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W. J. SLATTER.

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Culture of Fruits.

FAMILIAR HINTS.—It is not necessary at the present time, when almost everybody is planting fruit trees, to go into a long argument to show its advantages. A continued and most convincing proof is furnished by the fruit itself, whether it be from the single loaded plum or apricot tree in the pinched-up kitchen-yard of the townsman,—or the broad orchard bending under the myriads of delicious specimens on the spacious grounds of the farmer.

But an inquiry is often made—much oftener than it is rightly answered—"how shall we manage our young trees, from the moment they are received from the nursery, so that they may speedily come into profitable bearing?"—or, "how long will my young trees have to grow before I shall get fruit from them?"

As the time required for their fruiting depends very greatly on their management; while the quality, even more than the amount yielded, is influenced by the treatment they receive, it is well worth some pains and labor to give them every advantage.

Is it not strange, that while every man knows so perfectly well that half-starved cattle cannot possibly thrive, so many expect young fruit trees not only to thrive, but to yield good crops, when not receiving even a tenth part of the attention that is bestowed on a half-neglected herd of cattle?—Crowded, in the first place, into small holes dug into hard soil, and afterwards suffered to be overgrown and choked by weeds and grass, they are quite sure to refuse the injustice of repaying with a good crop such negligence, not to say utter starvation at the roots. It is not difficult to see plenty of such trees, of the apple, for instance, in passing through some parts of the country. Now, it is nothing but this neglect tha thos reduced them to such a condition. With good cultivation they might have been healthy, vigorous, handsome, prolific trees, which happily are becoming more and more common every succeeding year.

In reply to the inquiry as to the best treatment for trees—the first thing is to get a good soil. To set good trees on bad land, is like building a house without a foundation, or like sitting down to dine at empty dishes: there is nothing to support the growth of the tree—no food to supply it with proper nourishment. If, therefore, the soil is not already such as to yield a crop of sixty or seventy bushels of Indian corn per acre, it should be made so, if trees are expected to flourish in the finest manner. The first thing is to obtain sufficient DEPTH of soil to enable the roots to extend themselves freely, and to hold moisture without drying up in protracted drouths. This may be obtained by digging very large holes, say eight feet in diameter, and a foot and a half deep, and filling them with with rich earth. But a better way is to plow the whole surfare to that depth, and to enrich it well by manuring. A common plow will descend six or seven inches; by passing another plow in the furrow, that is by trench-plowing, the soil may be loosened to ten inches or a foot.—But by means of a good subsoil plow in the common furrow, a depth of fifteen to eighteen inches may be attained. Now, to work the manure down to that depth, and make the whole one broad deep bed of the richest soil, it must be first spread on the surface evenly after the whole has been well subsoiled, then harrowed to break it fine and mix it with the top soil, and then thrown down by a thorough trench-plowing. For although the trench-plowing can hardly be worked a foot in depth of itself, yet after a good loosening with the subsoil plow, it may be at once extended down a foot and a half. If this is done in the fall, and another good plowing given in the spring, the whole will be in fine condition for the reception of trees. Does this seem like a great deal of cost and labor? It is the very cheapest way of getting fine crops of the best fruit, for the way in which strong, long, and healthy shoots will run up even the first year, will seem like nothing short of magic; and the short time in which such trees will begin to hang out their ruddy or golden treasures, and the size, beauty and richness of the fruit afforded from such an orchard, kept well cultivated during its early years, will astonish those who have never seen any but slip-shod culture.

After a tree is well set out in such an admirably prepared soil, the subsequent treatment, although of the greatest importance, is very simple. It consists merely in keeping the soil mellow, by repeated stirring, and preventing the growth of any vegetable for several feet from the tree, whether it be weeds or the growth of a crop. A *hoed* crop is however admissible, as being next best to clear mellow ground, because most of the surface is still kept well stirred during the operation of tillage. A *sowed* crop, grass, or weeds, is ruinous to young trees.

These hints, we are aware, are not new to many; but it is often better to repeat an old and important truth, till all practice it, than to search only for what is new.—*Annual Register of Rural Affairs.*

☞ Apropos, we must express our gratification at the increased interest being manifested, in this locality, for Horticultural improvement, as an evidence of which we would cite attention to Dr. S. W. Houghton's beautiful Nursery, in this place, and which contains about twenty-five thousand two and three year old fruit trees, embracing over an hundred varieties of apple, dwarf pear, cherry, and apricott. We are an ardent lover of good fruit, and can but feel a gush of pride as well as gladness, to observe the energy and carefullness displayed by Dr. H. in his efforts to advance horticulture. As a matter of course he expects to realize a pecuniary compensation from the sale of trees, but then, in proportion as he thus derives benefit, will not the community be benefited? We think so, and we take pleasure in inviting especial attention to the fact that he is prepared to accommodate all who may desire good and thrifty fruit trees.

November.

Farmers should now gather in their corn, and their potatoes. The corn is wasting, and the pasturage for the stock in gleaning the corn fields greatly diminished, by suffering the corn to remain thus long on the field. The potato crop, so far as our observation has extended, and indeed, what we have learned from others, says the Cotton Planter, is generally inferior, the result, in a great measure, of the very freezing and long continued cold weather of last winter, which seriously injured the seed, and in many instances destroyed them entirely.—This should admonish us to gather this crop in proper time, and secure it carefully.

The stock of the Plantation should be carefully provided for this month. Good stalls and houses, with comfortable pens or lots, that they may receive their food to the best advantage, will handsomely compensate the trouble and expense. Stock of every sort may be kept fat upon much less food, besides the very large amount of valuable compost manure that may in this way be collected and saved for the plantation.