

Making the Little Farm Pay

By C. C. BOWSFIELD

Nearly all ambitious farmers have established orchards or wish to have them. There is plenty of encouragement for them at this time. Amateurs especially are determined to take advantage of the high prices and the good market demand for fruit. Horticulture is likely to receive a great deal of attention during the next few years.

Commercial orchards return a profit of \$200 to \$500 an acre and apparently the market demand for all kinds of fruit is unlimited. Apples, pears, plums and cherries are profitable in all parts of the country where timber grows, and the less hardy fruits do well in the south and in the far west.

It is feasible for any land owner to devote several acres to tree and bush fruits. With studious care in pruning, spraying, cultivation, marketing, etc., fruit growing can be built up into a fine business.

Both tree fruits and small fruits are commonly planted too close for the best results. This comes from a desire to get just as much as possible from the land, and a failure to look ahead to see what the trees or plants will be several years after the planting. This is particularly true in the home orchard. Very often we see fruit trees planted ten or fifteen feet apart, when they ought to be thirty. One tree that has room enough for a healthy growth of top and roots is more profitable than three half starved trees occupying the same space. The distances that should be given vary greatly in different localities and on different soils. Apples



AN ORCHARD IS A PAYING INVESTMENT.

In one locality may be more crowded at thirty-five feet apart than the same variety would be at twenty-six feet apart in another place. Some varieties are small growers. If the trees are pruned closely they may be set closer.

The home fruit grower who has a limited space should consider all these things, because he wants to get just as many plants on his land as will do well. As a general guide the following distances are suggested: Apples and sweet cherries, thirty feet; pears, apricots, plums, peaches and sour cherries, twenty-four feet; quinces, sixteen feet; grapes, 6 by 8 to 8 by 10 feet; strawberries, 1 or 1½ by 4 feet; currants and gooseberries, 4 by 6 feet; raspberries, 4 by 6 feet; blackberries, 4 by 7 feet.

There is a man in Somerset county, Me., who has found beyond any doubt that pruning and cultivating an orchard are as essential to profits as the picking of the fruit. This man moved on to the farm about fifteen years ago. There were 1,500 Baldwin and Greening trees in the orchard that were then twenty-five years old. It was evident



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that care had been used in setting them out, but the first year that he took this farm the orchard bore only twenty-five barrels.

The next spring he trimmed the orchard, pruning all the dead and superfluous limbs. The next year, though the season was only fair, the orchard bore fifty barrels, or double the number of the year before. That summer he bought twenty-five hogs and put them in this orchard, and they rooted the old dead sod up around the trees. That fall he plowed between the trees and left the hogs in the orchard until late. In the spring he harrowed the ground thoroughly and planted potatoes, using about a ton of fertilizer to the acre. The following fall the orchard produced eighty barrels of saleable fruit.

That fall he plowed the ground again, and in the spring he sowed the orchard to clover. In the fall he plowed in the crop as a dressing. It is not strange that under such treatment as mentioned the orchard produced a bigger crop. But it all paid, and now this orchard is bearing about two and one-half barrels on an average a tree each year, earning money at the rate of \$250 to \$400 an acre.

The result has been that the farmers who before thought luck was against them in growing apple trees and that pests were bound to live in their trees have begun to treat their orchards in a businesslike way, cutting the fungus growths from them, spraying the trees, pruning and working for better fruit.

A Source of Danger.

Unpasteurized skim milk from creameries has been the means of spreading foot and mouth disease in some sections. All creameries in quarantined territory should eliminate this danger by pasteurizing their skim milk before it goes back to the farms.

Dairy Gospel.

The Pacific Dairy Review in a recent issue prints this bit of true dairy gospel: "The attitude that cows assume toward their owners is invariably a criterion of profit and loss. The dairyman who can go into his pasture and have cows follow him about has a herd that works on the profit side. When they fear him and run away to be rounded up by a dog and saddle horse the cream check gets down to small figures." Every man who has successfully handled a herd of milking cows knows that the above is the truth. *Kansas Farmer*

Furnish Grit For Poultry.

Hens demand some mineral matter to form the shell of their eggs. Do not forget the oyster shell and the hard, sharp grit. These will furnish material for the formation of the egg's shell and at the same time will keep the fowls in a healthy condition.

Courier Office Sold

Announcement has been made that the Oregon City Courier, has been sold. E. R. Brown of Oregon City, who for the past three years has acted as business manager of the Enterprise, being the purchaser.

A. E. Frost, half owner of the Courier, will remain with the new firm, as foreman of the composing room.

M. J. Brown the late owner and editor, is undecided as to the future, but intends to take a much needed rest and vacation, visiting the California Fairs.

While the people of the county and the Progress will miss Editor Brown, there is one satisfaction, the present owners will keep up the good work of issuing a good weekly newspaper.

Everybody Invited

Oregon City will be the hosts to the people from all parts of the county, next Saturday, February 20th, when there will be a jollification and celebration in honor of the completion of the Willamette Valley Southern Railroad. A splendid program of entertainment has been scheduled and a big crowd is expected.

George Club Busy

At the regular meeting of the George Social & Commercial Club, held last Saturday evening, County Fruit Inspector P. F. Standish of Garfield gave a talk on fruit tree pruning and kindred subjects.

After a discussion regarding the purchasing of needed furniture and supplies; the club enjoyed a dainty luncheon, which was served by Mesdames Rath and Stevens.

The Club's last Friday night's Hard Times Dance was a big success, with good music from Garfield, and many outsiders attending

Annual Bazaar

The annual bazaar of the Eagle Creek church will be held February 25th, in Wilbern's Hall. The bazaar opens at 2 P. M. and everyone is invited to come and look over the useful articles, such as aprons, rugs, comforters, etc., that are offered for sale. In the evening a 25c chicken supper will be served, from 6 to 8 P. M.

Owing to ill health, Miss Elizabeth Reid of Garfield, who has been attending the University of Washington, has returned to her home and probably will not finish her college course this year.

The Faraday Thimble Club met last Saturday night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Allen, where the ladies of the organization acted as hostesses to their "hubbies".

There will be a box social given at the Elwood school house Saturday evening, Feb. 20th under the management of Miss Lula Sprouse. Ladies are requested to bring the "eats" and the gentlemen, the "coin".

Miss Hulda Paulsen of George was the leader of the Christian Endeavor meeting last Sunday night.

Mr. Powell of Gresham was a guest last Sunday at the home of J. W. Dowty of Alsapugh.

Edgar Heiple of Alsapugh is busily engaged making overshoes and mittens for his early brood of little chicks, for if they survive the raw winter winds they should be laying by the time eggs are worth real money.

The many friends of Mrs. Bert Chapman of Estacada are sorry to learn of her being ill again. While her condition is serious, it is not alarming at present.

P. Nelson of Elwood recently purchased two fine milk cows at the Strey auction.