

Essential Points in Apple Growing

"Mac" Smith, Burlington, Ont.

Any man who grew the right kind of fruit and pecked it right did not need to be, nor is he, ashamed of the apple business, even under the market conditions that prevailed last season. There are a few things essential to the success of apple growing. We must grow quality first, it is quality that is wanted. We must pack them properly and use reasonable horse sense and learn how to sell them. When we learn to market our apples properly one-half or more of the difficulty has been overcome.

To grow good apples there are four things we have to do. First of all, we have to spray. We have to spray as it ought to be done, using the right material at the right time and the work must be done thoroughly. When we have over five or six acres of apples we must have a power pump and spray at a pressure of from 200 to 225 lbs.

Second: Pruning is absolutely necessary. It is not true that the more limbs we have, the more apples. This is a big mistake. Many men are afraid to cut out enough or to cut off the tops of the trees. Always start from the outside to prune a tree and work in. Don't go to the inside and work out. We want to see daylight down each row of apple trees, even if we have to cut off 10 feet at the ends of the limbs. Head the trees back and thin them from the outside.

Third: Cultivation is a very important thing. We can't start too early in the spring, nor keep up a too rapid cultivation up to the end of June.

Fourth: Fertilize. Do the preceding three things first, then attend to the fertilizing. Barnyard manure is good, but we will have to resort to commercial fertilizers as well.

Fifth: Thin the apples. This practice is necessary in the great majority of years. It is generally possible to take off from 2,000 to 3,000 apples from a tree and then not get enough off. Some varieties particularly, have got to be thinned.

Follow the foregoing direction and we most surely will grow the very best.

Why the Farmer Fails with Apples

J. A. Wilk, *Niagara Cooperative Company*. Orchard in the Niagara District as regards the setting of apples is something of the past. While the fruit grower who has an orchard takes care of it or takes it out (generally the latter) the farmer lets it take care of itself. I am glad to say there has been an awakening among the farmers lately and that they, profiting by the example of the fruit-growers, have procured spraying outfits and cultivate their orchards occasionally. This will result in a higher percentage of No. 1 fruit and more money for the grower. There is no reason why fruit growing should not be carried on to a limited extent as a side line to general farming.

The cause of so many failures to make a profit on orchards is sufficiently apparent to any person, who, while driving through the country, looks about himself. No farmer would expect to grow a crop of corn by simply planting it and yet this is precisely what the farmer-fruit-grower does with his orchard and expects a crop. Orchards are usually allowed to go to seed

which is mowed till it no longer pays, then when the sap-producing roots of the trees in their search for moisture and plant food are near the top of the soil it is resolved to "plow up the orchard," which they might just as well do as far as the next year's profit is concerned.



A Garden in the Great Clay Belt of Ontario

The garden of Mr. Lorne McDougall, Nipissing District, Ont., is a fine example of what settlers are producing on the soils of Northern Ontario. The peas in the background are seven feet high. The seed was sown on June 1st and the photo was taken on Aug. 12th. They had a small application of Muriate of Potash, followed with good cultivation.

It is a matter of regret to me to see orchards which with a part of the tillage and fertilization necessary for the successful production of ordinary crops and which are capable of producing \$150 to \$200 an acre go to grass and destruction. If these farmers would prune and cultivate for three successive years they would let some other farm work "do" and attend to their fruit.

With the rapid expansion of our Northwest



Ideal in Every Respect

This orchard is located in the Wenatchee Valley of Oregon, where orchard lands are valued at \$1,500 an acre. Notice how thoroughly well cultivated is the soil, how thick lighting are the low headed trees. And when the crop is harvested the fruit will be packed in boxes and sold at double the price of most Canadian fruit.

trade for summer, fall and winter varieties of apples and the Niagara District owing to the growing of more tender fruits practically out of it our northern friend should bestir themselves not only to take care of orchards already planted but to plant more extensively.

A Western Advantage

W. J. L. Hamilton, *Nanaimo Dist., B. C.*

I have read much about the relative merits of Ontario and British Columbia as regards fruit growing, but not knowing Ontario, I will keep out of the discussion except to point out one inestimable advantage we possess in British Columbia in having a compulsory spraying law.

If only one orchard in a district is unsprayed it acts as a pest preserve, from which, as a centre, all the fruit growers' enemies are disseminated. Moths and beetles have wings, spores of the fungi can be carried long distances by the wind and by the feet of the birds and insects, and this is true also of the scale insects, both San Jose and Oyster-shell. It has been calculated that one San Jose scale is capable of producing at least three million descendants in one season. This alone should suggest the amount of damage done a district by one neglected orchard or even tree.

THE DAMAGE ONE MAY DO

Take the codling moth: If all spray, the first brood should be reduced by about 95 per cent., and two more sprayings should check the next brood, another death blow being given by careful fruit thinning and banding the trees. But one infected and neglected orchard just doubles the cost of fighting this pest, since double the number of sprayings at least will be called for. Not only that; much more arsenic will be applied to the tree, which, many authorities believe, will ultimately injure it.

Need I say more to show how manifestly unfair it is to all progressive orchardists for one "back number" to work such widespread injury. Moreover, this negligent orchardist will sell his inferior fruit for what he can get for it, thereby spoiling the market for all and lowering the high standard of fruit, which it should be the object of each district to maintain.

By all means enforce sanitation in your orchards as you do in your towns, or you will be heavily handicapped by those who do.

A Story of Great Results

"Do you wish to get a good article in few words?" asked Mr. Clark of the Niagara Brand Spray Co., of an editor of Farm and Dairy, who, with pencil in hand, stood near their booth at the last Ontario Horticultural Exhibition.

"Certainly, go ahead," we replied.

"Well, here goes. Paul Campbell, Merton, Ont., picked 65 boxes of No. 1 Snows, one box of No. 2 Snows and one box of culls off of one tree. Of 1,000 barrels of apples from his orchard, 97 per cent. of them were No. 1. He has sprayed thoroughly with lime-sulphur for the last five years. So good is his fruit that he readily disposes of all of it directly to his customers by private order."

"Thank you."

I have often been asked why we have larger yields of grain on our Experimental plots that are common throughout the province. Our soil is not extra good. We do not fertilize heavily. The explanation lies in the careful selection of best varieties, good seed, the best of cultivation and in underdrainage.—Prof. C. A. Zavitz, O.A.C., Guelph.