first winter, to sway with the wind and wear a hole around the trees down to the roots, thus retarding the growth the first year. This argument would be unanswerable were there no way to prevent such a result. Well informed horticulturists have been, of late years, planting smaller trees than they once did—not smaller of the same age, but those of a younger growth. A well grown tree, large of its age, of two or three years from bud or graft, is preferred to a four-year-old, and offers less surface for the wind's action, but all newly planted trees, whether set in spring or in autumn, should have a mound of earth packed around them before winter ten or twelve inches high, not only to prevent the swaying of the trees, but also to prevent the access of mice to the bark of the trees.

Salt For Pear Blight.

Knowing of some test cases in the use of salt to combat pear blight, and that the salt application has had a most beneficial effect, we deem that we should give evidence to the public, says Practical Fruit Grower. The application of salt to fruit trees is generally disapproved by horticultural authorities. There are exceptions to most rules; perhaps salt may be used with success in experimental cases.

Pear blight is a disease that has so far baffled scientific treatment. The subject is outlawed at state conventions, and yet there is a course for it and doubtless there is, in the unknown, a remedy.

We visited an orchard during the past week that had been attacked with great virulence by the blight. The blackened leaves portended death within a few days. Two trees were entirely beyond the treatment stage. The water sprouts had also been attacked and were black. The owner scattered salt under these trees and they made a fresh start. New leaves have come out and show up green among the blighted ones. The water sprouts, too, are putting out new leaves. The evidence is plain. It is a practical demonstration. The salt checked the blight in that orchard and revived the trees. No ill effects have yet been evident, so there can be no objection to others that have trees that are going with the blight to try this simple remedy. It costs but little to apply one or two quarts.

Here is another practical demonstration that worked strangely. A Benton county, Arkansas, fruit grower gave his apple trees an application of salt. His trees are now remarkable for their vigorous foliage and the apples on these salt-treated trees for their large fruit. Just over the fence trees not treated do not present nearly so good appearance and their apples are small.

And here is a story that still further shows that salt sometimes acts contrary to establish a theory. A gentleman had a tree in his yard that he wanted to be rid of, and instead of chopping it down he dug under it and placed in the cavity a lot of salt, expecting it would soon become dead wood, and family would not then object to their having the tree cut down. But to the man's amazement the tree grew more vigorously than ever before. It greatly outstripped it twin tree, near it, and twenty years after the salt-treated tree was in robust condition.

Black Ben Davis Apples.

Much has been said and written concerning the Black Ben Davis—Gano applies some contending that the Davis and Gano were two different species, while others held that each was a separate and distinct class. To fruit growers the controversy has been highly interesting and the question has remained in some doubt until recently, when facts have been presented which seem convincing enough to end the contention.

Pro. H. E. Van Deman, of Washington, a short time ago took it upon himself to look the matter up and with that object in view he made a trip to Washington county, Aakansas, where it was claimed the fruit had originated. He asserts that he did not take the trip at the suggestion nor in the interests of the Messrs. Stark Bros., who have been bringing the fruit to the attention of the public, but that he did solely in the interests of the truth and his observations have been published in the Western Fruit Grower. The details of his investigation it is not necessary to publish the salient points being all that the public will find interesting. He learned the history of the original tree from those who lived in the vicinity and they positively assert that the fruit it bore was much superior to the Ben Davis. The name of the tree and its fruit— "Black"— was derived from the Rev. John Black, who formerly owned the ground upon which the now famou tree once stood, but which has long since gone out of existence. But its successors live and testify to the excellence of their progenitor. The fruit is not only more pleasing to the eye, but in flavor it is superior to the Ben Davis, according to the conclusions of Prof. Van Deman. This gentleman does not hesitate in making his investigations known and speaks with confidence when he tells of the superiority of the Black Ben Davis. He visited those who cultivate the Gano and those who had examined the different species—Black Ben Davis, Ben Davis and Gano—and they all asserted that the Black Ben Davis and Gano were by no means the same fruit and that the former was far superior to the latter. The Black Ben Davis is a solid red while the Gano is usually lighter in color and has a semblance of stripes, if not those of a distinct nature.

An experimenter writes to Commercial Poultry that with five tests he found that the temperature for hatching eggs in the incubator may be from 102 to 104 degrees, and that Plymouth Rock eggs hatched beter at one degree higher than was required for Leghorn eggs. That ventilation is more important than the moisture. That the variation in temperature caused by turning and stirring the eggs has a good effect on their hatching, and that the hen does more stirring and turning than we give her credit for, and that no breed excels the Leghorn in strong, fertile eggs. If the larger size of the Plymouth Rock egg or its darker colored and thicker shell causes it to require more heat than the Leghorn, we think the same thing might be true of the Brahma, Cochin and Langshan.

Of the 25,000 irrigated farms in Utah, less than 1,000 are encumbered. Irrigation spells prosperity.