

J. D. Huston. N. B. Cobb
HUFHAM & COBB,
EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

TERMS:
SEMI-WEEKLY, SIX MONTHS, 3 00
12 MONTHS, 5 00

MISCELLANEOUS.

PLANTING FRUIT TREES.

The propagation and cultivation of fruit trees is a most pleasant and agreeable occupation for the sons and daughters of farmers; those who have been educated in industrial habits, and those into whose minds sound moral principles have been instilled, are inwardly fond of it. We are all fond of fine apples, pears, peaches, plums, quinces and cherries, and therefore all should be willing to lend a helping hand in their propagation. But never, from ideas of economy, plant inferior trees; the same care, time and room are required for poor trees as for the finest specimens. The difference in expense is but small, and will be much more than made up by the first crop of fruit.

The roots of trees being designed not only to sustain them in proper position, but to furnish them with nutriment, care should be taken in planting to loosen the earth for a considerable distance around them. Those who try how small a hole will accommodate the roots of a tree, miss their aim, for experiment has demonstrated that a tree planted in a hole three feet in diameter will grow more in five years than one planted in a small hole will in ten. I don't wish to be understood by this to limit the size of the hole to three feet, for there is no limit, the larger the better.

Trees are often planted too deep; this is one of the greatest disadvantages where the soil is cold or moist. I consider it a safe rule about or a little less than the depth at which the tree grows when in the nursery.

Some give as an excuse for not planting trees, that they will never live to sell the fruit; suppose those who planted that old orchard on your farm had thought the same, where would your apples have been? It is to a farmer's interest, and even his duty to plant trees, if not for his own use, for the next generation.

Some excuse themselves on the ground that they don't expect to remain where they are much longer and are going to sell; but in what way can an equal amount of capital or labor be expended so as to increase the value of a farm more than a well stocked orchard?

It is an excellent plan to plant one or two rows of trees every year; by this plan you may secure the best of any new varieties which may come out, and also have a regular supply of fruit.

After the best kinds of trees have been secured and planted, great care should be taken to protect them from being injured by cattle; they should be secured to stakes to keep them in proper position. If any of the trees appear to be weak, it is better to remove them at once and supply their places with sound ones. It is a great mistake to think that by getting large trees to plant, you will get fruit sooner, for such is seldom the case.

It is almost useless to plant a young orchard where there has been one before. The trees will not attain their size but will be poor and stunted.

It would seem that the first set of trees exhausted the proper food from the soil, and that it requires several years to regenerate it.

There seems to be a great diversity of opinion as to whether orchards should be cultivated or not.

As far as my experience goes I think too much cultivation is not best; the trees require all the nourishment they can get. The plan I would adopt is something in this style:

Before planting the orchard, put the land through a regular three years' rotation (corn, oats and wheat) sow grass seed as usual with the wheat, but use none but clover, and be not sparing with it. In the fall after the wheat is taken off, or next spring, plant your trees. During the summer let your pigs run in the orchard and eat off the clover which by the way is excellent food for them. Let the pigs have possession of the orchard until the clover begins to run out, and the sod gets thick. Then manure and plant potatoes, follow them with wheat and clover; in the spring turn calves or sheep on the wheat and keep it down until winter. Let this course be pursued until the trees commence bearing, when with an occasional coat of manure and lime the trees will take care of themselves.

It may seem to the practical farmer that his land remains too long without paying interest, but in the end it will pay. No man can reasonably expect to raise two good crops at the same time from the same ground. If one of them is good, it is at the expense of the other. If a farmer obtains a good crop of wheat from his orchard, he does so at the expense of his trees.

I only recommend a crop of potatoes as the means of preparing the soil for grass seed. Both clover and potatoes contain a large amount of nourishment from the air. Any one who has seen a pig in a patch of clover, will admit that it must do him good.

Be not in too much hurry to obtain a crop of fruit; patience will meet with its reward. Do not stimulate (by manure) the trees to bear large crops at first, as they will exhaust themselves one year and bear none the next.

Do not plant the trees too closely; if you plant thirty-five feet is close enough. Compete with the next tree, plant the first tree thirty-five feet from the fence which

SEMI-WEEKLY RECORD.

"To every thing there is a Season, and a Time to every Purpose under the Heaven."—SOLOMON.

VOL. I.

RALEIGH, N. C., SATURDAY MORNING,

SEPTEMBER 23, 1865.

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Angus, 8, 1865. 49-1t.

Kittrell's Spring, N. C., July 15, 1865.

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28-1w.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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August 22, 1865. 58-1t.

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