

Agricultural Department.
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What Affects the Plant?
From Columbia's Rural World.

This is a very important question; it interests the pocket as well as the palate. If, by planting certain varieties, I can have an orchard bringing me a sum of \$100,000 in five or six years from setting out; while, by planting another lot of varieties, I have to labor and wait fifteen or twenty years for the same amount—the choice is clearly important to me. That there are varieties that commence bearing the second or third year from planting, is well known; and that there are also varieties that appear to have a healthy idea of what they were set out for—that seem to live to tantalize their owner; growing vigorously; extending their long branches to the same old tree, like the Belvedere, or shooting up heavenwards like the Northern Spy, bearing nothing but leaves—is a fact, but it would be known to be appreciated. But, when I see a planter who wants to plant for posterity—as the Irish orator said, "posterity has done nothing for me"—why, then, should I plant for posterity? I want to plant so that should a king Providence spare my life six, ten, or twenty years, I can reasonably expect to eat the fruit and enjoy the proceeds of it. Having been through the school of experience, I will give some of the lessons I have learned. One I have learned is this: not to set out every variety that is recommended in the fruit books, and that have a mixed lot of trees—perhaps fifty, sixty, or a hundred varieties, in an orchard, not half as profitable as a few of good bearing, hardy, popular apples. Four, or at the most, six varieties of winter; three or four summer, and the remainder fall—all enough for a market orchard.

Another lesson: if your ground is not ready for your trees when you get them, heel them in by all means, if it is only for a day or two. It is a terrible pain in the cellar; it may rain so as to put off planting a week or more, and the roots of trees should not be exposed any longer to the light or air than is necessary.

Another lesson: I have learned—not from my own experience (I was not fool enough for that), but from the experience of others: is: Never to purchase trees of a nursery far from a good reliable nursery—the nearer home the better.

Now for early bearing varieties: First in the list of summer apples, is the Carolina Belle; the Early Harvest is complained of by some, but still I have no fault to find with it. For cooking, Cawick will all ways come to hand; Hawthorn is also an early bearer, and the Little Maiden's Blush does well. Porter grows slow, but still commences bearing tolerably early. Hawley is not much known in the West; but, judging from one tree I have seen, it is a reliable apple; commences bearing early; is first-rate for cooking, and not bad to take without. Jersey Sweeting is a very early, abundant bearer; but the Carolina Belle, the Early Harvest, and the Little Maiden's Blush, are one apple every way; in fact, I cannot think of any other variety of its season, that promises me as well as this; there is money in it. Along to the winter apples—Parson's Snow does well. Westfield Seed No. 4 further does its duty; I wish I could say as much of the Yellow Bellefleur; but its short-comings are well known; however, it is a reliable variety, and will bear fruit on the river bluff. The Wagner goes to work nearly as soon as planted. Herefordshire Pearmain comes in about right. Peck's Pleasant does nicely, and I have a wish I could say the same of Pryor's Red, for I like the apple; but the fact is, that one Wine Sap will bear more apples for me than thirty Pryor's Red; what the writer says of the latter can't tell. The Romantico, where it is appreciated and free from dry rot, is a desirable variety—it does its duty nobly. English Blenheim is well known among sweet apples; Talman's Sweet and Ladies Sweeting, are about medium for earliness in bearing. The Janet grows so slowly that it takes a number of years for it to get large enough to do much, though it bears well; but, the Wine Sap will "do to the top"; I find there is more money in it than any other apple of its season; as an argument with Little Romantico is best to please; but the Northern Spy, deliver me from thirty trees, set out fifty years ago, have, altogether, actually for the last six years given from a peck to a bushel per year; however, there is hope even for Elliott, in his Western Fruit Book, says "it cannot be considered a profitable variety till the trees have acquired at least twenty years of age. However, to sum it all up: Early apples—Red June, Early Harvest, Keewick Codling (for cooking). Fall apples—Hawthorne, Maiden's Blush, Rambo, Farnham, Winter Apple, Wagner, Peck's Pleasant, Wine Sap and Janet. For sweet—Talman's Sweet and Ladies Sweeting.

Turkeys versus Grasshoppers.
The utility of a flock of turkeys, in destroying grasshoppers and other insects, is not appreciated by the farmers of the West. The grasshopper question is becoming a serious one even in Missouri; these destructive insects are increasing by the millions every year; and the skill of mortal man has thus far failed to find a remedy to prevent their ravages. If they continue to increase for a few more years, in Ralls and Marion counties, as rapidly as they have done for the past few years, we may anticipate very serious consequences to our stock raising industry. As no remedy for the evil has yet been suggested, I would propose to the farmers that they try the plan of raising large flocks of turkeys, and allowing them to range in the fields infested by the grasshoppers. A flock of one hundred turkeys would destroy during the summer and autumn millions of insects; if the grasshoppers were plenty, the turkeys would actually require no other food, until the beginning of cold weather—when they should be fed with grain a few weeks and then turned out. Dressed turkeys, during the winter months, are usually worth three or four cents per lb. more than pork; and the cost of raising them is really insignificant. If the turkeys are abundant, let the farmers of Missouri try this plan on a large scale; and there is every reason to believe that the experiment will be successful and profitable.—Ez.

The Walter Grape.
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