

## PITTSBURGH GAZETTE

**Planting Fruit Trees.**

ENRICO OZIO FARMER.—Some of the Agricultural books, and some of the best, say, when planting fruit trees, to dig a hole 18" or more "wid" in diameter, and 2' or even greater, in depth, and cover it with loam and compost, for the benefit of each tree.

I consider such a practice needless and imprudent, for the following reasons:

First, it costs unnecessary expense. A man need not purchase his loam and compost, and set more than half a dozen trees to do the same work, as is done by the 18" wide, small, round holes, attached to the larger ones, which take my time in the same amount of labor, and will principally shorten beyond double, to dig so deep, in all cases, where the roots are to be taken up, will inflate the root ball, and as they always descend in each soil, and cause them to enter the clay, at a depth that will be partially injurious to the tree, as in the case of the root of fruit trees, which may cut near the surface.

I have some experiments with fruit trees, having raised several thousand, and the results were not calculated by others under my direction. From this practice, the plan I would recommend, in setting and cultivating trees, would be, in brief,

1. Dig a hole of the size of all the balls, leaving nothing but a pole; that there is a proper proportion between the root and the soil, and nothing will keep the tree healthy and wealthy, consisting of becoming shriveled—until they begin to spread, when they will throw out thrifty rapid growing shoots.

2. Dig a hole just wide enough to admit the roots in their natural position, and make the free stand firm. When the roots begin to spread, they will find their proper place in a day or two, and then the soil will be drawn in, until they strike deeper. I once had occasion to remove several trees that had been set one year, in stiff clay, a foot or two apart, and the roots were all entangled, and least, most, twining around, but a set of young fibres were putting out of the body near the surface of the ground. About a month after this, when I dug them up, there were two orchards planted in the neighborhood, the one deep, as above, that other was scratched in a row about 18" apart, having the roots all separate, and the former remained perfectly stationary for two or three years, before they prospered, and never did so well as the other.

3. If the soil is not over the ground liberally, all over with manure, throwing none against the tree—from the stem to the top of the best part of the root, and drawing with a spade, in corn or potatos.

4. Turn in corn or potatos. Be particular to ripen the manuring every year, tending to corn or potatos for about two years, and then turn in the crop, the manure growing, if in the clay soil, the roots will run to near the surface, that plowing after that period may injure the tree.

5. About the same kind of culture that suits the apple tree, suits the peach, as far as the growth is concerned, and later, need not be set so as to be in the form.

Medow Farm, O., Feb. 1st, 1856.  
G. SPARRENS.

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