

The Renovation of the Orchards.

By A. G. TURNER, PROVINCIAL HORTICULTURIST.

Is my old orchard worth renovating is a question uppermost in the minds of many farmers to-day. In reply I would say that if the trees are not more than thirty five years of age, have not been allowed to develop all their bearing wood too high up, and are not too badly broken through disease and neglect, the task of putting them into a profitable condition is comparatively simple. Undoubtedly there are some orchards in the Province which, although they have never received any care, being covered with moss and lichen, are yet strong, thrifty and in a condition to yield handsome returns to proper treatment. To renovate such orchards proceed as follows:—

1. Remove all dead and broken limbs, taking care to leave as neat and short stubs as possible. Prune, but not too heavily at first, removing enough limbs to admit the entrance of sunshine and circulation of air to the centre of the tree. Work as far as possible from the outside of the tree. This work may be done in March, or the first two weeks in April. Do not attempt to take out all the wood that should be removed in one year, but content yourself with removing one-half the first year, and completing the thinning out operation the second spring. Coat all large stubs and wounds with a heavy white lead paint to which has been added enough green paint to color it.

2. The trunks and main limbs of neglected trees will be covered with shaggy bark moss and lichen, which furnish a beautiful winter home for insects and spores of fungous diseases. To remove these, the trees should be well scraped. A short handle fitted with a small hoe, or better still, into a small triangular shaped hoe, makes a very efficient implement for the work. Spraying will be made much more effective when the trunk and main limbs of the trees have been rid of their rough covering and the surplus limbs removed.

3. Spraying must be systematically and thoroughly undertaken. It would be well to spray first before the growth starts, using the following solution: Concentrated Lye 1 lb, lime 30 lbs, water 40 gallons. Slack the lime, make up to 40 gallons with water, and then add the lye, straining through a fine mesh before using. This solution will successfully combat the Oyster Shell Scale, and help to remove old bark, moss and lichen. Succeeding spraying with Bordeaux mixture and an insecticide should be applied as per spraying instructions given below. Thorough and systematic sprayings kept up for a few years will overcome the results of neglect.

4. In many old neglected orchards the soil is very poor and run down, having been depleted of much of its plant food. We must endeavor to build up the fertility of the soil. There is nothing better for that purpose than well rooted barnyard manure. Apply a good top dressing in the spring, and turn under shallow. If the soil is not too thick and tough, it might be worked up with a disc harrow instead of ploughing.

5. Improve the physical condition of the soil by the adoption of cultivation, wherever possible. After the ground has been ploughed in the spring as above recommended, keep cultivated until the first week in July, and then seed down with a leguminous clover crop—if crimson or red clover is used from 12 to 15 lbs. per acre. This should give a good stand by the fall of the year, check the green growth, ripen up the wood, and help to hold the snow through the winter. It should be ploughed under in the spring, serving as a green manure crop to improve the physical and fertility conditions of the soil. This completes the first season's operations. Repeat next year with modified pruning.

The first season's work will result in increased vigor of the trees, clearer, but probably not more fruit. The second season the fruit will show a decided improvement over that of the first year, and in the third year, but not until then, you may expect the orchard to be in good condition and to bear heavily.

Remember the results cannot be accomplished in one year only but there will be improvement each year, if you do the work thoroughly. The treatment outlined above has never failed to bring satisfactory results where properly applied. It is useless to undertake this work unless you are prepared to exercise care, patience, and thoroughness in all the operations.

The March Rod and Gun.

Snow Trails, a story of a professional man spending some weeks trapping with an Indian in the Canadian backwoods, is the leading feature of the March issue of Rod and Gun in Canada, published by W. J. Taylor, Woodstock, Ont., and one that no sportsman should miss. Stories galore have been written of experiences in the backwoods in summer and fall, but not too many genuine instances of personal experiences by outsiders, in the woods in winter have been given to the world. Mr. Auer's narrative is full of interest and demonstrates the health and pleasure to be obtained from a visit to the winter woods. To penetrate too far is, as the author says, only for the strong, but there are few cases which would not be benefited from following the author's advice and example. The time may come when winters will only rank second in numbers to those enjoying summer outings. The difficulties of prospecting trips in Northern British Columbia are well brought out in the story of a Wild Goose Chase by Mr. F. Bullock Webster. The experiences gained by fire ranging for two summers in the Metagami Forest Reserve are told in an interesting style by Mr. H. W. Lyons. These are supplemented by a full list of contents, dealing with big game hunting, woodcock shooting, fishing, protective work, mountaineering, and kindred subjects, the whole bringing with it the whiffs of the woodland in very full measure and largely accounting for the wide spread influence the magazine has gained amongst sportsmen on both sides of the border.

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Harry W. Forest

Do farmers eat the proper sort of food?

The farmer of today buys a much larger proportion of the food that goes on the table than he did ten years ago. It's a good thing that this is so because he has a great variety to select from.

He should, however, use great care in selecting for the best results in health and strength.

The widespread tendency in the city to increase the amount of Quaker Oats eaten is due very largely to the recent demonstrations by scientific men that the Quaker Oats fed man is the man with greatest physical endurance and greatest mental vigor.

Farmers should give this subject careful thought and should increase the quantity of Quaker Oats eaten by themselves, their children and the farm hands.

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