



PLANTING FRUIT TREES.

The present season has been altogether favorable for the setting out of all manner of trees and shrubs, as also other out-door work. We are not infrequently asked, "What is the best time for transplanting trees?" Orchardists in general have recommended the fall. We have heard, however, of the trees being injured and even killed when transplanted in the fall. With some, this fact has given rise to serious objections to fall planting. We are of opinion, however, that the same trees, if set out in the spring, would have been exposed to the same fatality—because, as we firmly believe, there was not taken the required care in transplanting, nor were they sufficiently cared for subsequently.

We wish to not only encourage the good taste and growing desire among the people for the cultivation of trees, but to supply them with such information relative thereto as may be most reliable and valuable to them in rightly directing the appropriation of means for such purposes.

In past years there have been frequent allusions to the most judicious modes of planting trees, from many reliable sources, and all of them embodying suggestions worthy of remembrance. The occasional reference to such valuable suggestions—the result, in general, of long experience—will, no doubt, be found profitable. Besides this, the experience gained from year to year, if rendered duly satisfactory by reliable data and careful if not scientific observation, will afford a constant source of information—emending mistakes, maturing the judgment and imparting the power of mastery over the soil, by which also its hidden riches are revealed and developed in their fulness of fruition and excellence. Of course, as experience gives new and more correct views, we should discard the old and incorrect practices.

Our candid opinion is—and experience is corroborative—that it matters but little in our mountainous country, if the work be rightly done, whether trees are planted in the fall or in the spring. If there should exist a material difference in locality and soil, some slight preference might be claimed. For example, in dry bench land with gravelly soil, fall planting is commonly urged. In low, moist, cold and heavy soils it is recommended to plant in the spring.

To this theory we shall have no insuperable objections. In favor of fall planting, however, there is a standing consideration that should not be overlooked. It need not be reiterated that as soon as spring opens and the soil is in condition for working, farmers, gardeners and all who delve in mother earth to procure a competence of vegetable wealth, every nerve is strained with exertion to prepare and seed the ground at the earliest moment. On the other hand it is equally patent that the fall affords opportunities of relaxation from soil culture, which may be judiciously employed in transplanting, repairing and generally improving the garden, orchard or farm for a timely and vigorous renewal of direct cultivation the ensuing season.

The successful agriculturist's rule is to always push his work before him, being well aware that to be found delinquent in those reasonable attentions to the soil so requisite to a cheering return for labor expended, is not only an uncomfortable, but a very unpaying predicament.

We repeat that, with well-saved roots, skillful planting in mellowed soil, enriched by decomposed manures, bones or other refuse; protection from injury after planting; timely irrigation, especially during the first season's growth in the new domain, we would take risks on fruit and shrubs at exceedingly moderate rates.

In addition to the above hints in short, it is usually made a point, in preparing trees for planting, to trim off with a sharp knife, sloping from the under side, any bruised or broken roots—also to reduce the tops to correspond with the loss of roots. Care should be taken that the tree be set in the ground but an inch or so deeper than when growing in the nursery. To keep them firm during the winter,

it may be well to heap up the soil around the trees some six or eight inches, which will also serve as a protection against injury by mice, frost or excess of wet. In the spring the soil should be leveled again.

Trees procured in the fall may be kept uninjured for spring planting, by burying them about half their length in mellow earth, in a sloping position, where no water is liable to stand. Shrubs, bushes or vines may be entirely covered with earth.

We do not expect that there will be further opportunity for planting trees for any great length of time this season. Whatever may be allowed, through a longer continuance of favorable weather, we trust will not pass unimproved. We have thrown out these few hints to particularly encourage the prompt as well as proper attention to this matter. If the season's operations in planting should be suddenly cut short by hard frosts and inclemencies of winter, have trees in readiness for planting as early as practicable in the spring.

ORCHARD PLANTING.

BY JAMES WOODS.

Gardening in all its branches is a science of itself, the real practical part of which but few understand; and not gardening alone, but raising nursery trees and planting out orchards, which every man having lands should do. There has been quite a number of young orchards planted in this city and other places throughout the Territory which might have been a great blessing to the owners if proper care had been taken of them; but owing to the carelessness of many, their orchards have been destroyed.

First. In planting out trees they will dig holes about a foot square, put in the trees, tread the soil with their feet, imagine that the trees are planted, and take no further care of them.

Second. Corn or sugar cane is often planted around the trees, in consequence of which they cannot get a free circulation of air, become sickly and finally die.

Third. They will turn in their cattle or stock, and let them gnaw off the bark and break down the trees, and soon their once young and promising orchards are destroyed; the result is they get discouraged, and probably give up the idea of ever trying again to set out trees.

Persons who wish to have good and healthy orchards should plant their trees carefully, observing the following rules:

Apple trees should be planted thirty feet apart each way, and in setting them out plant a peach, apricot or plum tree between them, which in a few years can be thinned out, and leave a fine apple orchard. Pear trees should be planted twenty feet apart, and in planting them the holes should be dug about two-and-a-half feet deep and from three to four feet wide; then place the tree in the centre, spread out the roots with care and fill up with good soil. No manure should be used unless the land is very poor, and if used at all it should be thoroughly rotten.

After the tree has been planted, form a basin round it and put in a bucket full or two of water, when this is done cut off the top of the tree to about two and a-half feet from the ground or where you want the tree to branch out, and see that they do not want water during the summer. Do not let the water flow over the surface of the ground or the trees will become sickly. This can be avoided by cutting a sect near enough so that the water can penetrate to the roots. It would be good to mulch the trees with manure in the summer season so as to prevent the sun from scorching or over heating the soil.

Do not plant anything that grows tall near your trees, for by so doing you will prevent a free circulation of air. A good fence is also necessary.

By following the above instructions an orchard will soon repay the labor expended.

I have been surprised often times at the great fear people have lest a branch of a tree should be curtailed in its length; they say they want their trees to grow rapidly and strong, and are anxious to see the fruit, but never prune off the weak, sickly branches or overgrown wood that consumes the strength and vitality of the tree.

I wish it to be understood that as in taking up trees the roots get cut more or less, I would advise to cut off the top of the tree equal to the roots, it then gives the roots a chance to support the remainder of the tree, and it will grow more thrifty the coming season than it would by not pruning it.

If persons would commence right and continue to take care of their orchards, instead of failure there would be success in fruit growing throughout the Territory.

KEEPING WINTER SQUASHES.—There is just one single rule for keeping winter squashes. Put them in a dry, warm place, and they will not rot. It is a warm, damp atmosphere, like that of most cellars, that causes decay. A dry stove room, or furnace heated room, which never gets cool enough to freeze, are good places to winter squashes and pumpkins. They should be stored singly—never in piles—when you wish to keep them long.

EDUCATING, NOT BREAKING, YOUNG COLTS.

A contributor of the *Germantown Telegraph* discourses in a sensible strain on this subject, which we regard as one of no small importance to the people settling these mountain vales. He begins by stating that the education of colts, instead of being commenced while they are yet young, is usually deferred until they are too old and have a will of their own, which is hard to overcome—attributing such faults as pulling on the halter, kicking, running back, etc., to this neglect on the part of the stock raiser.

He very properly urges that the education of a colt should begin as soon as he is weaned; and even before that, gentle handling and petting will have a direct tendency to overcome his natural timidity.

The writer's language is so plain, his suggestions so pointed and so briefly worded, that we shall allow him to speak for himself, with a slight abridgment:

As soon as he is weaned, he should be haltered and led about, then tied up with a halter which he cannot break. He should be taught to allow his feet to be struck or raised. By the time he is one year old, he should be gradually accustomed to the harness.

Some think a colt should be made afraid of the whip, but I think this a great mistake, and never allow the whip to be used until the animal is five or six years old, and seldom find it necessary even then.

If the colt misbehaves, instead of whipping or punishing him, examine into the cause. If the misbehavior arises from an excess of animal spirit, nothing can do more harm than punishment of any kind.

A colt should never be made afraid of his caretaker, but should always yield to his will more from affection than fear. Good behavior should be rewarded by a handful of carrots, bread or corn, and bad conduct in a young horse should be overlooked.

A colt, until he begins hard work, should not have much grain; roots, particularly carrots, are preferable. The less grain there is fed to the growing colt, the less will be required when grown.

I now have two, one eighteen and the other twenty-two months old, which I drive every week, and sometimes twice a week, to a light trotting wagon, and have often driven them nine or ten miles at a stretch, and when brought home and turned into the field they were as frolicsome as if they had remained there. The eldest of these two (Spike Harrow, Esq., to the contrary notwithstanding) I would trust a woman to drive almost anywhere, cars or no cars.

I do not recommend hard work, or severe, fast driving for any young horse; but I think, after considerable experience, that moderate driving for a two-year colt is beneficial. If the driving is moderate, the exercise will be no greater than if the animal ran around the field at will. I prefer driving a pair, because they keep up their spirits better and the work is easier.

They should not be shod, and consequently should not be driven over frozen or stony ground; but during the winter, when sleighing is good, moderate driving will be beneficial.

Too much hay is not good for any horse, and much less for a colt. As a winter feed, I can feed nothing much better than carrots, with a little hay. Too much hay has a tendency to distend the stomach, and consequently decrease to play of the lungs.

BASKET WILLOW CULTURE.

EDITOR DESERET NEWS:

Sir,—In No. 44, Vol. 11, will be found a few hints on the culture of the basket willow. I wish now to present to farmers and others the proper mode of their cultivation.

First select a piece of rich moist bottom land free from brushwood. Plow deep this fall or before frost sets in. Next spring harrow thoroughly and proceed to the planting. Look up the black and red willow of two years' growth. Cut into sets 14 inches in length, keeping each kind separate. Lay off the land in squares or plant your sets two feet apart each way, hus forming rows every way, which will facilitate weeding as well as cutting and gives sufficient room for sun and air.

The most ready way of planting is to knot a line or tie on a small strip of rag every two feet from one end to the other, pushing down a set at every knot, keeping the line tight, leaving not more than three inches of the set out, or above the ground. Keep down the weeds by hoeing, being careful not to cut the sets with the hoe. A good fence is indispensable for browsed willows basket makers will not buy.

In cutting willows for peeling, care should be taken not to cut the young shoots over an inch from the old stocks every year, and continue this course until the stocks grow to the size and shape of a cabbage head. The time for cutting is in the spring, as soon as the sap flows, or if cut a month previous they should be tied in bundles with the butt ends even and set in an upright position in shallow water, taking care that from three to six inches of the butts be in the water until the sap flows and they will peel.

For peeling, have prepared a hand-break, made as follows:

Procure a birch stick, 20 inches long and 2½ inches in diameter; split it down the centre and insert two pieces of wire, ¼ in. thick and 10 inches long, at the upper end. Crank each end of the wire and let it in to each stick in the centre, with a ring at the bottom, or some other means to fasten the two sticks together, letting the two wires meet. Draw the willows through one at a time, commencing at the butt. This operation will split the bark, when a child can peel them, which can be quickly done. When peeled, spread them out on clean ground to bleach and dry, after which tie them up neatly in bundles for sale. They will be worth from \$8 to \$10 per cwt.

I would refer a l who wish to make an experiment to Job Smith, Basket maker, Great Salt Lake City, for further and more minute instructions. He is now experimenting.

DANIEL CAMOMILE.

Smithfield, Cache County.

Nov. 15, 1862.

THE OSIER WILLOW.

The following on the culture of the Osier Willow is from the *Rural New Yorker*:

Having lately seen several inquiries respecting the osier willow and its culture, and being asked almost daily, "Do you think it will pay?" I have concluded to send you my experience in its cultivation. Three years ago this spring, after corn-planting, I set two acres of the French osiers, placing them in rows three feet apart, at a distance of one foot from each other. The first year I cultivated and hoed the same, as corn, and many of the shoots attained the height of four feet. The next spring I cut them, but, having no machine for peeling, lost the crop, except a few used for sets. Last spring I cut and commenced peeling by hand, which I found was rather an uphill business, and almost resolved to abandon their culture, if they must be peeled in that way. About this time a machine was invented for peeling willows. I immediately procured one which worked to my entire satisfaction, and with it finished peeling my crop, which when ready for market, including some sold for sets, a little exceeded a ton. These I shipped to a commission merchant in New York, and received for them \$110 per ton. This year I have a much heavier crop. For an experiment I have weighed those cut from 12 stools which amount to 18 lbs. I have found in peeling and drying they waste nearly one-half. The produce of an acre stands thus: 14,520 stools per acre, 14-lb each, 21,780 lbs. Ready for market, 5½ tons, \$110 per ton, \$605; cost of cutting, per acre, \$6; cost of peeling, per ton, \$7,—\$38; binding and taking to market, \$5 per ton, \$27; total, \$72. Deducting expenses, this leaves a profit per acre of \$533. According to directions received at the time I planted, I have not cultivated mine since the first year, but think they should be cultivated once every spring, to loosen the soil and keep them free from weeds and grass. I am confident that any one who has suitable ground, and will bestow proper cultivation, can realize this amount from an acre of willows, perhaps more. After reading these facts I think no one can hesitate how to answer the query, "Will it pay?"

GATHERING AND KEEPING APPLES.—In order to secure soundness and preservation, it is indispensably necessary that the fruit should be gathered by hand. For winter fruit, the gathering is delayed as long as possible, avoiding severe frosts, and the most successful practice with our most extensive orchardists is to place the good fruit directly, in a careful manner, in new, tight flour barrels, as soon as gathered from the tree. These barrels should be gently shaken while filling, and the head closely pressed in; they are then placed in a cool, shady exposure, under a shed open to the air, or on the north side of a building, protected by a covering of boards over the top, where they remain for a fortnight, or until the cold becomes too severe, when they are carefully transferred to a cool, dry cellar, in which the air can be admitted occasionally in mild weather. A cellar for this purpose should be dug in dry gravelly, or sandy soil; with, if possible, a slope to the north, or, at any rate, with openings on the north side for the admission of air very rarely in weather not excessively cold. Here barrels should be placed on tiers on their sides, and the cellar should be kept as dark as possible. In such a cellar, one of the largest apple growers in Dutchess county is able to keep the Greening apple, which in the fruit room usually decays in January, until the first of April, in the freshest and finest condition. Some persons place a layer of clean rye straw between the layers of apples, when packing them in barrels.

COTTON.—Some of the cotton grown in Washington county this season has been brought to the city. All that we have seen has been of good quality, and there is nothing wanting but quantity to make the cotton business a complete success—a desideratum that will doubtless soon be obtained.

DARKEN YOUR POTATO CELLAR.—It should be remembered that potatoes put in the cellar for winter use will not keep as well if exposed to the light. The best mode of keeping them is to put them in a bin or barrels and cover well with straw. Throw some old carpets or other covering over them to keep the light from them.