

HINTS ON FRUIT GROWING

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Hints on Fruit Growing by H. E. V. Pickstone

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INTRODUCTION.

We trust the following "Hints to Growers" may be found of some little service to some of those who are following and who intend embarking in our Industry and also to the Dilettante who finds amusement in the garden. We have tried to make our remarks practical and the ideas intelligible. Several paragraphs have been taken over from foreign sources, as we found there our own ideas very clearly expressed. Advice tendered herein to growers is not theoretical but is based in nearly every instance on personal experience, or the experience of others that has come under our observation. The whole has been brought thoroughly up to the date of our latest experience, which in some instances readers will see it has been found necessary to alter or modify from those contained in our last catalogue. No attempt has been made to deal with technical questions such as the character of soils, the action of manures, the budding and grafts of trees, the circulation of sap, &c.; all these matters can be found in the numerous standard works on fruit culture written by much abler pens than ours, and by men who have technical knowledge which we make no claim to possess.

VALUABLE TABLES.

DISTANCES FOR PLANTING.

Apples	...	...	...	...	20 to 30 feet apart each way.
Pears, standard	...	...	...	...	15 to 20 feet apart each way.
Pears, dwarf	...	...	...	...	10 to 15 feet apart each way.
Peach	...	...	...	...	15 to 20 feet apart each way.
Plums	...	...	...	...	15 to 20 feet apart each way.
Quinces	...	...	...	...	12 to 16 feet apart each way.

NUMBER OF TREES ON AN ACRE AT VARIOUS DISTANCES.

10 ft. x 10 ft.	...	...	...	435
11 ft. x 11 ft.	...	...	...	360
12 ft. x 12 ft.	...	...	...	302
13 ft. x 13 ft.	...	...	...	257
14 ft. x 14 ft.	...	...	...	222
15 ft. x 15 ft.	...	...	...	193
16 ft. x 16 ft.	...	...	...	175
17 ft. x 17 ft.	...	...	...	150
18 ft. x 18 ft.	...	...	...	134
19 ft. x 19 ft.	...	...	...	120
20 ft. x 20 ft.	...	...	...	108
25 ft. x 25 ft.	...	...	...	69
30 ft. x 30 ft.	...	...	...	48

To ascertain the number of trees or plants required for an acre :
 Multiply together the distance that the trees are to be set apart
 each way and divide this into 43,560 (the number of square feet
 in an acre), which will give the number required.



THE HORTICULTURAL PAST.

Our experience is that there are two classes of farmers in this country, who are paying attention to fruit growing.

First the old-fashioned type who swears by and insists on continuing to plant the well-known varieties, such as Summer or Winter Saffron in pears, Wemmer Hoek, Hugo or May in in apples, and peaches which come under the generic style of Los pit and Taai pit; in apricots, Cape early and late.

Then again the new man, who must have everything in new and latest varieties either English or American, and who can see no merit in anything standing in our old orchards. Now, after nine years careful study of our old Cape orchards, and of pushing into public notice new varieties from England, America and Australia, we consider we are able to give an opinion of some value as to the respective merits of the different ideas of these several classes of growers and planters.

Nine years ago we found very few young orchards being planted, either East or West. In the West such planting was almost entirely confined to the planting of the old varieties mentioned. In the East again at this period planting was generally confined to new varieties which had been introduced during late years by the several nursery firms engaged in distributing fruit trees.

In the West we would say that the planting was being undertaken by those who had proved that small profits could be made out of their orchards then standing, by consigning to local markets, by drying in the sun by the slipshod methods then in vogue, and by selling to the jam factories.

In the East we think that the planting was mainly due (outside of many commercial citrus orchards) to the wish of the individual farmer to have enough fruit to supply his household needs and therefore the lists of varieties ripening at different times vide the nurserymen's catalogue appealed to the idea of planters, to have a continual small supply of fruits of different dates of ripening, colour, and characteristics. We would now wish to point out to our readers that although at this date the planting being undertaken was commercially of practically no value to the country, we consider at the same time very good work indeed had formerly been done both East and West, but particularly in the West, towards assisting. One reason is this: we feel satisfied that very many years ago probably, in the last century, and in some instances early in the present one, when France was far in the van of Horticultural progress and knowledge, in fact to an extent that we think is scarcely recognized to-day, and when the influence of France probably passed