

**THE SUBURBANITE'S HANDBOOK OF DWARF  
FRUIT TREE CULTURE, THEIR TRAINING AND  
MANAGEMENT, WITH A DISCUSSION ON  
THEIR ADAPTIBILITY TO THE REQUIREMENTS  
OF THE COMMERCIAL ORCHARDIST BOTH IN  
CONNECTION AND IN COMPETITION WITH  
STANDARD TREES**

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*E. J. Wickes*

*The* Suburbanite's Handbook

— OF —

# Dwarf Fruit Tree Culture

Their Training and Management

— WITH —

A Discussion on their Adaptability to the Requirements  
of the Commercial Orchardist

Both in Connection and in Competition with Standard Trees

By DR. A. W. THORNTON  
Ferndale, Whatcom County, Washington  
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## PREFACE

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In blocking out this hand-book I endeavored to place myself in the position of a suburbanite with little or no practical experience on Horticultural subjects, and who was desirous of beautifying and improving his home by the culture of these lovely dwarfs.

Realizing such a one's requirement for a simple, detailed book of instructions, to enable him to know what to do, and how to do it, I present this hand-book for the benefit of suburbanites generally. While many readers may be well informed upon general Horticultural subjects, yet their attention has not been directed to the subject of Dwarf Fruit Tree Culture. I trust they will derive both pleasure and instruction herefrom. The work is open to criticism, of course, favorable, or unfavorable, as may happen. Others might have done better, and again they might not. I remember back seventy years ago we had these dwarf trees in our home garden, and, strange to say, that many of the choice fruits of that day still hold a high place in the selected lists of "Bests" in the nurserymen's catalogue of the present day. In spite of the strenuous efforts of three-fourths of a century to surpass them, they still hold their own.

In conclusion I wish to acknowledge the courtesy of Professor Waugh of the Massachusetts Agricultural College in sending some cuts for illustrating this hand-book. Professor Waugh, who is perhaps the best posted man in the United States on the subject of dwarf fruit trees, has written a valuable work on the subject which I can highly recommend.

My greatest difficulty in preparing this hand-book occurred when I came to select a list of dwarf fruits, in deciding which to keep in my list, and what to strike out, the claims of many of those stricken out being in many instances fully equal to those retained. Not being able to include all the "Bests" I was compelled to make a selection, and will let it "go at that," and leave it an open question whether to modify my list in future editions.

In conclusion I will say, I have taken much pleasure in preparing the work, and only hope my readers will enjoy as much pleasure in reading it, and that it may prove the means of attracting their attention to this highly interesting and delightful occupation of Dwarf Fruit Tree Culture.

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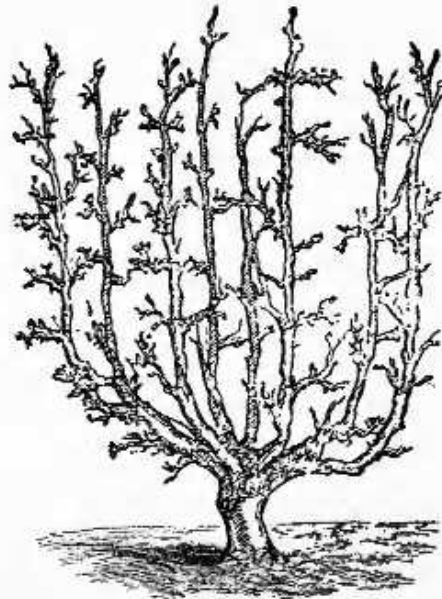
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Dwarf Fruit Tree Culture and Management



Bush Pear Tree  
Beurre Capainmont—Photo  
Fig. 1.



Apple Tree—8 branches  
Trained to goblet form  
Fig. 2

It has been found that by treating fruit trees in a particular manner they may be so dwarfed in growth that forty and more apple trees may be grown in the space ordinarily required for a single standard apple tree, at the same time increasing their prolificacy and vastly improving the quality and beauty of the fruit. Other fruits, as apricots, nectarines, pears, plums, etc., are subject to the same change. This dwarfing is no new discovery, but has been practiced successfully in Europe for centuries, and in Japan for a millenium, and has been reduced to a science, that is perfectly simple,

and may be successfully practiced by any one who is capable of doing as they are told.

There are three varieties of apple roots which have this power of dwarfing the growth if budded or grafted on them. They are known as the Paradise, Doucin and Crab. The Paradise apple is a slow growing dwarf tree, a native of Europe, and is largely propagated in France, to be used as a stock for working free growing apple scions into, in order to dwarf their growth, and is the best adapted for producing very small trees. The apple trees reduced on this stock are so reduced in size that they may be planted only three or four feet apart, and the bearing age is so forwarded that they will begin to bear some times the first year, and by the fourth year will bear a bushel or more of the choicest quality of fruit. The Doucin apple is another variety of dwarfs wild apple, but is of a more vigorous growth than the Paradise; it is called in England "The broad-leafed Paradise," which causes some confusion in the catalogues of dwarf fruit trees. It is better adapted for apple trees that are to be trained as half standard and espalier tree, as it does not dwarf the growth so much as the French Paradise. Both, however, may be grown in pots, if desired, and yield large crops. The Crab is still more vigorous and is hardly comparable with the Paradise. It is used for growing half standards, and especially adapted for making "fillers" in commercial orchards. All other apples are grown on ordinary apple roots.

The dwarfing of fruit trees is subject to definite laws, which may be briefly expressed thus: "Anything that retards the flow of sap in growing trees has a tendency to dwarf the growth, increase fruitfulness and hasten maturity in bearing." It is therefore evident how peculiarly adapted these dwarf trees are to the requirements of the suburbanite, who on his town lot can have a miniature garden, consisting of forty or fifty of these little trees of the choicest varieties of apples, pears, plums, apricots, nectarines, peaches, figs, grapes and small fruits, not to mention the unalloyed pleasure of tending and training the lovely pets. I do not know of anything more beautiful and interesting than these little trees from the time they first break into bloom in spring and while passing on to the perfecting of their delicious fruit. Above all is the infallible pleasure and pride of the tired and worried business man, or the tired-out society woman going morning or evening to care for the little beauties—a snip here and a pinch there trains them in the way they should go.

Or can you realize the feeling of pride, pleasure and satisfaction after training these little trees with your own hand to grow in pots, and when loaded with gorgeous flowers or luscious fruit, when entertaining your friends, to place pot and tree to decorate your dining table as a center piece, and surprise them with the result of your own handy work. This is an experience not uncommon in Europe, where it is frequently practiced. The question of health also is worth considering in this connection. Like those little trees producing their fruit so near the ground, secure a degree of health and beauty therefrom not to be obtained otherwise, so the closer the worn-out man or woman can get to work in the ground the happier and better they will feel.

There was a physician in California who was so alive to this fact that he made his female patients believe he could cure them quicker not by giving them medicine, but by prescribing for the vegetables they consumed. He therefore made them grow their own vegetables, fertilizing them with his medicines, which they were to apply to the plants daily, at stated hours, and in strictly regulated quantities; he also succeeded in convincing them that his medicines so altered the character of the juices of the plants that they became entirely different from the stuff they could obtain in the market, and the use of them would quickly effect a cure. When he made his professional calls it was not to see his patients, but to examine how the cabbage, lettuce and cauliflowers were progressing. His patients, of course, got well, as might be expected from the change of lolling in rocking chairs and restricted sunlight to working close down to dear old mother earth, in God's bright sunshine. So with you, the care of these dwarf fruit trees will tone you up more than all the nostrums in the drug store.

To resume, pears are dwarfed by working on quince stock, which enables them to be trained in a variety of forms. Not all pears take kindly to working on the quince, but when they do, they are very satisfactory, and when they do not, we can compel them to do so by the process of double grafting, which is accomplished by first budding or grafting some variety of pear that naturally takes kindly to the quince and then working the rebellious pear on that. This has proved a complete success and the result is all that can be desired. The double grafted pears are always of the highest quality (although a little more expensive). Whether owing to the double influence of the combined sap of the quince modified by pass-