

to have fruit spurs start at the trunk of the tree, taking whatever is removed from the outside of the tree so that the sunlight can get in to the fruit. Never do more pruning than is necessary. Rather have an orchard not pruned at all than prune it too severely. With little or no pruning the tree will usually load heavily, and with the application of fertilizers the fruit will come to a fair size or a size that will carry to a foreign market in good order. Heavy pruning, on the other hand, forces the tree into too much wood growth and very little fruit of a large size that will not carry to market in as good condition as medium-sized fruit.

PICKING THE FRUIT.

Apples are much easier gathered from trees that are loaded all through. There is less danger of breaking such a tree in pieces. The ladder may be placed against the outside branches, then put through the centre and the whole tree thus cleaned without climbing through it, while the trees with the fruit out far are frequently split with

the weight of the picker, which should in all cases be avoided.

If the soil at the time of planting the trees contains a liberal amount of humus and plant food it will not be necessary to apply manure until the trees begin to bear. If the young trees make too rapid growth they will be more subject to blight and fungus-growth each season. If they are on land deficient in plant nutriment a light coat of manure should be applied, and when the trees have come into full bearing stable manure may be applied at the rate of 10 to 20 tons to the acre with good results. When the soil is deficient in humus and nitrogen, and the danger to the trees will be lessened, it will be found beneficial if it is supplemented with 50 or 100 bushels of unbleached wood ashes and 300 to 500 pounds of ground bone to the acre. If ashes cannot be obtained 200 to 300 pounds of muriate of potash may be substituted. The stable manure may be spread on any time during the winter and the fertilizers may be used early in the spring.

PROMOTING WOOD GROWTH

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SINCE June is the month for wood growth it is the time for constant cultivation of fruit plantation. Unless vigor of growth in tree or plant is kept up in the early summer there will not be sufficient nutriment stored up for fruit and fruit buds in the latter part of the season. In the apple orchard, for example, unless about one foot of new wood growth is made by the middle of July fine apples need not be expected.

My plan is to plow my orchard in the fall and keep it worked in the spring until July 1 with disc and harrows; after that to cease cultivation until after harvest. If growth is too vigorous I seed down for a few years. In rich, sandy loam, with plenty of moisture, I find the apple tree goes too much to wood,

and Baldwins go for years without producing a crop. Such trees should be put down to grass for a term of years. The cherry orchards should be cultivated in order to keep up a healthy wood growth, but not deeply. In most soils a good disc and a good set of iron harrows will do the work of thorough cultivation to a depth of about three inches.

The vineyard needs an occasional plowing with a one-horse plow, finishing with the horse grape hoe and the hand hoe, but if plowed away the earth should be plowed back again as soon as the hoeing is completed. Raspberries and blackberries need similar treatment. The canes are often much injured by deep plowing away, which should be carefully avoided.