Democratic Watchman.

Bellefonte, Pa., March 7. 1924.

Fruit Trees That Need Little Room

Dwarf Varieties Are Giving Results, Says Department of Agriculture.

Since the cottage garden is usually quite limited in area, it is necessary to plant fruit trees that will not occupy too much space. The dwarf apple and pear trees fill this need admirably and are giving good results in the small home fruit garden, suggests the United States Department of Agriculture. Dwarf apple trees are propagated on what are called Doucin roots, Doucin trees being dwarf in habit of growth, and when the ordinary varieties of apples are budded or grafted on Doucin roots the resulting trees are of medium size.

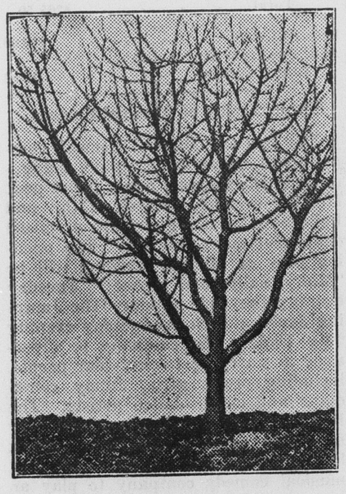
The advantage of using dwarf trees is that many different varieties of apples may be grown on a small piece of ground. The trees are small so they can be easily pruned and sprayed. Dwarf apple trees may be planted 14 feet apart each way, and should they make such vigorous growth that the limbs touch across this 14-foot space, they should be kept pruned back so as not to crowd.

Dwarf apple trees should be only one year old when planted, and should consist of a single shoot. The tree should be set in the ground about an inch deeper than it grew in the nursery. If set deeper than this, roots will start from above the point of budding or grafting and change the tree from a dwarf to a standard. In case it does happen that roots are sent out in this way and the trees make very vigorous growth, it becomes necessary to do root pruning. This is easily done by spading around the tree and cutting off a few of the uppermost roots within about 3 feet of the tree trunk.

When planted the top of the tree should be cut off about 30 inches above the ground. This will cause it to form a low top. After the first year's growth the branches are cut back about one-half. After the second and third year's growth the new branches are cut back about one-third to one-half, and any crowding or crossing branches are cut out. After the third year's growth, very little pruning is necessary, except to cut out any crowding branches. About the fifth or sixth year from planting, the trees usually begin fruiting.

Dwarf pear trees are planted and handled the same as dwarf apple trees.

Peach, plum, cherry and other fruit trees, should be planted in the cottage garden in all sections where these



A Sturdy Dwarf Fruit Tree.

fruits will grow. They may be kept of dwarf size by pruning each year if necessary. Sour cherries usually grow slowly and do not need much cutting back until they are six or eight years old. Peaches should be cut back somewhat every year. Plums need cutting back to keep them from growing too large.

From one-half to a dozen dwarf apple trees of varieties covering the full season will furnish enough fruit for the ordinary family during most of the year. It is well to have at least one early and one late summer variety, one early and one late fall variety and two or more winter varieties. Unfortunately, not very many varieties of dwarf apple trees can be purchased from nurserymen, but that need not keep one from having varieties covering the whole season. The way to do is to graft to the desired varieties just before or right after the nursery trees are planted. To do this it is, of course, necessary to secure grafts of the varieties one wishes to grow and then do the grafting, or get someone else who understands grafting to do it.

Nurserymen propagate quite a number of varieties of dwarf pears so there is no difficulty in getting trees of pear varieties to cover the whole season.

BLUE FLOWERS

If you like blue flowers or those with blue varieties, you may choose from cornflower and larkspur, growing 2½ feet high; lupine and Japanese bellflower, 2 feet; nemophila, ageratum, lobelia, verbena, and forget-me-not, one foot or less.

—If it really happened you will find it in the "Watchman."

The COTTAGE GARDENER

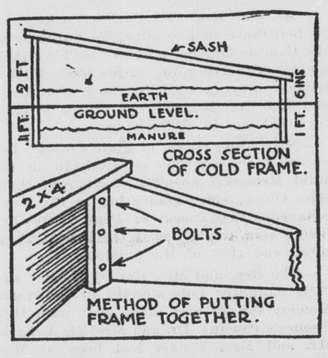
Under-Glass Plan for Young Plants

Protection That Speeds Up Growth and Produces Sturdy Sprouts.

Glass, even if it be only a fragment of a window pane with which to cover a small seed box, or an old tumbler to set over a cutting in a flower pot, is one of the essential materials of a plant grower in climates where there is frost.

French gardeners raise acres of plants under "cloches," or bell-shaped glasses of various sizes, which set over the individual plants to speed up growth. Wonderful lettuce is grown this way.

Glass keeps the heat in and the cold out, while letting in sunlight. This is the chief principle of the hotbed, which is an essential institution in a garden of any extent. The heat usually furnished by fermenting horse manure is conserved and fostered by



the blanket of nonconducting glass, which does not allow it to escape rapidly by radiation as would metal, or even wood.

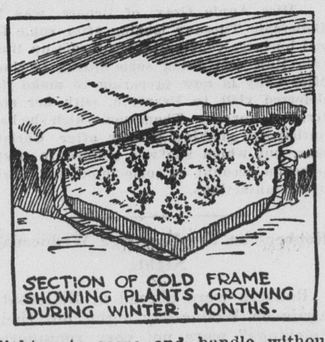
When a hotbed cannot be maintained conveniently because of the difficulty of securing a supply of fresh horse manure as its foundation, a difficulty that is becoming more real each year, a coldframe or heatless hotbed can be used as a substitute, although it cannot be utilized for a month or six weeks after the hotbed usually is at work.

Hotbeds may be artificially heated by steam or hot water pipes, but only a few gardeners will be able to afford such a luxury or will have a location to permit it being used conveniently.

The construction of a hotbed is not at all complicated. In fact, any frame built to accommodate a glass cover may be used, provided it is of sufficient extent to encourage fermentation of manure. While it is best to use the standard-sized hotbed sash sold by all dealers, which are 6 feet by 3 feet each, old window sash may be utilized for the purpose.

Knockdown frames to hold this sash are sometimes sold, but they can be manufactured by any carpenter or by the gardener himself if he is at all handy in the use of hammer, saw and nails. The usual unit is 6 feet 2 to 3 inches by 6 feet, accommodating two standard sashes. The extra inches are necessary to permit of the placing of a cross strip between the sashes upon which their inner edges may rest firmly. This crosspiece usually is grooved so that any moisture that may seep between the edges of the sash and the crosspiece would drain down the groove and not drip into the bed beneath.

If the bed is to be permanently located it is best to make the frame of heavy lumber, 2-inch stuff that may be bolted together with angle irons in the corners. If it is to be temporary, lighter lumber is available, and it is



lighter to move and handle without knocking down the frame. The back of the sash should be 18 inches high, and the front 6 inches to 10 inches. Some types are 12 to 15 inches high at the back and 8 to 10 inches in the front. These, however, are only useful for seedlings and low growing plants. The taller type will keep the plants until they have attained considerable height and is also available for a coldframe in which plants from 6 to 10 inches may be wintered.

A frame should always face the south, with no houses, trees, or other objects to cast a shadow over it or cut off the sun. If sloping land can be secured for the frame it is an added advantage if the land slopes to the south, as it will give more direct rays of the sun upon the glass.—National Garden Bureau.

BOALSBURG.

Miss Mary Reish spent last week at State College.

Mrs. Meyer and Mrs. Sweet gave a quilting party on Friday evening.

Richard Goheen is home from Franklin and Marshall college for a rest.

The Ishler-Coxey family are moving into their new house on Main street.

Miss Margaret Snyder spent several days with her sister, Mrs. Walter Korman, at Oak Hall.

Mrs. W. J. Wagner spent the week-end with her daughter, Mrs. John Harkins, at State College.

Mrs. J. P. Wagner and niece, Marjorie Slagle, of Altoona, visited at the D. W. Meyer home last week.

A delegation from the Bellefonte Rebekah lodge attended a meeting of the local lodge on Wednesday evening.

A number of folks from town attended a birthday party at the Ross-Gearhart home, at Linden Hall, on Thursday evening.

Miles Campbell and Miss Dorothy Coble, of State College, were united in marriage by Rev. W. J. Wagner, at the parsonage on Saturday afternoon.

George Mothersbaugh and sons spent part of Saturday at Dr. Krebs' dental parlor, at Pine Grove Mills. Mrs. L. Mothersbaugh accompanied them and visited friends in town.

Tuesday morning Samuel Reitz was driving to State College, where he is employed, and when crossing the railroad near Lemont the east-bound passenger train struck and shattered his Chevrolet touring car. Mr. Reitz miraculously escaped injury.

MEDICAL.

Oh! My Back!

Aching Backs Make Life Miserable for Many Bellefonte People.

It isn't right to suffer day in and day out with dull, unceasing backache. Or be utterly miserable with sharp stabs of pain whenever you stoop or lift. But chances are you will suffer these tormenting aches and pains as long as your weakened kidneys are neglected. You may have headaches, too, spells of dizziness and urinary disorders. Then use Doan's Pills—a stimulant diuretic to the kidneys. Experiences of Bellefonte people prove the merit of Doan's.

Mrs. H. W. Johnson, Valentine St., says: "I felt so miserable with backache I could hardly stand. Mornings when I came down stairs I was so lame I couldn't raise my feet to go up the steps again. My kidneys were disordered and annoyed me. Doan's Pills from Runkle's drug store soon put an end to my suffering."

Price 60c, at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Pills—the same that Mrs. Johnson had. Foster-Milburn Co., Mfrs., Buffalo, N. Y. 69-11