

The Farm.

The quantities of apples grown in Cecil county have fallen off greatly within the period of my recollection, and is attributable in a large degree to buying from tree peddlers.

For twenty years past, agents for the sale of fruit trees have been tramping around with catalogues of trees, from celebrated northern nurseries, and illustrated with plates representing the most beautiful varieties, which they readily imposed on the people, and the purchasers in expectation of the fine fruit represented, have after years of waiting and careful attention found themselves completely deceived, and instead of Smith's Cider, Baldwin, Russet and other winter varieties, they have some worthless Fall apple of little account, and thus their years have been spent, and with many it is too late to plant another year, with the expectation of eating thereof. Many of these tree peddlers after exhibiting their fine specimens, and then inducing farmers to purchase, then buy trees wherever they can find them cheapest, and label them to suit the kind promised, regardless of which they are, as scores of deceived men can testify.

This is one of the most infamous kinds of deception, and those guilty of it deserve a place in the penitentiary. But independent of this deception it is imprudent to buy apple trees from northern nurseries, as their varieties do not suit our climate, nor mature perfectly here, the Baldwin and other winter apples ripening too soon, making an inferior apple. Plant the kind best suited to our soil and climate, and you will not be deceived.

Forty years ago the apple crop rarely failed here, and the winter apples which then grew were the Cart-house, Gray-house, Romanic, Lady Finger, Flat Pippin, Russet and some other varieties. The Pennock sometimes kept through the winter, and the Fallones, which is of later introduction, a good bearer and an excellent apple, is often kept through the winter.

A supply of good apples is valuable in a family, and keeping apples of a good quality are always saleable, and should be raised by every one who has an opportunity to do so; but so many have been deceived by the tree peddlers, that they are discouraged, and ready to give up the growing of apple trees.

The surest way, probably, is to graft your own trees, and then you cannot be deceived, if you know the trees from which the grafts are taken. The time is about the first of April, and although it is said the graft should be cut in the winter and kept in dried sand, I have been the most successful in cutting them from the tree at the time of grafting, and using wax made of rosin, bees-wax and tallow, using most rosin and least tallow, so that it will not melt with the hot sun of summer. While the grafting is going on the wax should be kept in warm water. The stock in which grafts to be inserted should be cut off with a fine saw, and split across the middle. If the stock is large enough for two grafts, one on each side, drive a small wedge in the middle to keep the sides open enough to receive the graft, which should have one or more buds on it of the last year's formation. Then the graft should be cut of wedge shape for an inch or more at the lower end, the outer edge being a little thicker than the inner, so that when pressed in the graft will bind firmly on the outer part, and the wood of the stock and graft should just be even on the outside, so that the sap of the stock will flow under the bark of the graft. When the grafts are inserted and the wedges taken out of the middle, put wax on the top of the stock and cover it over, and run it down each side with the thumb covering the outside of the graft. The knife should be sharp that is used in preparing the graft. With a little practice the operation is easy and very successful. Pear and Cherry stocks may be grafted about the same time, and in the same manner.

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