

**Agricultural Department**

**ORCHARD PRUNING.**

Pruning covers a wide field of work, and it is not our intention in this paper to undertake to travel its length and breadth. If we confine it to orchard work, and a few of its results, it would be enough for a start. It has been said that the proper pruning of orchard trees requires an intelligent brain and a skillful hand. There is a wide sense of reason coupled with this statement. We do not speak of it in the sense that people generally do not know how or when to prune, for many do, but in the sense of neglect, or letting the trees shift for themselves. There is another fact connected with this subject, and that is that we seldom see this subject listed upon our programs, nor is it ever discussed at our meetings. Whether this is considered less important than the other part of horticulture, we do not pretend to say, but in our judgment there is no other part of fruit growing that needs our attention any more than trimming the orchard trees.

This work should not become one of the lost arts of this country, but should be characterized by every fruit grower as a living issue. It has been a study in past years, as well as the present, to make pruning a part of our work, and we always expect there will be something to learn as long as we live.

It is only by pruning that trees can be kept in proper shape. Trees that have never been pruned grow ill-shaped, often inter-locking their branches from stem to top.

We prune for two reasons, 1, to stimulate growth, and 2, to keep the tree in proper balance, thus giving free circulation of air throughout the top.

The circulation of sun and air is as essential in developing high graded fruit, as any of the properties contained in the soil. Pruning trees may be considered difficult work for orchardists, and scarcely in a less degree disturbs the nurseryman. But we surely will reach a time in the west when pruning orchards will be found as necessary as in the east.

To promote growth, pruning should be done while trees are dormant, before the buds swell in the spring. For general pruning I have found that this is the best although in nursery and young orchards the pruning knife is used from June until August. This work is important and it is necessary to cut off the small limbs because a small wound will heal over in one or two years, while large ones require many years, and often the wood is damaged before the wound is healed.

The pruning of young orchards is what I want to emphasize, because the work is easily done, leaving no bad effects upon the trees. When young orchards have been trimmed yearly for eight or ten years there will be no large limbs to cut, and after the orchard has come into bearing there is little pruning to be done providing the trees have been trimmed with judgment.

In pruning young trees, one point should always be considered, while forming the top for future growth, and that is to never leave the limbs too close to each other. As a rule, more trimming should be done on the northeast side than anywhere else. In orchards where pruning has never been done, larger limbs will have to be cut. They should be sawed partly from the under side first, and then finished

from the upper side. With a chisel or knife the wood should be made smooth, then painted with red or white lead.

Painting the wound is absolutely necessary to prevent decay. The pruning of old orchards should be rather light the first year, and with moderation and judgment cutting out limbs that interfere with each other, but continue the pruning for several years in succession, until the trees are in fairly good condition. A severe pruning the first year might be detrimental causing a large sappy growth for winter, and such growth is more susceptible to blight.

In cutting limbs off, a neatly finished job is much better than a rough one. Nature shows us about where the limbs should be cut and if we follow this, as a rule, there will be no great mistakes made. Cutting the limbs of fairly close to the stem or large limbs has been my rule for large or small trees. The pruning of plum or cherry trees I have not mentioned in this paper, but their pruning is very similar to the apple, though I would make this difference: Prune the plum more than the apple, and the cherry not so much.—Exchange.

**THE FARM WOOD-LOT.**

Little attention is given to the wood-lot as a general rule. It is left to shift for itself, is often used to freely for the pasturing of live stock, and is rarely guarded from fire or forest enemies. When wood is needed but little discretion is exercised in the choice of trees, and no need is felt of providing for the renewal or improvement of the stand.

It is decidedly a simple matter to care for the wood-lot. The owner need not burden himself with any very elaborate system. Nor need he, in most cases, reduce the amount of timber which he cuts. Eventually, of course, he can cut more, for more will be grown. The first requirement of the ordinary wood-lot is protection, and the second, selection in cutting.

Fire is the chief enemy of the wood-lot. Fires damage the larger trees, starting hollows in the butt or weakening them until they begin to die in the tops, reducing their value when cut; but the greatest harm is done to reproduction and the growth of young trees. Running over the forest soil, they consume the litter and kill the seedlings. The forest soil becomes too dry to encourage the germination of tree seeds. Even if seedlings succeed in finding root and begin to flourish, the next fire destroys them.

Fires may easily be kept out of the wood-lot with a little care. They are often started to improve the grazing and pasture. This is certainly poor policy. While the grazing may be improved for a few years, the wood-lot is often permanently injured. It is generally a poor plan to expect land to produce grass and wood at the same time. Neither will do well, and the owner will be paying taxes on land which he only half uses. Grazing animals often do much injury to the wood-lot. They browse upon young growth and trample it down. They also pack the soil with their hoofs, destroying its power to retain moisture and encouraging the entrance of grass. Grazing should be watched, and should be permitted in the wood-lot only when such harm will not result.

In cutting, the first thing to look out for is the young growth. The whole point of forest management is to have new trees of the most useful kind take the place of the old, just as soon as possible after they are cut. One thoughtful stroke of the axe will get rid of a fine sapling half the size of a man's wrist, if it is a little in the way, and a dozen years of growth is lost. On the other hand the cutting of a good tree may simply open room for worthless trees to take its place.

In some regions care must be taken not to permit the crown cover to become too open. In a good forest the soil will be soft and moist, and this soil condition is essential if the trees are to thrive and make good growth. Opening the ground to the sun dries out the moisture, and often burns out the young growth as though by fire, while the trees tend to become branchy if they stand too far apart.

Past neglect has produced many wood-lots in which the healthy trees of the best kind are choked with unsound and dead trees and trees of inferior kind. For such cases improvement cuttings are needed. It will pay to spend the time and labor necessary to remove the dead, crooked and diseased trees, together with the weed trees, so that the remaining stand may be composed of good timber trees in sufficient number, under conditions favorable for their best development. This can be done gradually, as the material can be utilized.

When once the improvement cutting has brought the wood-lot into better shape, further operations should be made with a view to reproduction and a lasting supply. Care should be taken in felling, working up, and hauling out wood to do as little damage as possible to young growth. If reproduction is to take place from seed, the proper situation of seed trees must be considered.

**The Household.**

**SELECTED RECIPES.**

**Steamed Cranberry Pudding No. 1.**—Cream together one-half cup of butter and one cup of sugar, add gradually one cup of milk, and one and one-half pints of flour in which have been sifted three teaspoons of baking powder and one teaspoon of salt. Lastly, stir in two well-beaten eggs and two cups of cranberries dredged with flour. Turn into a buttered mold, cover closely, and steam two hours. Serve hot with sweet sauce.

**Cranberry Pudding No. 2.**—Sift together one pint of flour, half a teaspoon of salt, and three teaspoons of baking powder. Add milk to make a soft batter, stir in one quart of stiffly crushed cranberries, add steam for one hour and a half. Serve with a cranberry sauce made as follows: Into one quart of boiling water stir one pint of granulated sugar and cook over the fire until thoroughly dissolved. Crushed cranberries, cook for five or ten minutes, strain through a colander to remove the skins, and serve at once.—Table Talk.

**Philadelphia Scramble.**—Clean, wash and crack one hog's head. Put it in three pounds of lean pork and with three gallons of cold water; bring to boiling point and skin. Cook slowly until the meat falls from the bones; with a skimmer take out the bones, and add to the meat a level teaspoonful of pepper, two tablespoonfuls of powdered sage, a tablespoonful of thyme, and then stir in sufficient corn meal to make a thin mush. This will require about one quart; cover the kettle and cook slowly for two or three hours. The mixture should be thick enough to pour easily when it is done. Pour this into square molds or bread pans; stand aside to cool. When cold cut into slices, dust each slice with flour and fry in hot fat.

Scramble will keep in a cold place all winter, provided the top is covered with a little melted lard.

**A STORMY WEATHER THOUGHT.**

That which exists little is worth little. That which costs most is likely to bring the largest returns. We have all proved this in our own experiences, yet we try to forget it when we are faced by something hard. The best prayer meetings are those that are held on the stormiest nights. The New Year's morning prayer meeting that rounded us at six o'clock, brought a bigger blessing than the easily attended, fair weather service that cost little effort. The Sunday school lesson that seemed so easy to teach fell flat, and the hard lesson that seemed so empty of possibilities that we turned out to be the most interesting one of the quarter. These things are not accidents. Dividends came because something was really invested. Suppose we try to remember this thenceforth the Lord wants to test us.—Sunday School Times.

**HINTS TO HOUSEKEEPERS.**

Washing windows is unpleasant work in cold weather. A good plan is frequently to wipe off the inside of the glass with a dry cloth. It is surprising how much dust and smoke are removed. When using water it facilitates cleaning the glass to use a little washing soda and tablespoonful of oil.

**ITS CURED**

If you, your friends or relatives suffer with Fits, Epilepsy, St. Vitis' Dance, or Falling Sickness, write for a trial bottle and valuable treatise on such diseases to THE LEMMON CO., 179 King Street, W., Toronto, Canada. All druggists sell or can obtain for you.

**LEIBIG'S FITCURE**

cool to each pail of water. Polish with soft paper crushed in the hand, which leaves no lint on the glass, or with a chamois cloth.

If starched clothes are very stiff when brought in from the line, they will fold and get into shape with much less work if they are sprinkled and let lie in a heap for an hour or so before folding.

Frost may be kept from the window panes by rubbing the glass with a thin coating of glycerine.

Vegetable stains may be removed from the hands by rubbing with the inside of the peeling before washing the hands.

It is literally true that a new broom sweeps clean. If a new broom is examined, the end of the straws will be found to be straight and the brush square. After it has been used awhile the ends split and become sharp, and the shape of the brush becomes irregular. To renew the youth of the broom dip it in hot soapuds, and trim the softened straws to the proper shape.

That mud stains can be rubbed from silk if the spots are rubbed with a bit of flannel, or, if stubborn, with a piece of linen, wet with alcohol.

WHEN YOU HAVE HEADACHE, from whatever cause, Bowman's Headache Powders will be found a safe, prompt and reliable remedy. Nervousness, Biliousness and Sleeplessness frequently cause headache. Use Bowman's. They are always safe. No Opium, nor other narcotics.

**A Boy Who Always Told the Truth.**

Judge Henry A. Shute, the author, was born in Exeter, N. H., says the Boston Globe, and an Exeter man said to him the other day:

"Harry Shute and I used to fish together in our childhood. Many a mose of brook trout, perch, and horned pout we looked before we knew how to read or write.

"One day when we were fishing a city boy joined us. He sat down on a piece of granite rock, and while we fished he tried to talk about city life.

"When we got through I thought I would do a little lying for the country's sake.

"You see that farm over there?" I said. "Well that farm belongs to Cyrus Skimmer, our champion farmer. Do you know how much butter and cheese Cyrus Skimmer makes. Why, he makes 1,000,000 pounds of butter and 1,000,000 pounds of cheese a year."

"The city boy looked skeptical and I turned to Shute to back me up. I turned a little timidly though, for Shute was, as a rule, a truthful boy.

"Ain't that so, Harry?" I said. "Don't Cyrus Skimmer make a 1,000,000 pounds of butter and a 1,000,000 pounds of cheese a year?"

"Well," says Harry, "I can't say as ever I heard precisely how much cheese Cyrus Skimmer makes, but I know for a fact that he has eleven sawmills that all run by butter-milk."

**NOTICE**

The subscriber offers at private sale the well-known farm formerly occupied by Ernest Chester B. Clarke, containing 150 acres more or less. Two first class orchards, citrus grove 40 acres of hay, buildings in first class repair; good pasture. Farm is well watered. New railroad station.

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The subscriber offers for sale the three following places: The farm formerly occupied by the late John Hicks, about three-quarters of a mile from Carleton's Corner. With along main road forty rods, more or less, and extends back four and a half miles.

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Policies issued during the year.....	828,429	255,077
Assets.....	821,320	6,112,344
Income.....	296,468	1,659,107
SURPLUS to Policy Holders.....	177,630	771,869

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