

Buckthorn for Hedges.

BY HORTUS.

Buckthorn (*Rhamnus Catharticus*) is grown so easily, and requires so little care, that its a matter of surprise that its not more generally planted. For Hedge purposes it stands unrivalled—abundantly supplied with fibrous roots, it flourishes on all soils, from stiff clay to sandy loam. Young plants are procured by sowing the seed in the fall. The berries when gathered are bruised and washed clear of the pulp and skins, after drying a little by exposure to the sun, sand is mixed through it to facilitate sowing, making the seed part easily from each other. It is then sown in like manner to turnip seeds covering with earth to about the same

plants in bundles along the trench convenient to planters hand, who can pick them up and set them against the straight bank of trench, about six inches apart, as fast as an assistant can put in the soil, tread the plants firm as soil is filled in so as to leave them snug and firm. The hedge or the beginning of one will have the appearance of Fig. 2. Place a good mulching of rotted manure on each side of the plants, this will retain the moisture, prevent upheaval by frost and stimulate their growth. The first season's cultivation will lay in giving the hedge an occasional hoeing, keeping the ground clean of weeds and stirring the soil, the growth in the fall will be similar to Fig. 3. For ornamental purposes the hedge may be run up in a

lessness and neglect than a tall spindly hedge with heavy growth at top with gaps and openings along the bottom, where the growth has been checked by allowing weeds or grass to grow or letting the overhanging growth at the top to smother the bottom, such a hedge will appear as Fig. 4, and to remedy a case of this description the only treatment is to cut it clear back to the ground early in spring, clear away any weeds or rubbish and fork into borders by hedge a liberal coat of manure, now there will be an entire new growth and the cultivator, learning experience from the past, will be more successful in the future. What a satisfaction to the grower, and a valuable improvement on the farm, is the possession of a hedge that has been grown with a little care. One properly grown we represent in Fig. 5 which has been drawn from one actual specimen, anyone can have

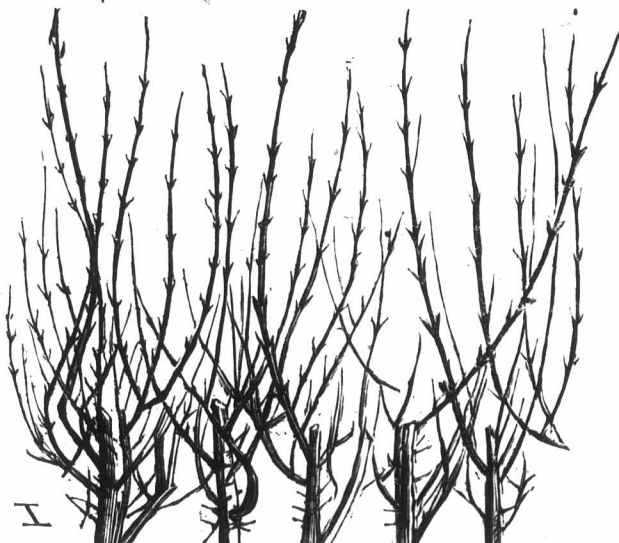


FIG. 3.

depth, select some loamy piece of soil to sow the seeds in, otherwise, if soil is of a clayey nature it will be better to delay sowing till spring. A partially shaded spot will be the best, as the young seedlings thrive better than when exposed to the direct rays of the sun. The seed is possessed of great vitality, and will stand the extremes of climate with impunity. As nurserymen sell the plants at very low rates per 1,000, it will be found to be the cheapest and best plan for intending planters to purchase from them, than by taking the trouble of cultivating and waiting the several years that would necessarily transpire before the plants would be strong enough for setting out in hedgerows.

Soil that will raise fair crops of grain or roots

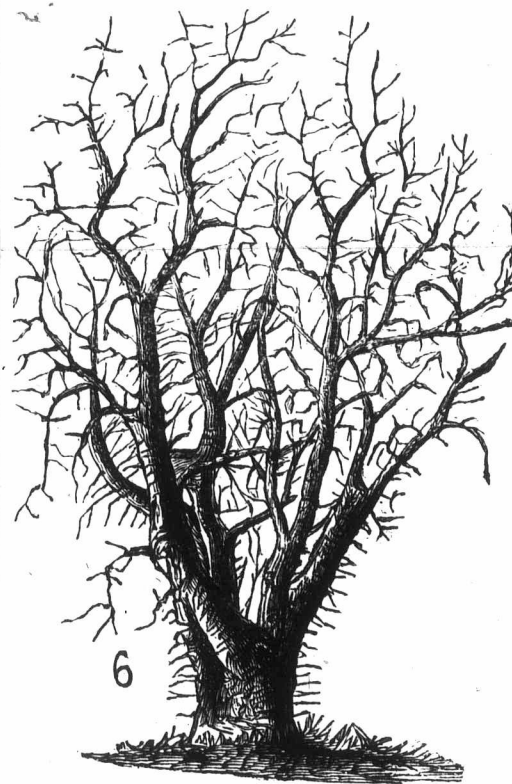


will be in good enough condition wherein to plant Buckthorn, but, as the hedges intended to remain an indefinite period, its better success will be ensured by thoroughly cultivating and manuring the strip of land, say six feet wide, the year previous.

By having the ground as level as possible when hedge is planted an even top to the hedge will be the easier secured.

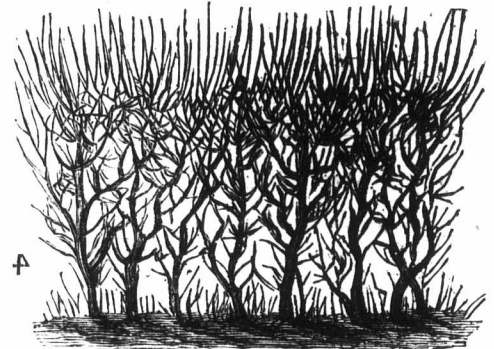
In Fig. 1 we have a cut showing a rooted plant at 3 years growth, and about 2½ to 3 feet high; we advise securing two-year-old plants—medium sized plants answer the purpose fully as well as if stronger and older, and cost less in freight charges. Cut them back when received, if not already done, with an axe and block, to about six inches. Set the line where hedge is to stand—dig out a trench about 10 inches deep and spade wide—place the

year or two to the required height, six inches would be enough to add to height annually; successive clipping would keep it to its true form. If hedge is growing very vigorously clipping twice a season will be required, the first clipping should be done late in October or early in April, the second clipping about the middle of June. In growing a hedge for defence where form is not so



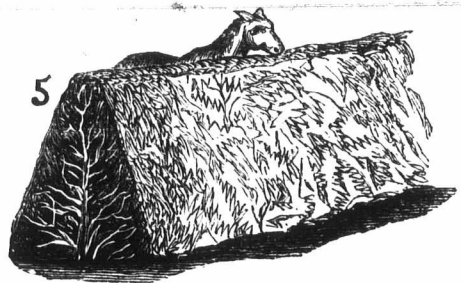
much an object as strength, we advise keeping the centre growth well checked for a season or two by cutting twice a season. Encourage the side growth by clipping but once late in fall or early in spring, the whole key to having a good durable hedge is to grow it wide at the bottom thus laying a good foundation.

Nothing looks more unsightly or bespeaks care-



the same in a few years by observing foregoing directions.

And now about having a hedge, its not so much a question of time, or, as in making a start, "Where there's a will there's a way" applies, with as much force, to hedge planting as to any other undertaking. Hedges have everything to recommend them, they are both ornamental and defensive, they are cheap and durable and serve for windbreaks. They are objects of admiration both winter and summer, and any person seeing a good hedge on a farm will feel satisfied that that farm is well drained and carefully worked. The uninitiated express surprise at their even appearance, and wonder how it has been secured, no great skill or trouble about it either. Any man who can sight a post or plough a half-decent furrow will clip a hedge without any trouble—to clip the top even, a line stretched on stakes set to required height will be a guide and of great service. On ordinary farm hedges such



care will not be necessary. In the prairie States where they have miles of hedges, they make use of a machine drawn by horses for clipping them. As hedge planting becomes more generally practised we may expect to see all kinds of machines at our exhibitions for cutting them, there's a field open to inventors. Take time by the forelock—make enquiries early in summer as to where you can purchase hedge plants, at what age and price. The fall is the best time for planting for many reasons, you can have from middle of October till the ground freezes for planting time. Your soil will be dry and will work easier—the plants will become set and start to grow in spring without any check and you can buy cheaper in fall than spring. The Buckthorn is a natural hedge plant perfectly hardy, never known to winter-kill, and will stand