is no greater than for standard trees, and cultivation is possibly a little more difficult on account of the close planting. It is admitted, however, that the trees are more resistant to blight. The most common variety grown on dwarf stock is Duchess of Angouleme. Other varieties: Bartlett, Anjou, Flemish Beauty are also grown on quince stock, but it is not proven that anything is gained except possibly greater blight resistance and earlier bearing. No experimental data is available on which to base definite conclusions regarding yield and quality. Dwarf trees planted too deeply will send out roots from the trunk underground but above the quince root. Such trees will quickly establish themselves on their own roots and grow much larger than the dwarfs around them.

PLANTING.

The time to plant depends largely on the condition of the soil, but also on availability of the proper grade of *well ripened stock*. Experiments seem to indicate that fall planting will result in as large a percentage of "takes" as spring planting, or possibly a little larger if well ripened trees are obtainable in early October and planted at once. Well ripened trees are not always obtainable at this time, though they are more likely to be obtainable than the Baldwin or especially the Northern Spy apple. If the stock is well grown, and the leaves have dropped early, because of early ripening of the wood, good results can be expected from fall planting.

The distance apart to plant may vary a great deal depending on the desires of the grower and methods of cultivation and pruning practised. The average distance is 20 ft. x 20 ft. Many orchards are set 18 ft. x 20 ft., some 18 ft. x 18 ft. and various other distances. The recommended distance for standard trees is 16 ft. x 20 ft.

Trees from the nursery usually have well branched tops. Prune these as little as possible; cut back little or not at all. If enough good branches—two to four—are available, use these for the framework of the tree. If these are cut back or removed equally good ones do not always replace them. Severe cutting back induces rapid growth with the consequent susceptibility to blight.

CULTIVATION AND FERTILIZATION.

The extent to which a pear tree may be cultivated and manured is determined largely by the prevalence of blight or the degree to which the variety is subject to blight.

The pear, like the peach and the cherry, quickly responds to clean, thorough cultivation, and where such a practice may be followed the fruit is invariably the