

The point to be aimed at in fruit raising is to obtain the greatest quantity of large, sound, handsomely formed, and highly colored fruit. To secure this most important object, attention must be paid to the following points: Cultivation, Manuring, Thinning Fruit, Pruning, Grafting, Destruction of Insects. The first work in spring will probably be to remove the earth placed as a protection round the trunks of young trees the preceding fall, and stirring the soil up loosely around the roots. This should be done as soon as the ground becomes dry and warm. This stirring should be repeated every week or two all summer.

In ploughing an orchard the greatest care should be taken not to injure the bark of young trees. It is not necessary, however, as we see in many orchards, to have a strip of ground unploughed along every row, to grow grass and weeds. There is no need of leaving one foot unploughed. It is well to use only one horse the first few rounds in backing up the ground against the trees. Use long leather traces with short whiffletrees securely wrapped so as to prevent any injury to the bark should they strike it. The earth can then be banked up closely without injury to the trees. In ploughing the earth away fasten the plough securely to one side of a bobsled, you can then plough very closely to the trees without any danger of injuring them. If the bark should happen to be injured wrap up with a cotton rag, saturated with melted wax, and the bark will soon be renewed. Leaving it exposed may cause a permanent canker.

Hoed crops, as potatoes, turnips, corn, should be raised in the orchard. Every time the crop is cultivated the trees should have their share. If hoeing will benefit a potato plant it is equally beneficial to an apple tree. Green crops, as clover, buckwheat, may be raised in an orchard with great profit if ploughed under for a manure; but in no case seed down to grass until the trees are well grown. After this it may be sufficient to seed down and pasture calves or sheep, giving a top dressing of manure every second year. If it is impossible to have the ground ploughed, by no means neglect to keep it loose and moist by mulching liberally. An orchardist tried an experiment which strongly proved the benefit of cultivation in orchards. He set out an apple orchard and gave good care. The fifth year it bore eight barrels of fruit; the sixth, twenty barrels; and for eight years afterwards the annual yield was