

SB
355
B65
1917a

The Science
of
Fruit Growing

VIRGIL BOGUE

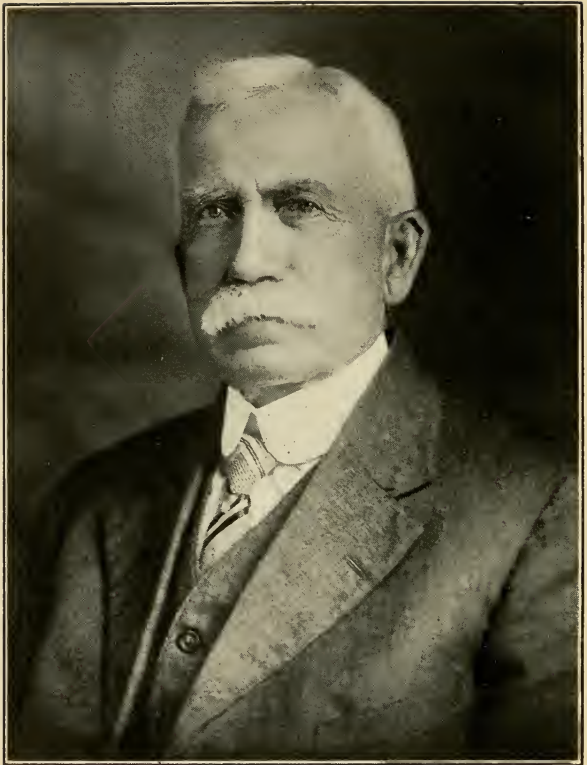


Class SB355

Book .B65

Copyright N^o. 1917a

COPYRIGHT DEPOSIT.



Virgil Bogue

The Science of Fruit Growing

Based on Nature's Laws

By

VIRGIL BOGUE

ALBION, NEW YORK

Price, \$2.00

DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE PRINT

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

1917

JUL 31 1918
I 66
1917a

COPYRIGHT 1917
BY
VIRGIL BOGUE



JUL 31 1918

© Cl. A 499961

210 1

THE SCIENCE OF FRUIT GROWING
BASED ON NATURE'S LAWS

BY
VIRGIL BOGUE, ALBION, N. Y.

LET us consider the great work that is being done to create and maintain the vegetable and animal kingdom in producing delicious fruits, attractive shape, fragrant and beautiful flowers of various shades and colors; and wonder who the Architect can be, how long he has been designing them, to what part are we assigned in their creation, and what shall our harvest be.

God's workshop—what is it for, where is it, what does He make, what is the material used, and what is His great motor power?

The word God is used to designate the Creator and Controller of everything. His workshop is in the leaf of plants of all description. It consists of a system of cells corresponding to the lungs of a person, and from them there is an opening through the under side of the leaf representing the mouth and throat of a person, and apparently as sensitive in taking in and letting out the air to the air chambers of the leaf. Joining these air cells and separated from them by a delicate system of sensitive organs, is a set of cells representing the stomach, which receives the sap from the roots through a system of veins. It is in these parts where the action of the great power of heat and light make chloroplast which is the real live molecule of

vegetable life, usually green in color as we see most leaves to be. It unites with the sap and circulates through the whole plant, aiding to reinvigorate any weak parts and to construct new parts. The making of chloroplast is the primary action for the construction of all vegetable growth on the earth's surface, and only for it, the earth would be bare of all vegetable growth and all animals that subsist on vegetable growth.

The ordinary apple leaf has about one hundred thousand breathing cells opening from the under side of it, to spray the leaves in the early part of the growing season (which is the time it is doing its best work) with a thick spray, the nature of which would form a coating over the opening of the breathing cells, would reduce the efficiency of the leaf. To spray the tree in its dormant state with a solution that will kill fungii and the eggs of

insects, is very beneficial. If there are injurious insects in sufficient quantities to injure the fruit or tree in its growing season, it should be sprayed with a thin poison liquid that will interfere with the action of the leaf as little as possible.

The necessity for the air cells of a leaf being furnished regularly with an abundance of pure air, corresponds with the needs of pure air for the lungs of an animal. All leaves are sensitive to heat and cold, wet and dry conditions. They flourish where the conditions seem best adapted to them. Some are more sensitive to the changes at different seasons of the year than others. While the grapevine flourishes over a large area of country, it fails to develop the sugar from the starch condition at such locations as have cool nights when it is ripening. The cool air stops the working of the leaf, and the fruit remains

in about the same condition of ripening. Though vines allowed to grow in the top of tall trees or trailed up under the eaves of a tall building above the strata of cold air, ripen their fruit to perfection, as does the vine growing in the favored location under the influence of a lake that keeps the air warm at that season of growth.

Severe electric storms have a similar effect on the leaves as a light frost. As electric storms come at the season of the year when the trees are making the best growth, their bad effect is more often overcome by elimination.

We find by observation and reasoning, that trees have life, and are constructed and maintained by the same natural laws that govern and maintain the animal kingdom. That is, they have the circulation of the sap,

which represents the blood of the animal. This circulation is continuous throughout the growing season. We notice by cutting off a part of the top or roots during the growing season, it immediately withers and dies and in many cases where the tree is all cut off near the ground in the growing season, the roots and top both die, and we therefore conclude, naturally, that the one is dependent on the other.

The life of the tree is in its molecules, with functions similar to those in the animal kingdom to a certain extent. Some of these are constructive and others digestive and distributive. They do the work of reinvigorating by cleansing the marred or unhealthy parts, as we can see by examining the inner part of the body of the tree or large limbs, that the annual courses of growth show nearly a perfect condition, when we know they had

been severely bruised, and many small limbs cut from them. Trees differ in their ability to cleanse and re-establish the tissues, as shown by the pine. Many of their knots are not wholly eliminated. This would tend to show that there were two circulations of the sap: one in the bark and outer courses of the wood and between them; the other from the bark to and from the heart or center of the tree. A cross section of a seasoned oak tree shows this distinctly.

The sap is quite thin and watery in the forepart of the growing season, but grows thicker as the season advances, finally reaching a state of solidity located in the bark and outer edges of the wood, to remain through its dormant season, then to be enlivened and brought into action by the warm moist atmosphere of spring, thus to continue its previous season's growth. As a proof of

this, saw a limb of two inches in diameter from a bearing Apple tree in the spring, just as the sap is starting, and put the end in a dish of warm water, keeping it in a warm, moist atmosphere. The limb will leaf, blossom, and continue its growth until its life substance is exhausted.

As proof of the location of the life substance through its dormant stage, bore a hole one-half inch deep into a sugar maple tree in the spring, and let the sap run till it is dry; then bore it in another inch, and it will run more sap, apparently nearly as well filled with sugar as the first. This will also illustrate how the sap, in its thin liquid shape, takes up the sugar or real life substance of the tree and carries it to the leaves, to be digested or separated into its different parts, forming a new growth of wood, bark, leaves, roots, blossoms and fruit.

We find that a higher state of vitality is produced when the roots and tops are furnished regularly with the necessary conditions and material for its growth. We want not only vitality, but matured vitality, in the fruit tree, in order to have it stand the debilitating effects of Winter, and hold and grow its fruit after it is set. Nature has furnished a sufficient amount of this in the tree to produce occasional crops of fine fruit in those sections where fruit naturally grows.

The fruit grower finds it necessary to do something more to aid the tree in securing its moisture more regularly and its feeding material more abundantly. The bacteria that is necessary to decompose vegetable matter in the soil, in order to make plant food available for the feeding of the roots, does not do its best work when the soil is crusted, hard, or covered with sod, but does it when the ground

is frequently cultivated and broken up into fine parts, so the air is readily admitted to the place where the decomposition is going on, and is facilitated by the abundance of fresh air that enters into the process of decomposition of vegetable matter, and the growth of plants.

The tree can not live any great length of time with its roots in water. Neither can it produce a regular and sufficient circulation of its sap without moisture in sufficient quantities to supply its needs. The nearer we can furnish regularly the needed moisture, and in its proper season, the more matured vitality it will possess, and like the hill of corn, the size and maturity of the ear it produces depends on the amount of matured vitality in the stalk. For instance, a hill of corn planted early and which through neglect dries up, produces little, and one planted late produces

an immatured ear of but little value. The fruit-bearing tree is as sensitive to cultivation as a hill of corn. They both use the same conditions for their growth. To obtain the best results, they both need to be planted far enough apart so that the sun can strike the land where their roots feed. A root grown in the sun is worth more for producing matured vitality than one grown in the shade. This is readily shown by trying to grow either in the shade of a building.

Trees bear best when furnished apparently an excess amount of fertilizer, and the land well plowed, thoroughly and often cultivated, from early Spring to the first of September, then seeded to chickweed or some Fall plant that grows mostly on moisture. One reason why orchards located near lakes bear more regularly than those inland, is that moist cloudy conditions that aid the trees in

growing at the season when the fruit bud is maturing its vitality for the following year's crop. Trees growing further away from the lakes are more often matured by the sun before they are fully developed. They both appear to blossom about the same, but while one holds and grows the fruit, the other more often drops it before maturity. This relates to trees growing under neglect and depending entirely on natural conditions.

Where the trees grow under more sunny conditions, and are furnished the necessary moisture and food regularly by cultivation, they produce good crops of better colored fruit, which means better flavor. Fruits, like flowers, reach the highest state of perfection in proportion to the amount of sunlight they receive, other conditions being equal.

The individuality of the fruit is a germ

much smaller than the head of a pin, located just under the base of the bud in a jet. If a jet of a Greening or any variety is transferred to another variety and grows, the fruit born from it would be of the variety from which it was taken. This is called budding, and by it one tree can be made to produce many distinct varieties of apples. The budding should be done when the new growth is nearly matured, and the sap in the tree to be budded is beginning to thicken. Under such conditions the bud and the tree unite readily.

Trees do not produce fruit in the younger stages of their growth. Like the animal kingdom, they seem to require a matured state for reproduction. The growth of the fruit spurs represent the necessary matured condition for reproduction. The first blossoms on a young tree seldom produce fruit, as the tree has to advance beyond that stage.

One leaf will not produce fruit. It requires a number, and the larger proportion of leaves to a fruit, the better and the nearer the leaves to the fruit, the better action they have in producing it.

Each variety of fruit has its special seasons and necessary conditions to develop and mature its fruit germ which is done the year before it bears fruit. The productiveness of a tree depends in a large measure on the structure of the leaf and its adaptability to conditions. To illustrate, take the Greening, its terminal leaves are usually the largest it produces in the season, indicating that the maturing of the tree is continued till the last of the season, and is generally known to be a great and regular bearer of fruit. In contrast to this we will take the Esopus Spitzenberg, the leaves of which are the smallest at the last of the season's growth, and taper back in

size to those grown in mid-season. That does not represent the best conditions for producing a developed and mature condition of the germ. Hence it is only under the most favorable conditions that this variety bears. Other illustrations are numerous.

When starting an orchard, it is best to secure nursery trees that have been budded or grafted from bearing trees, as in many cases they have been rebudded from nursery trees for a dozen or more generations, which eliminates in a large measure the nature of reproduction of fruit, and they do not bear as young as when budded from bearing trees. The tree should be cared for from the time it is dug from the nursery until it is planted, in the best way to keep it from deteriorating in vitality by drying up or the roots being frosted when out of the ground or exposed in a cold room or put in water, especially cold

water, as it requires more attention to reinvigorate it after its vitality has been reduced fifty per cent. or more by transplanting. The trees should be planted in a good pulverized and moderately rich soil, and have the dirt packed well around the roots. The roots can be puddled in a thin mud before planting, but never wet down the dirt in the hole when planting, as it later produces a hard, dry-baked condition that may require a year or more to change to be like the surrounding ground, in the meantime the tree will do poorly. If a farmer was asked how he would treat a small piece of ground so that it would not grow weeds or anything else with natural thrift, he would reply: "Spade it in the Spring when wet, and stamp it down thoroughly." This is the way many plant trees. The tree should be given such care as is necessary to furnish its requirements for a con-

tinuous growth, from the time it is set until it dies of old age.

Trimming should be started from the beginning by cutting off all mutilated roots smoothly, when planting, so they will callous more readily and start fine roots. About one-third of the ends of the last year's growth of the tops should be cut off, in order to start the new growth from well-matured wood. The centre of the tree should be allowed to grow and be maintained throughout its whole existence. After the first year the side branches should be cut off to within six inches of the tree, and allowed to produce all the side growth they can of any nature. The following year anything growing on the short growth over six inches, should be shortened to six inches, and also the side growth on the center, until the tree reaches a height at which you want the first permanent limb to

grow, and then leave a limb for permanent growth, and above that six inches to a foot on another side of the tree leave another limb, proceeding in this manner until five or six have been left for permanent growth. These should be cut back a little on the ends, and the limbs making too large a growth on its sides, in order to force a production of as many fruit spurs and short growths on the body and main limbs as possible. The leaves on these short twigs serve to make the main limbs stocky and are performing near it their office of developing the whole tree, root and branches. Where there are no short twigs and the sap has to traverse a long body, and then a long limb to reach the few leaves at the end of it, and return lightly reinvigorated with chlorophyll to construct and reinvigorate the roots, it can not be expected that such a condition would produce as favorable re-

sults as would follow where the body and large limbs are more covered with short twigs and fruit spurs.

Under the latter condition you would seldom see any water sprouts that Nature is always producing on large bare limbs. Four or five feet above the first started permanent limbs, should be grown another lot and so on, as high as you wish to have the tree grow. Always aim to produce and preserve as many short twigs on the larger limbs as is possible. If the short limbs grow too strong and fill in the inside too much, cut them back, and so force out more fruit spurs on them. Remember, that one leaf does not make an Apple and that the more fruit-spur leaves you can produce on the body and main limbs, the better. A large percentage of the fruit will grow on these short twigs. There are many orchards in Western New York that are practically and

scientifically trimmed under the present system of culture, that are in such a weak state of vitality that many of their limbs are dying from exhaustion, the sap not being able to traverse the distance necessary to reach the leaves on the ends of the limbs, and then return with the necessary nourishment to continue life, and that too under good conditions and cultivation. For the most part these trees do not and cannot produce as many pounds of fruit as they did ten years ago, or what they could have produced if they had never been trimmed. Trees properly trimmed from the beginning under this plan, would eliminate the necessity of cutting out large limbs in later years, as is very often the case. Every time a limb or root of a tree is cut off, it injures the tree. There are some seasons of the year when to trim a tree injures it most.

We are often told that the time to cut

bushes or trees to kill them is in August. The reason I assume for plants dying when cut at this time, is that the tree or bushes has reached its highest state of growth, and begins the maturing of the growth, which it is not able to do without the aid of the leaves, decomposition sets in, and it dies. To trim trees late in the Fall or Winter, exposes the tender inner part of the bark. The freezing and thawing makes a bad sore, which extends much farther under the bark than is apparent from the outside and has to be reinvigorated by the sap in summer, the same as the blood heals a sore. On nursery trees, where the results are more readily observed, it has often affected the trees so badly, especially the Baldwins, that the heart would become black and punky, and in later years the tree would become worthless and die.

A little statement in a book on tree culture

sent out many years ago from Rochester, N. Y., stated: "*Trim any time your knife was sharp.*" This was the cause of many thousand worthless trees. To preserve the greatest amount of vigor the tree should be trimmed just before the leaves start in the Spring. To trim just after the leaves start is very weakening. It grows less injurious as the season advances, up to about July 1st, after which it is more injurious on fruit-bearing trees until Winter. Where large limbs have to be cut off, it should be at the collar and not in the shoulder, as the shoulder possesses the healing nature of growth and the limb does not; the cut should be immediately painted with linseed oil and iron ore, to keep the fungii parasites out until it can grow over. Never use any animal oil on trees unless made into soap.

The functions of the roots are to serve as

the stomach of the tree, to receive the moisture and food necessary for the maintenance of the tree. They work in conjunction with the leaves, which act as the lungs. The success of this depends on the amount of moisture and food available and the regularity with which it is obtained. Our ancestors found that by plowing and cultivating the soil, plants and trees produced a greater growth and yield than when planted in solid ground: in most cases the more the land is cultivated, the larger the growth.

The roots of trees vary, according to the depth of the soil they flourish in, and also depend on the variety of the tree and the solidity of the soil. They require a certain amount of healthy air, light and sunshine, and they thrive best where they can best secure these. An excess amount of moisture in the ground at the growing season for an

extended period reduces the quality of the sap in an Apple tree until it weakens and dies. If it does not kill the tree it very often prevents it from producing enough matured vitality to hold its fruit after the blossoming season for that and the following year. When the ground becomes very dry from the Summer drouth, the root will go deeper into the ground, seeking moisture. As the stronger of the roots will take the lead downward, many of the smaller roots become inactive and die. The root has the same nature as the top, in always sending out branches to gather its requirements. Often they get so deep that the Spring rains following, drown them out for the want of air, they die, and the tree starts out roots near the surface again.

If we can reason that the tree requires matured roots, the same as the top requires matured fruit spurs in order to produce fruit,

then many of the trees' failure to produce, may be accounted for and very strong evidence of the value of cultivation, which keeps the roots near the surface of the ground. Also this demonstrates the value of deep under-drains. A root grown where the sunlight can strike the earth above it, is much more valuable than one grown in the shade.

The place to put manure is outside the shade of the tree, to have it do the most good, for the more roots feeding in the sunlight, the better. Nearly all substances subject to decomposition by the ground are good to produce growth. Vegetable and mineral substances are better than animal. Warm, moist ground is a great deodorizer and decomposer of manural substances. Dry ground is much less active or efficient.

As trees and plants get their nourishment

from the soil through the roots, it is well to keep the soil in as good condition as possible to feed the roots all the time the tree or plant is growing. The ends of these roots are porous, like a sponge, and absorb the moisture, which is in the form of a film surrounding each grain of soil, and is enriched by the material in the grain of earth and the gases and spirits formed by the decomposed manural substances in the soil, by action of heat and moisture, and then conveyed to the leaves by capillary attraction. The quality of the moisture called sap, so obtained, depends on the available proportions of potash, phosphoric acid and nitrogen as necessaries, and lime, iron, magnesia and other chemicals as assistants. Nearly all vegetable substances, except a few heavily laden with acids, that are susceptible to decomposition when well assimilated in the soil under action of heat

and moisture, make good plant food. The fomenting condition of the soil is kept even and continuous in proportion as the soil is kept cultivated under favorable conditions.

A barrel of fine refuse salt, sown evenly over an acre of finely pulverized dry land, will aid in promoting vegetable growth in a dry time. Care should be taken not to sow it in lumps or piles, as the impurities in salt draws moisture from the atmosphere. If the dense liquid or brine formed by it should come in contact with the roots of the trees in sufficient quantity, it would draw the less dense liquid or sap from the roots, and kill them the same way that it kills grass, viz., by drawing the moisture from its roots.

Light acting on the leaves develops chlorophyll, which is the green color of vegetation. It digests or elaborates the sap, which

fits it for the production of new cells that form the extensions of new growths of leaves, wood and fruit. The solidity of the vegetable or fruit depends on the amount of light the leaves receive. The leaves should be kept as free as possible from all fungi or foreign substances and in a growing condition, that its cells may be open to receive the light, and not dry up from lack of sap. When in a healthy, growing condition the leaf absorbs oxygen and hydrogen from the air in the day, and casts off surplus oxygen and carbonic acid at night. The oxygen is necessary for its development, and the carbonic acid becomes a foreign substance to be eliminated for the health of the plant. If the leaf is not able to receive oxygen freely, or if there is a lack of free elimination of the foreign substances, it would create a clogging of the growing system and produce bad re-

sults, the same as in the animal system. The plant, in trying to eliminate foreign substance in the growing season, caused by frozen cells, is often overtaxed, and dies, or continues its life in a weakened state, producing little results.

If the frozen part of a tree or plant could be removed by cutting it off as soon as it is frozen, it would save the tree or plant from having to eliminate the foreign matter or dead molecules in the sap through its regular system of growth. The ability of a tree to recover from the effects of a late Spring freeze, and mature its fruit, depends on the amount of matured vitality it has to aid its growth, and the severity of the freeze.

It is more exhausting to a tree to let it hold its fruit until it ripens and drop off itself, than it is to pick it off as soon as it is ready

for the market. The difference in many instances means a failure in fruit production the following year. It is injurious to a tree to allow its fruit to decay on the ground under it. As far as possible it should be removed. The dead leaves seem to be good fertilizer, and they should be held on the ground as they fall by some late fall growing plant until plowed under. To plow the land in the late fall or early winter, kills many of the insects that winter in the ground. The leaves and plants plowed under are ready to decay in the Spring as soon as the warm weather develops the bacteria necessary for decomposition, and so becomes available for plant food. The fungi that is on the leaves and rejected fruit, develops in the Spring, when the leaves and rejected fruit are allowed to remain on the ground, into millions of spores at a temperature of 45 degrees, which float in the air,

alighting on everything with which they come in contact, but only grow where they can get nourishment suitable for their needs.

The most of fruits, like grasses, have a better flavor when harvested just before their seeds ripen, and allowed to cure or ripen slowly in a cool place.

The highest state of perfection in the fruit is produced where it has been regularly furnished its necessities for growth while in its tannin, starch and sugar stages. An imperfect tannin cannot produce a perfect starch, and an imperfect starch cannot produce a perfect sugar, which are the different stages of growth in the fruit.

For want of application a very little benefit is being received from our knowledge of the beneficial animals, birds and insects. There are enough of them if they were prop-

erly fostered to destroy all the injurious insects that injure the trees and vegetable plants.

There is the skunk or polecat, which is a busy worker at night—when it feels free to roam without being molested, it has an instinct to detect grubs, snails and other insects, when it is walking over the ground, located at a depth of two inches from the surface of the ground, and digs them out for its food. It is shy of people, and only uses its power of defense when in danger. It lives mostly in burrows in the ground in localities where it is not likely to be molested.

The snake, of which there are many kinds that are harmless, lives mostly on mice, ground moles, insects, and berries. They live mostly in stone piles, a fence post set with stones around it makes a satisfactory place

for them to live. The toads live on insects gathered with their tongue, which is extremely long and so constructed that it can catch and hold a very quick insect. It likes to live under a flat stone raised just far enough above the ground for it to enter. A few such homes located along the edge of the garden would soon be well occupied, and a great reduction of insects in the garden would follow.

The wasp, hornet, sweat bees, and lady bugs, are great butchers of insects and eaters of insects' eggs. The wasp stings many insects—among them the green pear worm—until it dies. It then drags it to a place where it has a hole in the ground, where it puts it, then lays an egg in the worm and covers it up, apparently with a satisfaction that it has done something to perpetuate its kind, as the larvae formed from the egg feeds on the decomposing insect. They prefer to live in a

quiet place, often in the top of a building that is not much frequented by people.

The hornet does the same killing of insects, but it prefers a hollow stalk of a plant in which to put the insect, and deposit its egg. There are different kinds of birds that are great devourers of insects and possess a wonderful instinct for locating them. The woodpecker has the instinct to locate a grub feeding in and under the bark of a tree, and has strength in its bill to drill a hole and get it to eat. It is continually hunting on trees for insects. It likes its home in a dense wooded ravine, where it raises its young in a hole in a tree that it has made with its own bill.

The Creator has provided all these and many other helpful animals, birds, and insects, with a nature of reproduction and to

seek seclusion for their homes. They would be of great benefit if they were protected, instead of often being foolishly killed.

To understand these conditions and try to produce them will give more and regular compensation for the labor and expense bestowed on the producing of fruits, vegetables, grains and flowers.

Apply the principles herein advanced to the care of your orchard, and note results.

THE SCIENCE OF FRUIT GROWING BASED ON NATURE'S LAWS

PART II.

The fruit growing season in the Western New York fruit belt is too short to develop and mature the commercial varieties of fruit now grown in that section. The Newtown Pippin, Peck's Pleasant, Wine Saps, Spitzenbergs and other varieties are finding better climatic conditions in the Virginias, and when grown there they are supplying the markets at a higher price and in a much more satisfactory manner than when grown in their earlier home, Western New York, where the

climatic conditions in an earlier day made them famous.

Everything that can possibly be done should be done to lengthen the growing season, especially the fore part of it.

By plowing the land in the late Fall or Winter and cultivating into the soil a coating of partly decayed stable manure, the bacteria would start in the soil much earlier in the Spring, and when once started it increases very rapidly and spreads throughout the adjoining soil. It starts very slowly in unplowed land and where no stable manure is applied often makes a difference of several days in the condition of growth.

To get the greatest benefit from stable manure, aside from what is necessary to start the bacteria on or near the surface of the ground, it is better to plow it under from five

to eight inches deep. The soil absorbs the different properties in the manure as it decomposes and holds it till the roots of the plants can absorb it. If allowed to decay on the surface many valuable manural properties are carried away by the air, which is a great absorbant.

Covering the land with a thin layer of manure or any vegetable substance is beneficial to growth. It prevents the air from taking the manural substances and moisture from the ground and maintains a more even temperature in the soil. Care should be taken not to apply too much stable manure late in the growing season, as a heavy rain would carry to the roots an over-supply of food at a time when they could not use it and make a matured growth.

The bacteria plays a very essential part in

the growth of plants. There are many kinds of them, some beneficial and others injurious. Each kind exists under conditions adapted to their nature. The kind that works in wet muck or low lands, producing a coarse swamp grass of little value, is not the kind wanted to produce good apples. Apple trees would soon die if forced to grow under these conditions. The elastic nature of plants and animals is such that they can exist for a short time on unnatural food, which when extended too long will show detrimental results.

Different kinds of bacteria, under the right kind of conditions, help to grow different kinds of plants requiring the same conditions for growth, and if their seed is not there they seem to produce these plants spontaneously.

The season of the year controls the great

power of heat and light in the production of new growth and the ripening of the condition that exists at the time, whether fully developed or not, which accounts in part for small size fruit and grain. Every distinct variety of plants or fruit has its season for ripening its seed and stock, after which its growth, if any, is to store life substance for the maintenance of the stock and the starting of another crop of seed. Much depends on the condition of growth when the ripening season strikes it. Judging from a financial standpoint, it determines whether the product will have a high or low value and whether the individual specimens will be large and well matured or small, imperfect and of little value. All that can be done to help furnish Nature's requirements in the proper season for growth, will show results at harvest time.

The respiratory organs located on the body and larger limbs of old trees are not able to serve their purpose, owing to the dead bark covering the surface. This bark should be scraped off in the Spring before the tree starts its growth. Extreme care should be taken not to cut into the green bark under it. This gives the tree a chance for a free respiration throughout the bark, where the organs inhale and exhale air and moisture. The body and large limbs that have been scraped should not be covered with a thick whitewash in the growing season, any more than the leaves should be covered with it. When the body is covered with little twigs the pores are more numerous near the base of the twigs. The development of the respiratory organs is what makes the tree larger in their vicinity, or what is more commonly called "stocky,"

and are more valuable to growth than long, slim limbs. It gives the tree a better circulation of its sap upwards as well as downwards through the body. A clearer conception of the extent and working of the respiratory organs can be obtained by taking a section of the bark, two feet wide by three feet long, from a basswood tree about the longest day of Summer, at which time it peels freely, from the tree, put it in a running brook for four weeks; weight it well, so it will not rise above the water. At the end of the four weeks, the life substance located between the layers of bark is well decayed and there will be eight or ten layers of thin bark that will readily separate from each other and from the outer layers of dead bark. These layers are very porous, the perforations ranging from the size of the point of a pin on the inner bark to $1/16$ of an inch in the outer layers. All tree barks

are similarly constructed, but not so easily examined as the basswood. These pores connect the life of the tree located between the layers of bark and the outside of the tree. There are many thousands to the square inch of bark surface in a young healthy tree.

Many of the old bearing trees under the present system of trimming and culture are barkbound, which causes the elongated cells through which the sap flows to and from the roots, to be contracted or depressed, and this interferes with the free circulation of the sap. This condition can be relieved by cutting perpendicularly through the bark of the body from the roots, to and along large limbs on three or four sides of the tree in June, at which time new wood and bark are commencing to form; the bark, being nearly loose on the tree at that time, can more readily adjust

itself to the expansion which in bad cases would be more than one-fourth of an inch at each cut.

Nothing should be done to the tree or plant that would hinder a regular or progressive growth, or allow any condition to exist that would require a large per cent. of chlorophyll throughout its growing season to be used to eliminate foreign matter, or to reinvigorate the parts that are unfavorably affected from exterior causes. All the chlorophyll so used reduces the amount that would be available for the production of fruit or grain. The debilitating effects of Winter on bearing trees is great, especially if they were not well matured in the previous Fall.

If the amount of needed trimming is so great that it cannot be done at the best season for the good of the tree, it can be done in

late Winter by leaving stubs on the tree from one to two feet long, and cut them off later at the proper time, which will be less injurious to the health of the tree. The frozen sore that is on the end of the stub is not in the main course of the sap's circulation from the roots to the leaves. The bad effects of the poison to be eliminated from it is not so great. It is better to remove the stumps before the circulation of the sap is commenced in the Spring.

Judgment should be used in deciding the depth to plow the orchard. If the previous Summer and Fall were dry, then it will do to plow deep, as the active feeding roots are deep in the ground. If the previous Spring and Summer season was excessively wet, then the active feeding roots are mostly near the surface, and should not be cut off by plowing

too deep. The deeper the land can be plowed consistent with the position of the roots of the trees, the easier it will be to conserve the moisture by cultivation through the dryer part of the growing season.

Spraying with poisons and fungicides are temporarily beneficial to keep fungii and insects off until the fruit can be used. They should not be depended on to take the necessary place of food and care to produce fully developed and mature vitality, any more than we should depend on spraying with insecticides to keep the cows of a good dairy free of insects, when we know by giving them plenty of feed that is adapted to their needs and good care, they are not infected with insects or fungii. No kind of Aphides or lice can live for any length of time by feeding on the leaves of strictly healthy trees or plants,

nor can they live on a well-fed and cared for animal. Fungii grows on a leaf, tree or fruit, only where there is an imperfect and immature condition of growth. The imperfect condition of an apple that has fungii on it can be seen by placing it in the air till it shrivels, then put it in a vacuum where the air can be taken from it, and it will show that the cells covered by the fungii are brought out full again, indicating that that part of the apple which is usually near the blossom end was immatured and could not stand the air pressure when compared with the stem end where there is little or no fungii.

The beautiful colored leaves that we see in the Autumn are the result of an imperfect maturing and deteriorating condition of growth. The most distinct scarlet coloring is produced by taking all the bark off near the roots of a silver maple in late Winter that is

standing near a pond or stream of water, where it has had a chance to produce a perfect growth. By girding the bark at that time of the year there is nothing to make a new bark form. The sap goes up the tree, through the outer layers of wood, and when it returns through the layers of bark, there is a disconnection at the girdled place. The tree not being able to make a perfect growth, which it would have without the girdle, it commences to die, and in the process it develops in the leaf the mineral coloring that is contained in the life substance of the tree. Some trees showing scarlet and crimson leaves that are affected by the drouth, are injuries that are less fatal and under favorable conditions it continues growth the following season, and wholly recovers, or may continue living in a weak condition for a few years before finally dying.

If the respiratory organs with which the bark is completely filled should cease their action from the effects of the first cold nights in the Fall and shut off the return of the sap to the roots, it would produce a similar effect to that produced if the tree was girdled at the roots.

The apple colors very fast if left on the tree after a frost, which is a most drastic stopping of the formation of chlorophyll, without which the chemical coloring in the sap is more apparent. Trees that ripen their fruit in Summer develop its coloring on the fruit as it reaches its ripening stage, in most cases of which it is a deteriorating condition. Much depends on the construction of the individual nature of each variety and the favorable or unfavorable condition under which it exists. Trees and plants whose foliage throughout

their growing season are other than green, are so by primary construction and not so constructed by the process of growth. The most brilliant coloring in the leaf and fruit is produced from the tree or plant that has the highest state of matured vitality in it at the time the ripening process is commencing, and the more rapid will be the change of coloring. A bearing apple tree living under conditions of slow growth, develops the coloring of its fruit much better than a tree that is making a more rapid growth, as it is near the ripening stage most all the time. As an illustration of a checked or stunted condition of growth produced, we will grow a tree by grafting a Baldwin scion on a Northern Spy tree that has been set in the orchard long enough to develop its bearing nature. The Baldwin variety, under the influence of heat, light and moisture, starts its growth in the

Spring about ten days earlier than the Northern Spy, but is not able to do much growing until the Spy is growing enough to feed it. In the meantime the Baldwin has been existing on its stored vitality, the same as a limb cut from a tree with the same results. When the fruit on that kind of a Baldwin tree is about the size of marbles, it is red and in the most cases continues so to be until Fall, and not being sufficiently fed are undersize to what we get by growing the tree on other varieties that start their growth at the same time.

We often see fruits that are checked from climatic causes, when in their earlier growing season, show high coloring from that time till harvested. Once the component parts of vegetable life are chemically separated, they remain so unless by nature it is reinvigorated with chlorophyll.

When the leaf stops making chlorophyll, or if the growing fruit is not able to get perfect chlorophyll, deterioration commences and the chemicals in the sap show their coloring, which is usually yellow. When the fruit in that ripening stage is receiving direct or reflected rays of the sun, it shows red. The late June drop of the red varieties of apples or a partly grown apple that is killed by a worm feeding on its vital parts, turns red in the process of dying. It is of a dingy color, it not having reached a degree of maturity to form perfect chemicals for the bright red coloring.

Nature seems to have a gauge by which it determines the amount of fruit to set from the multitude of blossoms. It seems to be based on the degree of development of each miniature part, judging from the kernels of

corn set from the abundance of silk representing the cob or ear. The kernels on the ear with a few exceptions are without a vacancy from the stock end of the cob as far on it as they are produced. Many other grains show a similarity of setting.

The blossoming feature of everything seems to be well organized. It takes well-matured and real life substance to hold and grow the fruit after it is formed.

The amount of pink coloring in the petals of fruit blossoms, especially the apple, and the length of time it holds it before turning white, represents the degree of matured vitality in the tree. Without the pink coloring in the petals the ability of the tree to hold and grow its fruit till picking time is uncertain. It is an indication of an undeveloped condition in the tree or its vitality has been greatly reduced by the elements of the weather.

The trees in setting their fruit are for the production of seed and are often too numerous to produce the size of pulp that is desired by the consumer. The fruit apparently is set too thick to produce the large specimens desired. They should be thinned, in order to give more nourishment to those that are left for development. In thinning the fruit it is best to use shears that are made for the purpose, as in removing a fruit when young by hand, it often loosens the one adjoining it with bad results. The thinning should be done as early in the season as it becomes apparent that it should be done, as by so doing it will conserve the life substance of the tree to grow what is left. It requires all of a hundred times the mineral substance to grow the seed, core, pit and stem of fruit, that it does to produce the pulp, the development and perfection of which is the grower's desired product.

When a fruit-bearing tree suffers from a Summer drouth, it is caused by the roots not furnishing the necessary moisture and food. It lives on its vitality, and often is reduced till it is not able to complete the growth of its fruit as shown by the weak cells near the blow end. It is not likely to produce fruit the following season, though it may blossom profusely.

Ripening is a condition formed by the stopping of the making of chlorophyll in part or whole and is controlled by the climatic conditions. For example, a red-nosed, white or yellow corn will not develop coloring on the kernels if the making of chlorophyll is suddenly stopped by an electric storm, or frost before it reaches a sufficient development, so that the chemicals forming the sap can separate enough to show their colors.

Other examples are numerous. When in that state they can only be prevented from decaying by evaporating the moisture from them. They being an incomplete organism, are unhealthy for food. If eaten, it has to be eliminated from the system as poison, if not by the organs intended for that work, then by an exodus through the skin, as exemplified by pimples, boils, carbuncles, etc., instead of being an assistance for maintenance. They are on the same order for assimilation as tainted meat, spoiled eggs and partly decayed vegetables, or those whose development was prematurely stopped through blight.

To produce a perfect fruit, vegetable or grain, there should be all the requisite elements in the soil in a soluble state to make a perfect growth. The plant should not be obliged or necessitated to make lime take the

place of potash or other essential ingredients, as it oftentimes is.

It is almost impossible to keep the leaves clear of miniature lice and fungii when grown on imperfect food. Phloxoria, a most dreaded parasitic disease of the grape leaf of long standing in France, was eliminated by applying a liberal amount of potash to the soil. There are other improper ingredients in growth, that if known and corrected would save much spraying and produce a better article of food.

Barring the bad effects of an injurious climatic condition, fruit-bearing trees ought to bear a fair size crop of perfect fruit every year if the tree is given proper care and nourishment and the fruit thinned sufficiently to enable the tree to develop the fruit without its exhaustion below a normal growing condi-

tion. This can be done without the use of fungii sprays or poison except in a few cases, and those only till we can learn how to combat them with nature's agencies and put them in operation.

Many fruit trees would be more profitable if they were grafted to other varieties which can be done any time in the Spring after the heavy freezing weather has passed, till the leaves are half grown in size. The best time to do it is just before the buds start on the tree, as it would soon be ready to furnish sap for its growth. About one-half of the large limbs should be grafted each year, leaving one year between the grafting. This will leave enough leaves to make the necessary amount of chlorophyll to keep the tree in a normal condition of growth. After the second grafting has made one year's growth all

the remaining ungrafted limbs can be removed. The scions should be cut from bearing trees in the Fall after the leaves on them have fallen and before there is hard freezing weather. The scions should be put in a separate tight box, packed in hay, straw, waste or sawdust, and put in a cool place where they will not freeze, till used. The middle third of the scion is the best to use. There is so much sap passing over the first third of the scion from the tree end, the buds do not fully develop; if used they are so slow in starting to grow that they do not prove satisfactory. The last third of the scion in the most of varieties are not fully matured and are more likely to dry up when grafted before they can receive nourishment from the tree. The stub should be grafted as soon as the limb is cut off, the end of the limb and the crack on the sides of the limb that was made by the split-

ting of the limb, in order to insert the scion, should be covered with wax and at least four inches below where you can see the crack, as the bark often dries and shows the crack extended below what is apparent. The waxing should be done to keep the air out. A little wax put on the end of the scion will keep it from drying. The scion should be cut wedge shape for at least one inch, with two buds on it. When set firmly in the crack made by splitting the end of the limb, the inner part of the bark of both the scion and limb should come together, to make sure the scion can be set a little crossing the two inner barks. The grafting should be done in a mild day, so the wax will work freely. Use no grease but tallow to put on your hands, to keep the wax from sticking to them, and not any more grease than is necessary, as it requires but little to kill a scion. To prevent the wind

from breaking out the scion where it grows too fast the first Summer, it can be kept cut back to twelve to eighteen inches in length. The wax is made by boiling for five minutes after it is melted over a slow fire in a kettle that holds at least five times the amount of the following ingredients. Four pounds of rosin, two pounds of beeswax and one-half pint of boiled linseed oil. Stir it well and see it does not boil over; if inclined to, remove it from the fire for a minute or two, and then replace. When done pour it in a tub containing fifty times the amount of water to cool it, and then pull it as you would in making candy, for five minutes, and leave it in chunks the size of a ball. When wanted to use put it in warm water till it is soft.

The quince is one of the most profitable fruits grown and is one of the most neglected.

It being a bush, its roots live near the surface of the ground. Its nature requires a very even degree of moisture throughout the growing season. It cannot stand excessive wet or dry conditions as well as fruit trees. If the quince bush fails to receive the necessary amount of moisture for the growing and maturing of its fruit at the last of the fruit-growing season, the fruit cells will break down, which makes a fine place for fungi to grow. In some cases the condition is so bad that the fruit is worthless. Light showers or dews prepare the skin over the broken cells of fruit to receive the fungii more readily. The cracking open of fruit is the result of a rapid growth following a stunted condition. The orchard should be cultivated often and shallow, and not allow weeds or a cover crop to take the moisture at the critical time of its development. These are some of the condi-

tions when it is advisable to sow salt or cover the ground with a thick covering of hay, straw or any coarse mulching, to keep the air and sun from evaporating the moisture. The bush should be grown as a bush, and not with any length of body. It needs a little thinning out from the inside, otherwise it will adjust itself to conditions. It does best on rich soil. The bush does not have visible fruit buds, but grows one-half inch or more in the Spring before it blossoms. It depends on the amount of the matured vitality in the limb to set and hold its fruit. Like peaches and some other trees, it is often infected with borers, a little grub that lives on the inside of the tree. They are hatched from an egg that is laid in the bark near the ground by a fly that is easily caught by toads. The grubs are best dug out of the tree by using a quarter inch gauge chisel, starting at the hole leading to the grub

that is apparent from the fine borings, and chisel out the bark by following the burrows left by the grub till it is found. Nature will soon heal the chiseled opening.

The fruit of the strawberry consists of a little pulp, a thin skin well filled with a highly flavored juice or water. When the plant fails to furnish the fruit with the necessary moisture for its development, the skin stops filling, leaving the berry of small size. A good way to aid the plant to get the necessary moisture is to plant the rows at least five feet apart and cultivate the ground as often as it is necessary to keep the land moist or mulch with litter and irrigate. The plant is a free feeder and does its best growing, in a comparatively few days, in the early part of the growing season.

The pulp of fruit consists of a combination

of organisms that require a sufficient amount of fresh air to aid it in the completion of its cycle of life from the time it is picked till it reaches a decayed state, at which time it does not furnish nourishment to the animal system.

If fruit is picked when the temperature is above the normal and put in a close package in that condition, and stored in a close, unventilated room for any length of time, the cells of the fruit will commence to collapse, and will soon show it, in some varieties, in the form that is called scald, on the outside while it is ripening the fruit through its whole.

If fruit must be packed when it is hot, it should be put where the heat will be taken out as soon as possible, and kept with as little fluctuation of temperature as possible. A stream of water flowing through the room

where the fruit is kept adds materially to its keeping quality, as shown in its firmness and flavor.

When the fruit is taken from the cold storage, its temperature should be raised gradually, to the height in which it is expected to be kept until used. Fruit that is frozen should be treated in the same way, to prevent it from showing its disastrous effect immediately. The warm, moist atmosphere of Spring has an ideal process of extracting frost from everything with as little loss of life as possible.

Trees, especially peach trees, should not be excessively cut back for the purpose of forcing a growth of a large sized fruit. It does not give a tree a chance to fully develop all its constructive parts. Under that condition it more readily succumbs to extreme

climatic conditions and dies at an early age, and is more likely to be infected with insects and diseases.

The leaves, which constitute the manufacturing power of life, should be increased in numbers instead of decreased on every bearing tree and plant, that their combined work can produce more matured vitality in the short season of growth.

A little study on these lines will lead one to see where more leaves can be grown on a tree, and at the same time not interfere with the light and air striking the leaves located near where the fruit is growing.

Nature has provided for leaves to die when they get too thick, and shaded too much to be useful for growth. In this let nature have its way, at least on the leaves growing on the limbs and body near the ground.

A well enriched clay loam of good depth, underlaid with porous red clay with some little gravel stones mixed in it, seems to be the strongest and best soil for the growth of all kinds of trees and plants; especially in flowers where bright colors are desired, the potash and iron that is more plentiful in such soil, form the basis of the colors in flowers and fruits. It is easier to keep the trees and plants in a continuous growth than in other soils. It is very clearly demonstrated in the blossoming of Hybrid Perpetual Roses, which require a strong continuous growth for a continuous blossom of large bright colored roses. Fruits and flowers grown on such soil have a solidity that adds materially to their keeping quality.

Home decoration and landscape attraction is becoming more appreciated than in former years, as there are many more who can have

what was formerly reserved for the rich. In cultivating a taste for the best effect everything should be arranged so it will appear, on sight, to be just as it should be by nature. The house, located with reference to the road and other permanent improvements. The walks, leading from the house to the road or drive, where they would be most accessible for the greatest number likely to use them.

In locating the large growing trees which are likely to be the longest standing, make full allowance for the space they will occupy when full grown, whether they are set for beauty or shade, or their combination. Other space that would seem to be more attractive or restful to the eye, can be planted to smaller growing trees or shrubbery.

The selfish feature has so disappeared that the planting of hedges to keep the home

isolated, or protected from mischievous people, has been largely done away with.

The lawns extended to the edge of the path, with beds containing attractive flowers a little way inside of the border, is too often to be admired, without little urchins playing on the lawn, that give the home its best effect.

The back yard, depending on its size, should be planted to vegetables and summer ripening fruits as they, by all means, want to be used when freshly picked. The largest trees should be located first, where, when grown, the limbs or shade of them will not extend over the line of the lot, other trees of smaller growing size should be located next, and then the berries and other small fruits. If the space is limited, grape vines can be used for covering screens and allowed to grow as high as is consistent with looks.

The walks should extend around the garden and within a short distance of the fence or outside. The walk should be at least five feet wide, so that two persons can walk abreast and not be disturbed by the vegetables or berries growing near it. A liberal supply of flowering plants that are suitable for bouquets, will contribute oftentimes, to pleasant thoughts and admiration.

The liberal planting of Perennials make the garden look homelike and substantial.

Also the planting of crocuses, tulips and hyacinths, intermingled with the lily of the valley, planted near the walk, most frequented in early spring, will represent a feeling of good cheer with the advent of Spring in strong contrast of Winter. The sweet English violets having been previously admired as the promise of their coming.

In laying out a public park, the first thought should be to have all of its entrances extending an invitation for everyone to enter, and enjoy its pleasant features.

If the park is large, its drives should be laid out, first in conformity with whatever the permanent interesting features there may be, and what is contemplated to be constructed. The entertaining features should be divided into two or more places. Those intended for children should be located where it is the easiest reached, that they may visit them often. Those intended more for grown people can be located further away, and in such places as will make the whole park interesting. The drives and paths should be wide, and graded to conform with the surroundings. They should be constructed with a tile drain in their center, laid at a depth of four or five feet, with frequent side outlets to let

the water off. The ditch should be filled with one foot of coarse gravel, and above that with small size stones to the top, making a well drained bed to build the road on, whether of dirt, concrete or asphalt. The making of a dry road bed is the primary feature of making a road for durability, and will be used more extensively when people have learned its value. In putting the drain under the center of the road, it is not as likely to freeze as when put on either side, and is always ready to care for any water that comes to it. The deeper it is made and the longer it stands, the wider space and better it will drain.

In planting the larger growing trees, care should be taken to place them where they will not have to be removed. Never nearer than twelve feet of a drive, or six feet from a walk, if space will permit.

There should be sun drives and walks, and shade drives and walks. In laying out the drives and walks, allowance should be made for their being made wider, when the use of the park is more fully developed. Trees planted in groups, forming little groves, are very desirable. Bright color flowering or foliage shrubs planted in masses are more attracting than mixed varieties.

Unpleasant surroundings are better screened with mixed trees and shrubbery, than by hedges. Hedges, like fences, represent a restricted area which should not exist in an Americanized park.

The gymnasium feature of the park should be located on high and dry ground, and where the purest and best air can be had, as when growing children are exercising, they inhale more air, and it should be of the

best. The trapeze, swings and other features should be sufficiently varied to use every muscle in the using of them and to fit the taste and enjoyment of as many as practical.

The birds and animals on exhibition should be of an elevating nature instead of demoralizing, as they oftentimes are.

There should be plenty of drinking places with the best of water, and places of necessity, not only sanitary, but respectfully kept.

To have a cultivated plot where each individual class or school can have a vegetable and flower garden, is good to teach and encourage the human mind to have an interest in the earth's surface, and what and how things grow on it. Later it will inspire the desire to have a home of their own, the possession of which is a strong feature in nature, to become reliable, satisfied and interested in

their good and the good of all others, which is well named Americanism.

Smaller parks can be laid out on these lines so contracted as to fit the size of the plot.

The fuel problem can, and will be solved, by the planting and growing of trees to be used for heating and other purposes. The Norway maple for the Northern states, and the Sycamore for the Southern states, have the lead over other varieties in hardiness, rapidity of growth, with comparative value for fuel and lumber purposes. Others are close seconds with specific values, such as catalpa and locus for posts and railroad ties, lindens, walnuts, ashes and pines for lumber. All of which can be grown in connection with other crops with great profit. By sowing their seed on a well prepared ground,

the same as is used for wheat in the Fall, as soon as they can be secured after they are ripe, in rows four feet apart, with plenty of room at the ends for a horse and cultivator to turn on. The furrows for the seed to be sown in should be one-half inch deep, and four inches wide. Scatter the seed in it at the rate of about twenty-five seed to the lineal foot, and cover evenly with one-half inch of dirt. Care should be taken to see that the land does not crust in the spring, as such seed have but little lifting power when starting to grow in the Spring. In their wild state they are most always found starting under a light mould or leaves. The crust, if starting to form, can be broken by raking lightly as often as it starts, or covered with one-half inch of fine sand, and watered freely. The soil should be cultivated, hoed, and freed of weeds, the same as corn is cared for. When the seedlings have

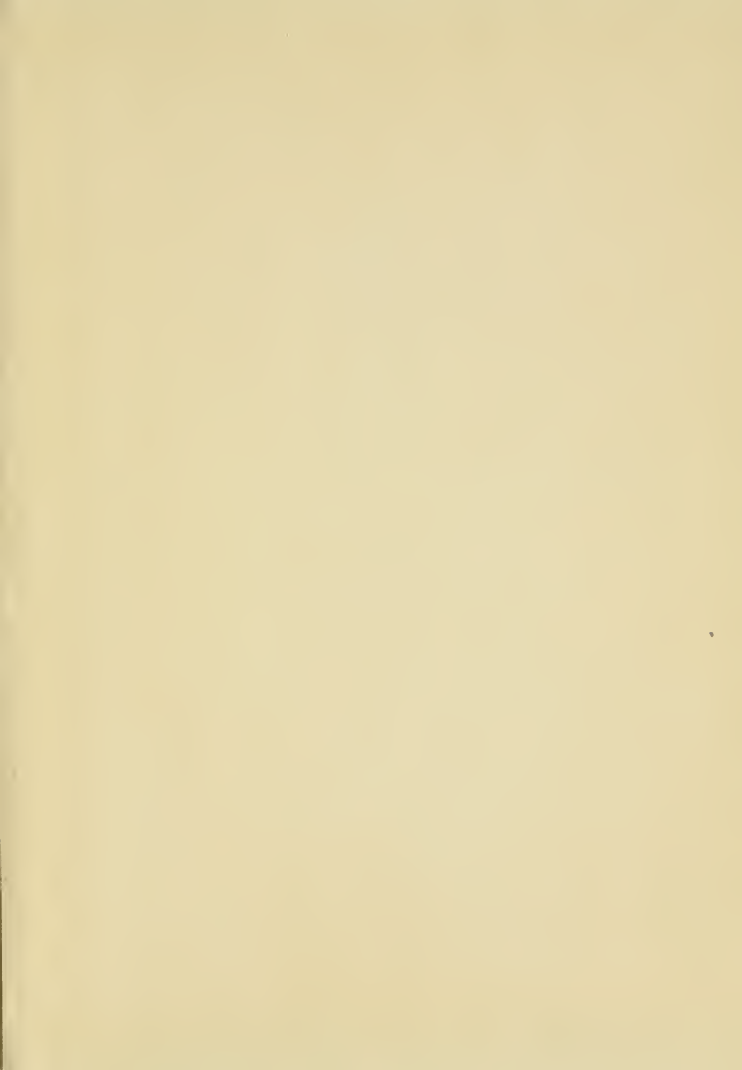
matured their growth, they should be dug in the Fall or the following Spring, and the center root cut off, leaving the root from eight to ten inches long, and all the side roots should be cut off to within one-eighth of an inch of the main root; this is for the purpose of preventing any roots being bent when set, as they often prove to be injurious in later years.

In planting them for the forest, first plow and fit the land the same as for corn, mark it out both ways, ten feet apart. Plant the trees with a dibble, be sure that you fasten the bottom of the root tight, and fill up the holes made by the dibble so the ground will not dry to injure the root. Put no manure or water near the plant when setting. Plant the field with hoed crops, and treat the trees the same as the crops till the trees get large enough to render the cropping unprofitable. The only

trimming needed or allowable on the trees is to see that there is only one limb a growing in the center. When the lower limbs commence to die from the effects of their shade, cut out every other row diagonally, or as fast as it seems best for the good of the remaining trees. In planting do not mix nut bearing trees with seed bearing trees, as they are poisonous to them.

The most of forest trees and especially the black walnut, butternut and hickory are poisoning to fruit-bearing trees, and when standing too near them will kill them in time. The fruit-bearing trees show their effects by growing leaning away from them and the leaves show a weakness, indicating that the poison comes from the leaves as well as their roots. All leaves have a nature to repel each other. The stronger leaves absorb the vitality and take the place of the weaker ones.

In heating your house with a furnace do not depend on it to force the hot air into the room that is already filled with air to heat it. Let the cold air, which is the heaviest, have a chance to pass out through a register located in or near the floor, and connected with a pipe leading to the bottom of the furnace, forming a vacuum in the room to be readily replaced with hot air from the furnace forming a circulation. The cold air from the room becomes lighter as it is warmed by the furnace. It is much less work to ventilate the house by opening the doors or windows, than it is to produce twice the necessary fuel needed to heat by induction, than it requires to heat by the circulation of air. Air, like water, when kept in motion, is much purer than when at rest or nearly so.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



00009170856

