

2.

It is far better to have the land in good shape before planting than to try to prepare it afterwards. Newly cleared land is all right if well worked up, or clover sod plowed down a few months before planting. It pays to work the ground as deep as possible before setting out trees. After digging hole to place tree in, if a second hole, two or three feet away, is made with a steel bar, and a half stick of dynamite or stumping powder exploded, it will be of very great benefit in after years as leaving the ground in a condition to better hold the moisture.

3.

For Vancouver Island and the adjoining islands, the King of Tompkins is a very hard apple to beat for an all-round variety. The Wealthy is also a fine fall variety. The Winter Banana does splendidly in some districts. Also the Minnetonka, a comparatively new variety. Cox Orange is a grand dessert apple and does well in some districts, but some growers do not find it suited to certain kinds of Island soil. Grimes Golden does well also.

In pears, the old Bartlett for an early pear and the Beurre Clairgeau for a later variety, are excellent. There are also other good commercial varieties, especially Beurre d'Anjou, Bosc, and Louise Bonne.

For plums (blue variety), the Black Diamond, Englebert and Monarch are varieties I recommend. For the red variety, I prefer the Victoria and the Land's Seedling. The Maynard is a fine Japanese variety, improved by Burbank. Also to be recommended are the Gages. The Fellemborg, or Italian prune, is the best prune for commercial purposes and household use, in my judgment.

As to cherries, from a long list of good varieties, both sweet and sour, the Olivet stands first in my favor as a commercial variety and money maker. English Morello is rather better for home preserving. Royal Anne and Bing are high quality sweet cherries for home use. Sour cherries are favored by a number of growers.