

Pruning may actually stimulate the growth of trees by throwing the vitality into the remaining branches, exciting a more vigorous growth and in turn causing a reflex action on the growth of the roots. Many trees, if left to themselves, will overbear, and the removal of some of the branches may often be one of the best methods of thinning the fruit. The time and method of pruning will depend on the purpose in view, whether for shape, for increased growth, or fruit.

One of the most important elements in the value of pruning is that the owner is thus brought into closest contact with his plants. The true lover of plant life shapes and cares for his plants as thoughtfully and works out his ideals as carefully as he would train and guide a child.

Within the past few years there has been a marked advance in the interest and attention given to orchard management throughout New England. Many of the most extensive growers are practicing cultivation and the use of cover crops, while the value of spraying as a means of destroying insect and fungus enemies is recognized.

One of the most serious problems which confront the New England orchardist is that of the apple maggot, or *trypeta*. Orchardists are united, however, in the belief that the faithful destruction of windfalls, and all affected fruit, will result in reducing the loss from the pest. For this reason many growers favor the use of hogs in the orchard. An advantage claimed for hogs is that, in addition to destroying the pest referred to and adding to the fertility of the

land, they serve a very important purpose in the way of cultivation. Important object lessons in the renovation of orchards, by the use of hogs, even in the absence of an application of specific fertilizers, may be seen in many of the orchards in Maine.

At the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station an important investigation as to the relative merits of cultivation as compared with mulching the trees, and also the relative merits of commercial fertilizers and barn manures, is being conducted. The results of this work thus far indicate a decided advantage in favor of treatment by cultivation.

The leading commercial apple in the orchard centers of Maine is the Baldwin; although Tolman, R. I. Greening, Roxbury Russet, Northern Spy and Ben Davis are received with favor by many. There is a general belief that the Baldwin gives the most satisfactory results when top grafted on some stock of known hardiness, while some would use native seedlings. There is probably no doubt that some strong growing variety like Tolman, Northern Spy or Stark is to be preferred, because of the lack of uniformity among seedlings.

There is a strong tendency to increase the planting of orchards in Maine and to more fully enter into a friendly competition with our Canadian friends in supplying the markets of the mother country. We must admit, however, that Canada is very much in the lead in so far as the control of the marketing is concerned, and it is to be hoped that New England will profit by the experience of Canadian growers.

There is plenty of room in eastern Ontario for the development of the fruit industry both for immediate consumption in the homes on the farm, and as a means of materially increasing the farm revenue.—(G. H. Hutton, Grenville county, Ont.)

**A Rack for Hauling Apples.**—Do you of the readers of *The Horticulturist* know of a convenient rack for hauling apples packed in barrels? A subscriber would like to read a description of one with, if possible, a diagram drawing.