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Theodore Roosevelt Now Becomes Father-in-law For Third Time



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THEODORE ROOSEVELT is a father-in-law for the third time. Perhaps, after all, that's better than being thrice president. Everybody knows about the strenuous mother-in-law, but nobody has alleged so far that T. R. welds his erstwhile big stick on his family connections. This is a picture of the former president taken at the marriage of his second daughter, Ethel, to Dr. Derby at Oyster Bay recently. Back of him, holding his own little baby, is Teddy Junior. Back of Colonel Roosevelt, at the left, is his son Archie. Notice the hero worshipping bull moosettes at the right.

HOME COURSE IN FRUITS AND BERRIES

THE PEAR AND HOW TO GROW IT.

By G. B. BRACKETT, Pomologist,
Bureau of Plant Industry, United States Department of Agriculture.

PEAR trees are more difficult to maintain in a healthy, productive condition than apple trees and cannot be grown with the same degree of success over so wide an area of country.

Trees propagated by budding the pear upon quince stock are known as dwarfs. The Angers variety of quince is principally used for this purpose. Such trees develop a fibrous root system, are dwarfed in habit and generally productive and come into bearing early. Some varieties succeed better on quince stock than on pear stock.

The dwarf type of tree may be advantageously used on small city lots, but in some of the eastern states there are many large and profitable commercial pear orchards of small size.

Trees produced by grafting or budding improved varieties on seedling pear stock are known as standards. They are comparatively longer lived than dwarfs and in time become larger trees, capable of yielding heavier crops of fruit, but they usually come into bearing more tardily.

The "Lipping Process."

A method of converting dwarf trees into half standards, often practiced with good results, is known as the "lipping process." It consists in making a slit with a sharp knife through the bark and slightly into the sapwood of the tree in an upward direction just above the union with the quince root on which it has been worked. At these lips a callus forms from which roots grow, and these in time become strong enough to sustain the tree after

themselves well or true to variety when grown from seed; hence the necessity for budding or grafting in order to obtain the variety desired. But if seedlings are desired good pear seeds germinate readily when sown from healthy, well matured fruit.

The seeds should be stratified—i. e., mixed in alternate layers of moist sand in a box—covered securely to guard against rats and mice, and the box should be placed on the north side of some building where it will be exposed to freezing and thawing throughout the winter until the time for planting. If the seeds are planted in rows three feet apart in good soil and given thorough culture they will make a sufficient growth in one season for budding or grafting. If wanted for root grafting the seedlings should be taken up in the fall and stored in a cellar, where they will keep fresh and be accessible at any time during the winter. If wanted for budding they may be buried in the soil outside until the time of planting in the spring.

Directions for budding, grafting, etc., require extended space, which cannot be given here. They can be obtained from agricultural experiment stations and from experienced pear growers.

Most Desirable Soil.

The pear succeeds on a variety of soils. For standards a clay loam having a deep, porous subsoil, such as may be found in forest clearings, into which the roots will naturally penetrate, is most desirable. A clay loam may be brought to the desired state of tilth by a good system of mulching and green manuring, and trees planted in it find the available plant food so necessary to maintain a healthy growth. Dwarfs worked on the quince naturally develop a fibrous root system which develops best in rich, moist soil having a subsoil of porous clay. It is essential to the health of the pear that no surplus or stagnant water be allowed to remain on the surface or in the soil.

The use of fertilizers in pear culture requires most careful consideration and judgment. Lands naturally fertile—viz., loamy soils so common in prairie regions, cleared forest lands and clayey soils having marl in their composition—should not be enriched. Tillable lands that will grow a good crop of corn are sufficiently fertile for the pear tree. When the pear orchard begins to lose its vigor from continuous fruit crops a light dressing of wood ashes or well rotted stable manure may prove beneficial. As long as the trees maintain a normal, healthy growth they require no stimulating food. Trees that are highly stimulated and are making a rapid growth are much more liable to be attacked by blight, which is the greatest drawback to pear culture.

Use of Commercial Fertilizer.

A commercial fertilizer containing 1½ to 2 per cent of nitrogen, 7 to 9 per cent of available phosphoric acid and 10 to 12 per cent of potash will give good results on land that is deficient in these elements when applied in a quantity ranging from 400 to 600 pounds per acre.

For sections south of about the forty-first parallel of latitude the fall is undoubtedly the best season for planting, but for most of the territory north of this line spring planting is safer.

It is as important with the pear as with any other kind of fruit tree that the land, whether for standards or dwarfs, be well and thoroughly prepared by plowing and stirring the soil and subsoil deeply before planting.

The preparation can best be done in the fall, as the effect of freezing and thawing improves the soil by pulverizing it.

An excellent plan is to plow the ground in lands in the direction that will afford the best drainage, back-furrowing with a heavy plow and leaving the dead furrows where the rows of trees are to be set. It is well to break up the bottom of this dead furrow by running a subsoil plow

through it two or three times, giving it a good stirring.

A good distance for planting standard pear trees is 15 by 30 feet—that is, the rows are thirty feet apart and the trees fifteen feet apart in the rows. Another plan is to plant the trees twenty feet apart each way. This distance will afford free circulation of air and abundance of sunlight, both of which are essential to success.

Dwarfs are sometimes planted ten feet apart each way, but fifteen feet each way, or 153 trees to the acre, is better. This distance gives room to drive through the grounds for spraying and to gather the fruit.

One Year Trees Best.

Strong, well rooted one-year-old trees are preferable to any other age, whether standard or dwarf. If early fruitfulness is desired dwarfs are preferable, but it should be borne in mind that such trees are usually shorter lived and seldom attain large size. For these reasons they are better adapted to small lots or to garden purposes.

On the other hand, if longevity of tree, larger size and capacity for producing heavier crops are desired standards should be planted.

Pears vary in their season of ripening, so that if proper attention is given to the selection of varieties and to careful handling and storing the pear grower may have fruit for his table or market from midsummer until March.

Some varieties of pear are infertile by themselves, and therefore varieties should be intermingled in planting in order to insure fruitfulness. No more than two rows of one variety should be planted together, alternating with some other variety that is considered a good pollinizer. It may be said, however, that self fertile varieties under some conditions may become self sterile under other conditions.

Thorough and frequent stirring of the ground between the rows with a cultivator should be done during the early part of the growing season or from early spring until July 1, when cultivation should cease so that the new growth of wood may harden up sufficiently to endure the winter temperature.

After the trees have attained sufficient size and age to commence fruiting cultivation may be discontinued for awhile and the land seeded to clover. This cover crop will check the rapid growth of the trees and bring them into bearing sooner than if cultivation is continued. If the clover is allowed to fall on the ground instead of cutting and removing it, it will act as a mulch and serve to retain moisture in summer and be a protection in winter.

Crops Among the Trees.

If desirable to grow other crops between the rows of trees as a matter of economy, this may be done for a few years after being set out without any detriment to the orchard, provided the crop is of such a nature as to require thorough cultivation. To grow among the trees the first season after planting there is no better crop than corn. Other crops, such as potatoes, cabbages, peas, beans, melons, etc., may be grown to advantage. Small grain or grasses which do not require cultivation should not be allowed in the newly planted orchard. All these crops take from the soil plant food which will be needed in time for the orchard's support and which should be returned in some form of manure.

Cover crops, by conserving moisture and adding elements of fertility to the soil, are beneficial to the pear orchard. Among the desirable cover crop plants are the clovers and legumes, such as cowpeas, beans, vetches, etc.

If the practice of sowing cover crops and turning them under is continued from year to year the land will gradually be enriched and the soil maintained in proper physical condition.

BUREAU TO DRAFT BILLS.

La Follette Wants Its Chief to Be Really Fit.

Washington.—A legislative drafting bureau to draft or revise bills or amendments at the request of any committee or ten members of either house of congress is proposed in a bill introduced by Senator La Follette.

Its chief is to be appointed solely on grounds of fitness and without reference to political affiliations.

SILAGE FOR PREGNANT EWES.

While corn silage has been recognized as an excellent as well as economical ration for the beef steer and dairy cow, not until recently has it come to be viewed as a valuable part of the ration for breeding ewes. Some feeding experiments conducted by the Iowa station along this line during the winter of 1911-12 will be of interest to farmers who have a flock of sheep and silage, but who have not yet got the two together in a feeding trough. In the experiments conducted forty-eight ewes were divided as to general condition, including breeding, thrift and weight, into four equal lots. Lot 1 was fed clover hay and shelled corn; lot 2, alfalfa hay and shelled corn; lot 3, clover hay, corn silage and shelled corn; lot 4, corn silage and shelled corn. All the ewes had a blue grass pasture in the fall and were given besides a fairly liberal allowance of corn and cottonseed meal. They were divided into the separate lots on Nov. 15 and given the rations mentioned above. At the end of the feeding period it was found that the ewes in the four lots had made practically identical gains. It was found that, while the lot of ewes fed corn and corn silage produced fewer lambs than the other three lots, the lambs weighed more at birth and were also stronger. It was found that the alfalfa combination produced stronger lambs than the clover and that silage and clover fed together did not give as good results as either one alone. The chief advantage of the silage-corn ration given to lot No. 4 seems to be found in its cheapness, as it cost 1.66 cents per ewe per day, while the ration given lot No. 1 cost 2.47 cents; lot No. 2, 2.74 cents, and lot No. 3, 2.93 cents. Those in charge of the experiments are of the opinion that the corn-silage ration might be made more efficient and economical if a small amount of oil-meat or cottonseed meal were added to it. The modified ration would also tend to produce stronger lambs.

The Camper's Dilemma.



Uncle Joe (who has been left to cook dinner for the party, reading from "Things All Scouts Should Know")—If your only wax match falls into a puddle . . . you need not despair. Dry it roughly on your coat and then stick it in your hair. Leave it there for a minute, and it will come out perfectly dry again.—Punch.

The Reason.



Bessie—What made Maude jilt Harry?
Jessie—Little Fido didn't like him.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

Her Disappointment.

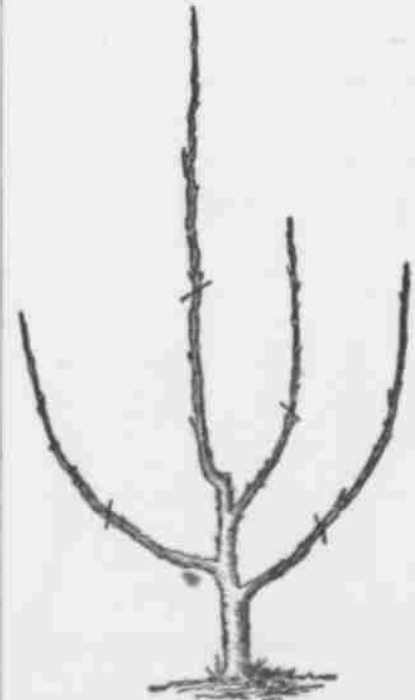


Child Welfare.



"I can cordially recommend these cakes, Miss Gladys. They are made with a liberal percentage of allumens."—Punch.

A good conscience is heaven; a bad one hell.—German Proverb.



TWO-YEAR-OLD PEAR TREE—THE LINES SHOW WHERE TO CUT BACK AT TIME OF PRUNING.

the quince roots become inactive. The treatment must be given at the time of setting the trees, and they must be planted deeper than usual, so that the point of union will be several inches underground. Pears do not certainly reproduce