

HOUSE, FARM AND GARDEN.

Small Trees vs. Large Trees.
To the Editors of the *Crawfordsville Journal*: The people generally have a very mistaken idea about the size of a tree to plant, or your correspondent is mistaken. Most persons want *large trees*; many want them four and five years old, while your correspondent would never under any circumstances plant a tree that was over three years old, and would prefer a two years old tree to this. I know that some who pretend to be practical fruit growers will take issue with me here, but I have never heard such give a satisfactory reason in favor of large trees. The only reason that can be given in their favor is the supposition that they will bear sooner after planting than smaller ones. I will admit that a five years old tree will bear sooner after planting than one that is but two years old, but the younger and smaller tree will always be more vigorous, productive and healthy, for the following reasons:

First—Trees in the nursery are never cultivated after they are three years old, and hence every year they remain longer than that in the nursery they are becoming less healthy and vigorous, the bark diseased, and the tree generally second class in point of thinness.

Secondly—The nurseryman commences digging at two years old, and of course takes out all that he thinks *first class trees*, thus leaving those that are considered *inferior* at that time to be sold in after years to the advocates of large trees, and this will hold good throughout the series of years, as the best ones are selected every year, and he who plants a five years old tree must have the satisfaction of knowing—if he knows anything about it—that he is getting trees that have been refused for the three preceding years.

Thirdly—In taking up a tree five years old the roots must of necessity be seriously damaged, so that not to stum them and check their growth to their injury, you will have to resort to a “cutting back” process, whether your top needs it or not, which might so mutilate the tree that a two years old tree would bear sooner than this.

Fourthly—Trees standing in the nursery this long so close together must necessarily have long slender stems, such as no horticulturist would want in his orchard or garden. This of course must be cut back and a new top started lower down, or the tree will always be unsightly and indeed almost useless.

The four reasons given above I think will be admitted by all sensible persons, for they are all good common sense reasons that all must admit, even without making an experiment, but my other reason for planting smaller trees I expect will not be so unanimously concurred in, but here must come my

Fifthly—The wood that has grown before the tree is transplanted dies or becomes diseased, and must of course be an injury to the tree in all future life. If the tree is planted at two years old the wood will all die or become dotted except that touching the bark, other wood will grow around this, and make the future tree. If the tree be only two years old—and of course small at this age—it will more easily overcome this dead and diseased wood and become vigorous and thrifty; but if the tree be large the dead wood will be correspondingly large, and thus prove the seat of disease that will be injurious to the tree, and often destroy its life when it should be in its most vigorous bearing. In the West, where there is a mania for large trees to plant, there is a universal complaint that trees are not long lived, but that trees ought to be in the *prime* of the age they most profusely bear prime and bear safely for *two* years, they almost universally bear and in a few years *die*, the complaint nearly always that they commenced rotting at the heart, and are often a mere shell of sound wood, the interior of the stem being “all dotted and rotten.” In the East, where horticulturalists understand themselves better and plant smaller trees, this complaint is seldom made, and in fact almost entirely unknown.

I will make this proposition. I will plant an orchard of two years old trees; my neighbor may plant one of trees that are five years old, the same number and kind of trees and in the same quality of soil; both may be cultivated in the same way. At four years from planting my neighbor may have the most fruit; at eight years I will equal him in quantity and surpass him in quality; at twelve years I will promise to produce one-third more fruit of a much superior quality, and at twenty years I will have a good thrifty orchard of vigorous, healthy trees in full bearing, and my neighbor will have an inferior orchard, and that going rapidly into decay. If any one doubts this, let them try it and be convinced.

ORAN.

Don't Try to Winter Too Much Stock. Let every farmer now prepare either to get rid of his surplus stock or to store enough feed to keep it all through the winter. It is astonishing how many farmers there are who habitually undertake to get through the winter with more stock than they can properly feed until grass grows again. If you have ten, fifteen, twenty or thirty head of horses and cattle, and are not positively certain that you have enough hay, straw, stalks, &c. to keep them all in good order till spring, dispose of them before cold weather sets in. Make arrangements now so that you will not be caught with barn-yards full of lean cattle and empty mows in the months of February and March.

TIMBER is becoming an important item in many places. Farmers would save a great deal if during the dry month of August they would place in their wood-houses all their decaying logs and tree-tops, which saved dry will burn well. When rains and snows fall such wood is not worth gathering, but if housed when dry, is well worth saving.

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