

Some Comments on Pruning

Editor, THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST: In an article entitled "Pruning the Orchard" that appeared in the March issue, page 58, the writer says that the best time to prune is in June or first of July "when the sap is done running." Is the sap done running then? How is it that we do our budding in July and August, when the sap is running freely between bark and wood?

There is not much growth after that and the wounds made by pruning at that season are not healed till the next season, while if the cutting is done immediately before growth begins, the healing process is carried on all through the growing season and by the fall all small wounds are healed completely. My opinion is that pruning should be done at a time that will permit of the healing of the wounds in the quickest possible time, and that time is just at the beginning of the growing season.

On the other hand, if we wish to give a tree a check and cause it to come into bearing or to set more fruit than it has been doing, we may either let the ground go to sod, or prune it quite severely about the first of July, and this causes it to throw the energy, that would otherwise be devoted to the wood that has been cut out, into making fruit buds on the wood that has been left.

The statement, "keep the tops open, and let in the sun," is indefinite. We have had men doing that around here for years, and they have ruined hundreds of trees. In pruning a tree, we should make it open enough to admit the light and air through-out the head, but we should not begin on the inside of the tree to prune, but rather on the outside, cutting out or shortening cross branches, till thin enough to let in the light; but by no means should we cut out all fruiting wood in the centre of the tree, so it will bear all its fruit on the tips of the branches.

The writer says: "Cut out all suckers and branches that spread over." What he means by "spread over," I do not know, but there are thousands of trees throughout our country that should not have the suckers cut out of them, but should rather have them trained into fruiting wood to properly balance the tree. In fact there are thousands of trees that should be pruned back to encourage them to throw out suckers, to be trained into fruiting wood in the centre of the heads.—W. J. Kerr, Ottawa.

Amateur fruit growers may secure a valuable book, entitled "Amateur Fruit Growing," free of cost, by sending only one new subscription to THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

D. M. Ferry & Co's Seed Annual for 1910 may be had free of charge by writing to them at Windsor, Ontario. It contains much of interest for those who think. Mention this paper.

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Office of the Curator,
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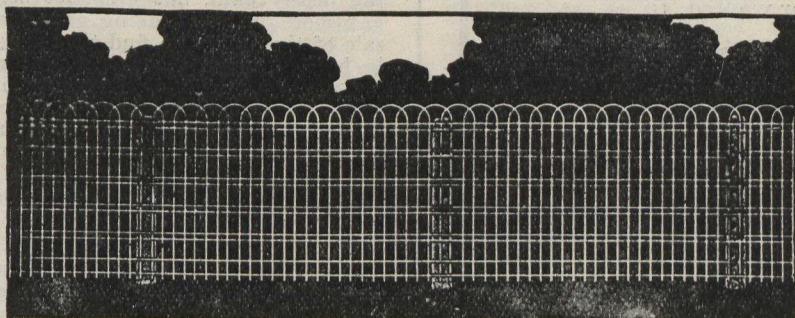
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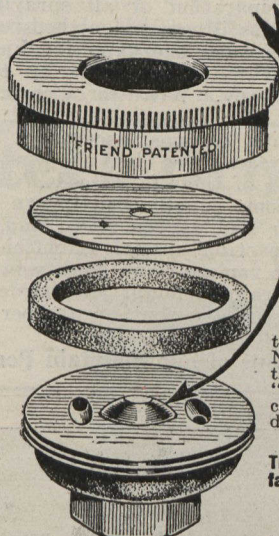
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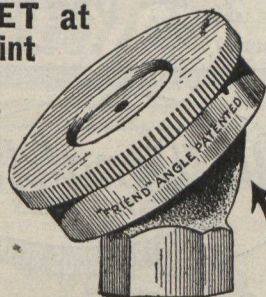
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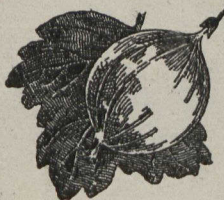
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