

MATURE TREES NEED SPECIAL PRUNING

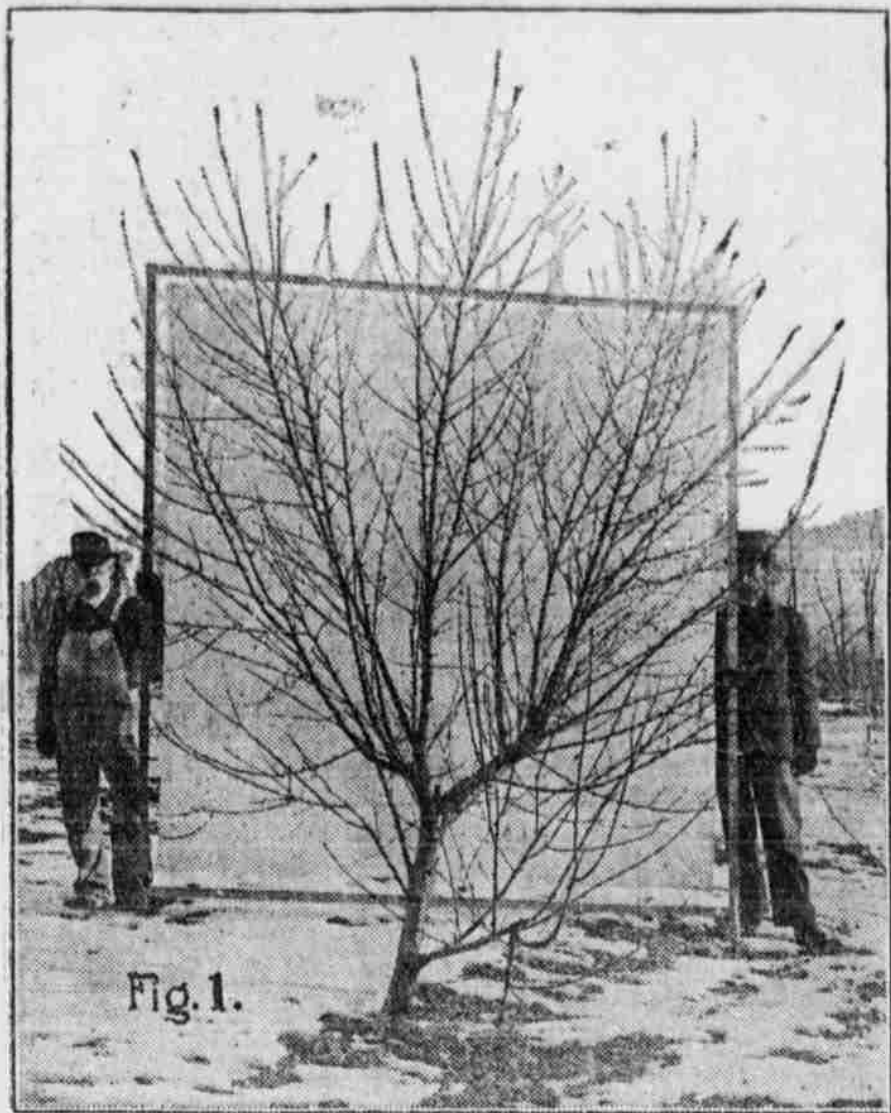


Fig. 1.

Fig. 1—Eight-Year-Old Peach Tree Before Pruning.

After a peach tree reaches bearing age, the fundamental principles underlying pruning are based on the fact that the fruit is always borne on wood that grew the previous season. It is, therefore, essential so to manage the trees as to induce a fairly liberal growth each season.

As a general proposition, very heavy pruning will induce a correspondingly large amount of new wood growth. It follows that the weaker growing varieties should be pruned more heavily, relatively, than the very strong-growing sorts.

By the time peach trees reach three to four years old they should be bearing good crops of fruit. After this, they will make a smaller annual growth under usual conditions than during the earlier years. Less heading in is therefore required. In some seasons it may not be necessary to cut back the terminal growth, though to do so will tend, as a rule, to develop the smaller secondary and side branches, which is desirable. Again, the extent of the heading back will be governed in some seasons by the abundance and condition of the fruit buds. If there has been winter injury or if the buds failed to form well the previous season, little or no reduction of the previous season's growth will be needed. On the other hand, if the trees made a strong growth, an abundant set of fruit buds developed, and they have suffered no injury, a corresponding heavy cutting back of the previous season's growth may be advisable, in order to thin the fruit as much as is possible by that means.

Some of the details of pruning mature peach trees are suggested in Figs. 1 and 2, which show a tree eight years old before and after it received the annual pruning to make it shapefully, remove superfluous wood, and provide for the development of new growth. While the tree illustrated is far from being ideal, as it had not been well handled in previous years, it shows certain important features. The heading back of the main limbs will tend to prevent them from becoming "leggy," and it will induce a good strong growth of new fruit-bearing wood well within the center of the tree. It may require some thinning out at the next annual pruning to prevent the top from becoming too dense. Probably more wood of the

previous season's growth should have been left than is shown in Fig. 2, as there appears to be only a small amount of surface on which fruit can be produced the following season; but apparently the tree has been put in fairly good condition with regard to its later usefulness.

Heading in a tree from year to year as suggested and pruning with a view to producing an open, spreading, low top results not only in the development of strong, stocky limbs well able to sustain heavy loads of fruit, but it brings a large proportion of the top near the ground, where much of the fruit can be harvested without the use of stepladders.

Before an architect begins to draw the plans for a building he must have a mental picture of the completed structure, at least so far as the main features are concerned. He must know what details are necessary at every step, as he develops the plans, in order to produce the desired results. Not unlike this, the man who prunes a fruit tree during its first years must have a pretty clear conception of what the tree is to look like when it reaches maturity, and he needs to know from the beginning what is necessary each time it is pruned in order to develop the tree which forms his mental vision. Of course, such a picture can develop fully only with experience and as one becomes familiar with the characteristics of growth, habit and behavior of the different varieties. At the same time a well-formulated plan, based on a knowledge of the underlying principles of pruning, is essential if the operation is to be anything more than a haphazard removal of branches that appear to be in the way.

The United States department of agriculture, Washington, D. C., will send interested fruit growers, free of charge, its Farmers' Bulletin (No. 632) on "Growing Peaches," which gives in detail much information on the pruning of trees, renewal of tops, thinning, interplanted crops, and special practices.

Hasten Germination.

Asparagus seeds are slow to germinate, often requiring several weeks. Germination may be hastened by soaking in warm water for a day or two before planting.

ROAD BUILDING

POOR ROADS ARE EXPENSIVE

More Fuss Over Freight Rates Than Cost of Hauling Crops From Farm to Railroad.

A good deal of fuss is raised over freight rates, and everybody who has anything to do with the transportation of crops or merchandise is up in arms the moment railroads give the least intimation that freight rates are to be advanced. But at the same time, there is a strong tendency to give no attention to the cost of hauling farm crops from their point of origin on the farm to the railroad station; a matter of greater concern than all the railroad rates in the world, says Fruit Grower and Farmer.

Uncle Sam has found that it costs in the neighborhood of 25 cents a mile to haul a ton over the average country road. But this cost may run up to ten times this figure over bad roads, and be reduced as many times over good roads with modern vehicles. This cost is something that is rarely ever figured in by the producer when summing up his marketing expense, even though it will frequently make a figure that is not much less than the cost of getting his produce to the distant market by rail.

Good roads are expensive to build and are more or less of an expense to maintain, but if it were possible to compare the lowered cost of transporting the farm produce over the road before and after improvement it would be found that the cost was paid back with interest within a very few years after improvement. Low grades are of first consideration, for it costs more money to haul over a hilly road than over a level one, where the surface is the same. But on almost any road, it is easily possible to have at least a smooth surface on which to drive.

The King drag is the implement that will make the surface smooth and keep it smooth. And the wonder of it is that more farms do not have a drag as an essential part of their equipment. Road dragging time is just coming with the breaking up of the snow, and its usual accompaniment of mud. Heavy traffic over such roads makes ruts and bad roads of the worst sort, unless the ruts are filled by dragging. Prepare now to keep your road dragged this year, and lower the cost of hauling your produce to market.

Remember, also, that wide-tired wagons pull more easily than narrow-tired ones 90 per cent of the times



Example of Mountain Road Building in Colorado.

when they are used. The wide tire does not cut so deep and makes a better track on roads which are traveled while the ground is soft. The wide tire packs the surface into a firm road-bed, and thus enables it to drain well in time of rain.

In cornfields, plowed fields, field lanes, and on pasture and alfalfa lands, the draft on the wide tire is considerably less, no matter what the condition of the soil. The wide tire does not cut up the meadow or field as does the narrow tire. This is also important, as a smooth surface in the meadow is much easier to mow over.

Use no tire less than four inches on your fields or on soft roads; make a King road drag and use it. Thus lower your own freight rates by lowering your hauling costs.

Keep Weeds Away.

Weeds must be kept several feet from the wheeltrack else they will draw the moisture from the roadbed and thus loosen it, this is especially true in regions of moderate rainfall.

Your Roads.

How about that road in front of your farm? Did you get out with a split log and smooth it down at the right time? Did you fill up the low places? Take a little self-pride in the road that runs in front of your farm and see that it is in good shape, for yourself and your neighbor.

Road-Building Habit.

The road-building habit is confined to no one locality. It has a foothold in 48 states. All classes take to it.

NEWS and GOSSIP OF WASHINGTON



Uncle Sam to Send Toys to the Eskimo Children

WASHINGTON—Uncle Sam, a generous father to the children under his official care, is preparing to feed, clothe and provide proper shelter for the native colony on the seal reserve of the Pribilof Islands. He will need a vast and varied assortment of supplies.



Bids have been asked for, and the specifications show that the government requires everything from box kites and comic masks for the youngsters in the reserves to arms and ammunition, boots and shoes, furniture and carpets, groceries, hay and grain, paints, oils and glass, clothing, lumber, tools and implements and other supplies and articles of general merchandise, such as would be used by a community of from two hundred to three hundred persons. The supplies are to last the long winter through for the officials and natives on the reserve. The specifications in their unromantic way give one item as follows:

"Paper, festooning, suitable for Christmas decorating, in pieces of about thirty feet each, three dozen pieces."

When the government clerk in Washington wrote this specification, perhaps it occurred to him that Uncle Sam had time in the mundane rush of providing food for his charges to think of their holiday and recreational needs as well.

"Baseballs, horsehide cover, rubber center." So runs a line in the schedule of supplies.

Little Eskimo kids in the frozen Northland are to have the opportunity of every American lad to learn to play baseball.

Forty-eight Ingots watches are to be supplied. Among the grocery items is one for 300 pounds of candy, American mixed, in palls. As a luxury there will be in addition 24 pounds of first-grade candy, assorted.

Among the canned goods and grocery luxuries are such items as muscat grapes, Bahama pineapples, asparagus, strawberries, jelly, almonds, olives, salad oil and other food articles to serve as dessert or dress the table on state occasions.

There are tam-o-shanters for the girls, ribbon and side and back combs. To satisfy male tastes, the government has called for bids for 5,000 domestic cigars, 1,000 Habana cigars, ten boxes of cigarette paper and many hundreds of pounds of smoking tobacco.

Washington Man Harvests Old Shells on His Farm

WHEN John Martin acquired his large, peaceful-looking farm near Giesboro point he little suspected that the terrors of war would have him sitting up at nights through sheer anxiety. Martin, a Washington newspaper man, had always supposed that war was war and peace was peace—but now he knows differently. For he has harvested three-quarters of a ton of unexploded shells dating back to 1865 and he hasn't the faintest idea what he is going to do with them.



The shells, some spherical and some cylindrical, had been resting quietly in the mud of the Anacostia river and were hauled out when the river bottom was used to reclaim portions of the flats. Soon after the plowing began one of the colored men found a bomb about half the size of a man's head. He approached Martin, lightly juggling his discovery.

"Boss," he said, "what does it do wid dis?" Martin took one careful look and turned very pale. The cap of the ancient missile was in place. One good jolt and almost anything might happen.

"You take that far, far away," ordered Martin. "Take it to the remotest section of the field and set it down carefully."

On other portions of the field similar unwelcome discoveries were made. Nor was this all. The plowshares turned up projectiles of modern appearance and evidently in the best of health. All of these were heaped up in a pile about the size of a flat-topped desk.

Museum Teaches Human Side of American History

A RECENT report on the United States National museum gives an account of the origin and development of the division of history which will appeal to every American. The division was originally organized to illustrate the history of the United States from colonial times, by exhibiting such relics and memorials of noteworthy personages and events, and domestic life of the country, as could be brought together into groups of objects representing the different periods. One striking feature in this connection, which has been added during the past year, is the unique American period costume collection of nineteen dresses belonging to the successive hostesses of the White



House from the time of Martha Washington to that of a recent administration. These costumes are so exhibited on lay figures as to bring out the full effects of the gowns, although no effort has been made to reproduce the faces of the individuals. Several other dresses and a great number of accessories of apparel, including shawls, shoes, hats and bonnets, gloves, handkerchiefs, combs, fans, and jewelry are also on display.

Among the costumes and uniforms of American men shown are a uniform and dress suit of George Washington, a court suit of Gen. Thomas Pinckney, the court dress and other attire of James Monroe, and the uniform coat of Gen. Andrew Jackson, worn at the battle of New Orleans.

Doric Column as Sample of the Lincoln Memorial

A DORIC column of pure white marble, forty-four feet in height and about seven feet in diameter, rises on the north side of the central terrace of the plateau forming the foundation of the \$2,000,000 marble memorial to President Lincoln in West Potomac park.



It was erected by the contractors for the superstructure mainly to demonstrate the beauty and effect of Colorado Yule marble, the stone of which the memorial is to be constructed. It has been greatly admired by all who have seen it, including the officials of the government supervising the work of construction and the many thousands of people who drive or walk through the park. One of the features of the memorial, as designed by Henry Bacon, is a colonnade surrounding the walls of Memorial hall, containing a statue of Lincoln of heroic size. That colonnade will consist of 26 Doric columns, symbolizing the Union of 1865, each column representing a state existing at the time of Lincoln's death. There will be nine columns on each side. The experimental column now standing gives an idea of their composition, size and general appearance. Its 44 feet of height is made up of 11 drums, each four feet thick, and joined to give the effect of a monolith. Having served its purpose as an exhibit, it is to be taken down to permit of the construction of the walls of the Memorial hall standing within the proposed colonnade.

WOOL GROWING IN CANADA A SUCCESS

This By-Product of the Farm Will Make Many Western Canada Farmers Rich.

Alberta wool growers are looking for 25 cent wool this year. That is the assertion made by a prominent sheepman of the Grassy Lake district. "It is quite within the pale of possibility that we will receive that figure from our wool this summer," said he, "and I would not be surprised to see some get more than that."

"The war has caused a great demand to be made on the woolen mills, and they have got to have the raw material."

The present season has been most propitious for the growing of wool, and the growers expect to reap a big harvest of a splendid quality. The winter has been very even, and the sheep are doing well on the ranges.

No special breed of sheep is kept on Western Canada farms, and all seem to do well. The advice of those interested in the welfare of the farmers of Western Canada, advise all who can at all do so to enter upon the raising of sheep. They have proved most profitable to those who go into that industry on a scale commensurate with their means, and their farm area.

The climate is perfectly adapted to the raising of sheep, they are easily kept, and as pointed out, there is good money to be made out of them.—Advertisement.

Odd.

"What caused the coolness between you and Jones?"
"A heated argument."

Important to Mothers

Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, a safe and sure remedy for infants and children, and see that it bears the

Signature of *Dr. J. C. Fletcher* in Use For Over 30 Years. Children Cry for Fletcher's Castoria

Stitch! Stitch!

"I have just read an interesting article about the sewers of Paris," said hubby, closing the book on his thumb.

"Yes," replied wife, "they're busy night and day making shirts for soldiers."

Couldn't Tell.

"Why did you help the defendant in the fight, if that's the case?" asked the examining counsel.

Mr. Cassidy looked at the lawyer with contempt, and answered in a tone of blighting scorn: "For the reason that at that time I had no means of knowing which o' thim would be the defendant."

A Quibble.

John B. Stanchfield, the lawyer, was discussing in an interview in New York the case of his client, Harry Thaw.

"But objections like that," said Mr. Stanchfield, "are mere quibbles. They have no real bearing on the case. Like the farmer's wife, they only confuse and embroil matters."

"A sickly farmer said to his husky wife one spring morning:

"I see by the papers that a woman down Paint Rock way goes out every morning and hoes with her husband."
"Well, what of it?" the wife answered. "She could do it easily enough if he's as thin as you are. I've often thought of using you to peel potatoes with."

INSOMNIA

Leads to Madness, if Not Remedied.

"Experiments satisfied me, some 5 years ago," writes a Topeka woman, "that coffee was the direct cause of the insomnia from which I suffered terribly, as well as extreme nervousness and acute dyspepsia."

"I had been a coffee drinker since childhood, and did not like to think that the beverage was doing me all this harm. But it was, and the time came when I had to face the fact, and protect myself. I therefore gave up coffee abruptly and absolutely, and adopted Postum for my hot drink at meals."

"I began to note improvement in my condition very soon after I took on Postum. The change proceeded gradually, but surely, and it was a matter of only a few weeks before I found myself entirely relieved—the nervousness passed away, my digestive apparatus was restored to normal efficiency, and I began to sleep restfully and peacefully."

"These happy conditions have continued during all of the 5 years, and I am safe in saying that I owe them entirely to Postum, for when I began to drink it I ceased to use medicines."

Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. Read "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs.

Postum comes in two forms: Postum Cereal—the original form—must be well boiled, 15c and 25c packages.

Instant Postum—a soluble powder—dissolves quickly in a cup of hot water, and, with cream and sugar, makes a delicious beverage instantly. 30c and 50c tins.

Both kinds are equally delicious and cost about the same per cup.

"There's a Reason" for Postum.

—sold by Grocers.

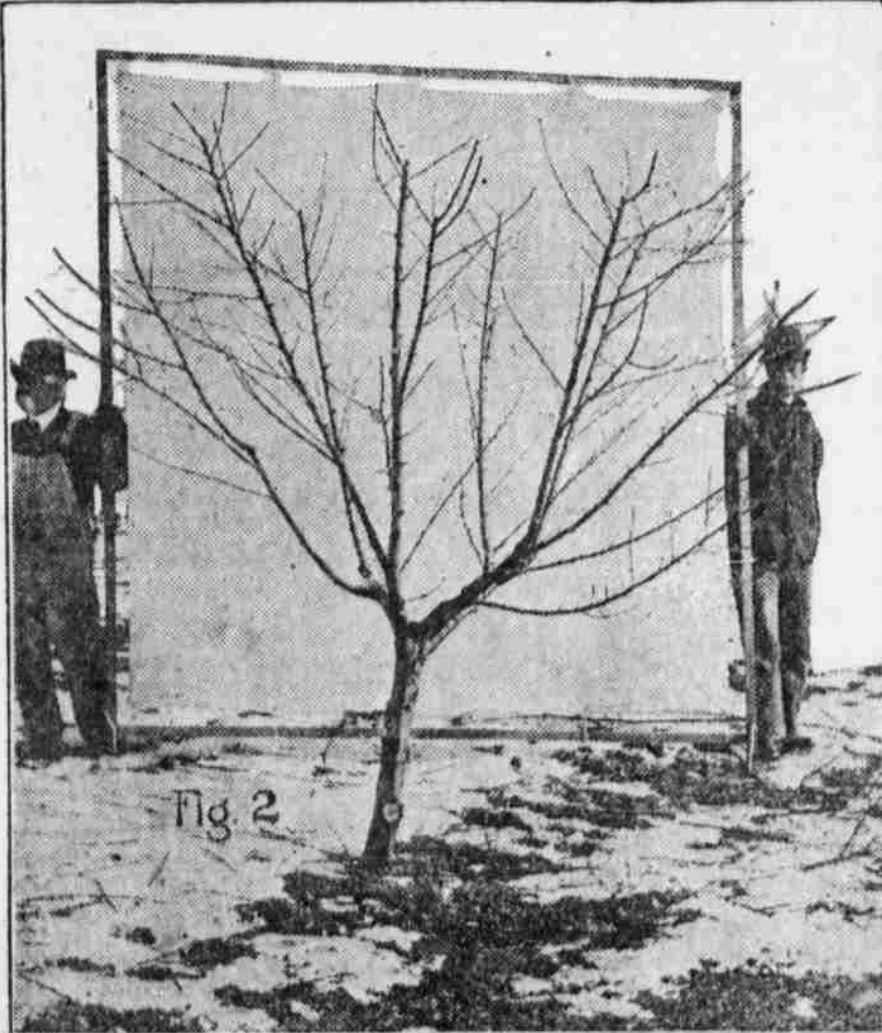


Fig. 2.

Fig. 2—Same Tree After Pruning.