

Annual Pruning Necessary To Growing of Good Apples

IT IS of the utmost importance that apple trees should receive annual pruning, for otherwise long shoots four, five and six feet in length may be thrown out. The fruit is ultimately borne away out on these long branches which bend under the great weight and oftentimes break. Trees suffering from this lack of pruning are very noticeable every Fall when many over-laden and improperly formed trees are badly broken.

Such trees are bound to prove a great disappointment sooner or later and now is the time to get out and fix them. In cutting off branches no stumps should be left. They are the cause of many sore and rotten places on trees and will set up black heart in course of time.

All stumps will die back to the main branch or body unless sprouts are allowed to grow on them to maintain vital action and this should not be allowed. Painting the wounds at once is quite helpful in preventing checking, decay and disease.

In cutting back young branches the same principle should be carried out. With a small branch where there is little wood to die and rot it is not so injurious to leave a snag above the place of growth as with a large branch.

However the pruning should be done properly no matter what the size of the branches. The under slope of the cut should always be towards the top bud or branch left, so that the wound will heal over smoothly and quickly.

On Apple Eating.

Do you know what you are eating when you eat an apple? You are eating gallic acid, one of the most necessary elements in human economy. You are eating sugar in the most assimilable form, combined carbon, hydrogen and oxygen caught and imprisoned from the sunshine. You are eating a gum allied to the "fragrant medicinal gums of Araby."

And you are eating phosphorus in the only form in which it is available as the source of all brain and nerve energy. In addition to all these, you are drinking the purest water and eating the most healthful and desirable fiber for the required "roughness" in food elements. The acids of the apple diminish the acidity of the stomach and prevent and cure dyspepsia. They drive out the obnoxious matters that cause skin eruptions and thus are nature's most glorious complexion makers. They neutralize in the blood the deleterious elements that poison the brain and make it sluggish. The contained phosphorus is not only greater than in any other form of food, but it is presented in a shape for immediate use by the brain and nerves where it may flash into great thoughts and great deeds. The ancients assigned the apple as the food for the gods, and its juices the ambrosial nectar to which they resorted to renew their youth.

Men are the gods of today, and the apple is their royal food, the magic renewer of youth. Eat a rich ripe apple every day and you have disarmed all diseases of half their terror.—Fruit Distributor.

School Gardening Stages.

Here is a list of seven critical stages in school gardening when children need careful supervision to avoid serious mistakes, according to M. O. Evans, Jr., who was recently supervisor of the Portland school gardens:

Preparing ground—Mellow, free from clods and level.

Laying out beds—Straight and uniform.

Planting—Rows straight, no wasted seeds.

Weeding—All weeds removed without injury to plants.

Thinning—Most children fear to thin sufficiently.

Irrigation—General desire to water too much.

Cultivation—Stirring surface after rain or watering.

Instructors should also visit home gardens of pupil gardeners to see that these critical stages are safely passed.

Feeding the Cow.

If a cow has been rightly fed all her life she will be a good cow when she becomes old. On the other hand a cow that has been overfed for years will have become burned out by the time she is 10 or 12 years of age. The cow that has never been fed to bring her up to her highest capacity for milk giving will have fixed her habits of production at a low point and will not be valuable as an old cow.

She will therefore have to be disposed of to the butcher several years before otherwise going out of service. There are a large number of old cows that will increase their capacity for milk-giving if fed on a properly balanced ration and with a large amount of succulent food the year round.

This is what develops the capacity of the cow. A great many cows are never fed with the idea of getting out of them the greatest amount of milk possible each year with due regard to the health of the cows. If, however, the old ladies were fed right along with this idea in mind they would continue to give a large mess of rich milk.



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Vegetables for Amateur Gardeners

RADISHES, lettuce, beans, beets and tomatoes are all comparatively easily-grown vegetables which give satisfactory returns in the Spring garden. The United States Department of Agriculture's specialist recommends these particularly for use in school gardens which are run for the benefit of the children. Not only teachers, but others desiring to raise these truck crops in their own home gardens may benefit from these suggestions:

Radishes.

Radishes are hardy plants and thrive best during the cool weather of early Spring and late Autumn. In the South they can best be grown during the Winter and early Spring months. The seeds should be sown in drills, in rich, well-prepared soil, placed about half an inch apart and buried not deeper than one inch nor less than one-half inch. When the plants are showing the second set of true leaves they should be thinned to stand from two to three inches apart in the row.

Lettuce.

Lettuce is a hardy plant and thrives best during early Spring and late Autumn. The seeds should be sown in drills in the open or in boxes in the window. If in the open, the seeds should be scattered about one-half inch apart along the row, and covered not more than one-half inch with earth. Firm the earth well over the seeds, so as to bring the moist soil in contact with them.

When the plants are well up, thin to 6 inches apart in the row. If the seeds were sown in a window box, hotbed, frame, or greenhouse, transplant the young plants to stand two by two inches apart as soon as the seed leaves are well expanded, and when they begin to crowd

transfer them to their permanent places in the open, if the weather will permit. In the field they should stand at least six inches apart each way.

Beans.

Beans are tender plants. They cannot endure frost and will not stand transplanting well. It is best to wait and plant the seeds of this plant in the open where the plants are to grow, delaying the work until severe frosts are past. Plant in rows one foot apart, placing the seeds about two inches deep at intervals of six inches. Keep the soil loose and free from weeds.

Beets.

Beets, while they are hardy and can be planted at the same time as radishes and lettuce, require a longer season for maturing. The seeds should be planted in rows one foot apart, placed an inch apart in the row and covered one inch deep. When the plants are well up (two inches high), thin to four inches apart in the row. Keep the soil well tilled at all times.

Tomatoes.

The tomato is the most exacting of all the plants included in the collection. From Washington southward the seeds may be planted in the open at the same time as beans, but to the north of this point the seeds should be sown in boxes, hotbeds or greenhouses from the first to the middle of March, the young plants being transplanted to stand two by two inches apart as soon as the first true leaves appear.

When they began to crowd in their new positions, shift them to four-inch pots or to cans such as are used by canners of tomatoes, and keep them growing slowly until about May 20 to June 1, when it

will be safe to place them in their permanent locations in the garden.

Set the plants in rows 18 inches apart and place the plants about 20 inches apart in the rows. Each plant as it grows should have all side branches removed and the main stem tied to a stout stake, about five feet tall and at least an inch square, driven firmly in the ground.

Orchard and Garden Notes.

Take care of the tree fruits. They bring in good money.

If fruit is scarce in your neighborhood this year, there is the tomato. What makes better preserves?

For those insects that suck the juices, such as lice, soapbuds or kerosene emulsion is the thing. Apply with a spray.

Keeping sheep, swine or poultry in the orchard is hard on the coding moth.

A systematic garden rotation prevents many insect pests and plant diseases from getting a foothold.

Fence the orchard hog tight, and let the hogs eat the windfalls and wormy apples.

Peach borers are best destroyed by digging them out. While it is a slow process, there is really no other way.

Look over the orchard and see if there are any suckers on the trees, and remove them.

Cowpeas or vetch makes a good cover crop for the orchard.

Where spraying is practiced, it is not necessary to spray until the tree is drenched. Stop spraying just before the dripping begins.

In applying the spray to low-growing trees and bushes, make the application when the dew is on the plants.

The low down handy wagon is of great value in the orchard. These wagons are easily loaded. The tires are wide and can be taken into fields where ground is too soft to use narrow tired wagons.

A good way to get after the tent caterpillar is to put on an old mitten and gather them by hand.