

thinnings on the ground and look only at what fruit is left on the tree ; otherwise one is inclined to become alarmed at the apparent waste and lose courage. Thinning should begin early and be pushed on to secure the full advantage from the operation. In most cases by the end of October, when danger of late frosts is usually over, thinning should be tackled in earnest, beginning with Wright's Early, Evans's Early, and Burbank plums, then other stone-fruit, followed by pears and apples. By this time the natural dropping will be over, and the perfect fruits are set. Stone-fruit should be so spaced as to ensure that no two fruits are touching when mature. This is an important point in brown-rot control. Apples often require thinning out to single fruits, especially on older trees and on varieties with short stems, such as Gravenstein.

DISBUDDING, GRAFTS, ETC.

Newly planted trees will require some attention. A limited number of well-spaced shoots should be selected to form the main limbs of the tree, and other shoots rubbed out. Scions on newly grafted trees will be swelling, and the ties will require cutting, otherwise injury may be caused by the tying material cutting in. Scions are often broken off by wind, and it is a wise plan to tie the new shoots to stakes attached to the stock. A fair amount of the growth arising from the stump and branches of trees headed back for grafting should be retained, so as to encourage root activity. Some of these shoots, if in suitable positions, may be used later for further budding or grafting if any grafts fail to take.

CULTIVATION, ETC.

The maintenance of good tilth to retain soil-moisture is most important. Many of our fruit-growing areas suffer long periods of dry weather during the summer, and loss of soil-moisture early in the season results in poor foliage and small fruit. Therefore every effort should be made to secure a fine earth mulch early. An occasional stirring of the soil, particularly after rain, to prevent the forming of a crust, will then keep the land in good condition.

FROST-PREVENTION.

Orchardists who have made some provision to ward off frosts by means of orchard heating should not be tempted to re-store pots before the end of November. Up till that period weather conditions should be watched closely.

—N. J. Adamson, *Orchard Instructor, Hastings.*

Citrus - culture.

Cultivation: Growers should endeavour to secure good cultivation as early as possible, ploughing and cross-ploughing where this has not been done. Dig up all strips of land and the area near the trunk of the trees, and from then onward maintain a clean cultivation for a depth of from 4 in. to 5 in. by the use of the hoe under the trees and horse implements on the open land.

Manuring: Oranges and lemons will greatly benefit at the flowering season by an application of nitrate of soda, 1 lb. to 2 lb. per tree, according to its size.