

the balance between the top and the root. Normally the selected branches do not need shortening, but where they have made very strong growth it may be desirable to head them back.

The trunks should be protected from sun-scald either by white-washing or by wrapping newspaper or other suitable material around them.

Pruning of Non-Bearing Trees

During the first three years after planting very little pruning is necessary—merely sufficient to keep the trees upright, to develop a shapely open, balanced head, and to remove superfluous shoots. Branches which are growing strongly to the detriment of others may require heading-in to increase the strength of weaker branches and to induce lateral growth. The trees should have as many leaders as will fully furnish the tree without crowding.

There are a number of methods adopted by growers to develop the framework of the trees. One method which gives a tree of the desired symmetrical form and openness of head is to select three or four leaders, which should be inclined at about a 45 deg. angle. This should be done at the end of the second or the third year after planting, when the trees are well established and strong growth has been made. Of the vertical growths which arise from the leaders two strong well-spaced vertical shoots should be selected. Other vertical shoots should be either kept in subjection or removed, and the leader shortened back to the outside selected vertical growth. Two years later, when the selected shoots have made strong growth, each should be cut back to two suitably placed strong lateral shoots, thus doubling the number of leaders. From the vertical shoots which arise from these laterals one shoot on each should be chosen, and two years later, when these selected shoots have made strong growth, each should be shortened back to a strong lateral growth. The treatment of the past two years should be repeated until the trees reach a height of 10 ft. In most situations the trees should not be allowed to exceed 10 ft. to 12 ft. in height, as such a height allows of much of the fruit being gathered from the ground and of pruning and spraying being more readily carried out. This system of training provides shapely trees, each having from 12 to 16 leaders which should carry heavy crops without undue bending. The centre of the trees should not be allowed to become filled with vigorous shoots.

Young lemon trees should receive attention two or three times a year for the purpose of cutting back branches that are outgrowing the remainder of the tree and to remove suckers, especially should they arise from the trunks of the young trees.

Pruning of Bearing Trees

To maintain a maximum supply of fruiting wood the stronger subsidiary lateral growths should be pinched back to cause them to send out fruiting wood nearer to their base and close to the main branches. Trees with an open centre carry fruit both on the inside as well as on the outside of the trees. The lower growth should be kept well above the ground-level and all straggling shoots and branches cut back to preserve as nearly as possible an even contour in the whole tree. All brush (unthrifty lateral growth), water-shoots, and dead and dying wood appearing in the tree should be pruned out entirely. If the wood is young and vigorous the fruit will develop better, and much of it will mature in the summer. Growth that has been injured by frost should be cut back to sound

tissue. A fairly open head in the tree fosters fruiting laterals and facilitates effective spraying. When a tree is allowed to grow with little or no attention it may produce a fair crop for a time, but much of the fruit will be on the ends of branches where it is liable to sway with the wind and become rubbed and bruised. Branches may be also broken by the weight of fruit, thus reducing the productiveness of the tree. To keep the mature tree shapely and fruitful it is desirable that it should receive attention at least once a year. Neglected trees are difficult to spray and often become infected with fungous diseases and infested with insect pests to an otherwise avoidable degree.

The Lisbon, being an extremely thorny variety, requires more thorough and regular pruning than the other

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