

## WHERE THEY SHOULD BE PLANTED.

The object of screens is manifold. The first object of a householder should doubtless be to render the residence, its yards and outbuildings and their occupants comfortable. It is by no means uncommon to see a fine residence, with suitable outbuildings, standing exposed to the full force of westerly and northerly winds, even where the farm appointments otherwise unmistakably indicate an owner in easy circumstances, and abundantly able to supply the needed protection. On such a place they should, beyond doubt, be planted so as to shelter the house and lawns and the yards occupied by the farm stock, not merely as a matter of comfort to man and animals, but also as an economical investment to save the stock of fuel, and to economize the feed consumed by stock in the process of generating animal heat. The object subserved, we would next, if still needful, plant a low screen (but one that will grow to be ten or twelve feet high) along the exposed side or sides of the kitchen garden, and in so doing provide the needful shelter for early vegetables, as well as a nook for the location of a hot bed and cold frames. Having provided for these needs, attention may next be given to the screening of the orchards from westerly or northerly winds. We are not unaware that some intelligent orchardists doubt the advantage of such protection, but we fancy that after a man shall have lost, or nearly lost, for year after year, the one fourth or one-half of his crop of fruit from the effect of high winds, just before the picking season, a slight effort of the imagination might convince him that less wind and more fruit might have been for his advantage. We recollect that at the recent meeting of the State Pomological Society at Hillsdale, Mr. Joseph Lannin, of South Haven, took issue with our expressed views on this subject by saying he did not think a screen would be of any advantage to his orchards. In this he may be correct, since no screen on either the west or north sides thereof could at least for many years shelter the trees to any great extent, if planted on the border of the orchard, for the reason that such borders are on lower ground; so that screens must be grown to a very considerable height before they become effective. We know that many men here are so carried away with the idea that the lake is our protection that they prefer a full exposure to lake breezes. The two severe winters of the last decade, however, gave at least some of these gentlemen the idea that it may even be possible to have too much of a good thing. Some of them lost peach trees by the hundred, clearly in consequence of full westerly and northerly exposure with long continued cold. In fact, we have in mind a peach orchard directly upon the bluff to which the orchard committee of 1873 awarded a first premium, but which during the next winter was killed outright by the severe and long continued cold, with the exception of a few of the trees standing upon the east bluff inclined from the lake. A neighboring orchard similarly situated, but sheltered from the winds by a belt of trees, came through the same winter uninjured. But there are doubtless reasons why a screen for the protection of an orchard, especially if it contains cherries, peaches or even pears, should be open enough to impede but not fully arrest the circulation of the air.

—T. T. Lyon, in *Michigan Farmer*.