

TRANSACTIONS  
OF THE  
Wisconsin State Horticultural Society

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**SUMMER MEETING.**

La Crosse, Wis., August 25, 1909.

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MORNING SESSION.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. William A. Toole, at 10 o'clock, in the Court House.

After the invocation by Mr. Irving Smith, the president announced the first subject on the program, "The Orchard, Location, Varieties, etc." and called on Dr. Loope to speak on the subject of "Apples."

Dr. Loope: In regard to the location of the home orchard, there are a great many homes in the state of Wisconsin that have no location that would be of any use for a home orchard. The location ought to be one reasonably high and well drained; never anything else.

In regard to varieties, that is where we differ; here is where our roads will part right away. In the home orchard there is one tree that you absolutely must not plant, and one apple that must not be in the home orchard, the apple of discord, because it will bear something that will make trouble all the time and you cannot take care of it. The apple of discord is entirely discarded in my home orchard. But for fifty trees for the home orchard, I would say, 10 Wealthy, 5 Duchess, 5 Northwestern

Greening, 5 Whitneys, 5 Tetofsky, 5 McMahon, 5 Snow, or Fameuse, 1 Wolf River for shade, 1 Sweet Crab for the children

Now, you will notice in that list I have no really good winter apple, and in all the lists for your home orchard you had better leave out all the real good winter apples. What I mean by that is, that the regular old fashioned winter varieties, such as are grown in New York and Ontario and Michigan, we cannot raise. There is no use planting them; they will die. There may be favored localities where you can put in that class of fruit in this state, but there are not many of them, and the main part of the home orchard you must devote to the summer and fall apples, and if you do that you can grow all the apples you can use on fifty trees such as I have named. You would not be able to use them all.

The reason I put in the Wealthy is because the Wealthy is one of the best apples grown in Wisconsin or anywhere else. I put in the Wealthy, because, if you are near cold storage, and you have ten or twelve trees, they will fill your barrels with Wealthies, put them in that cold storage and take them out in February, March or April, and you have the finest eating that anybody ever had in an apple. So you can have apples all winter long, if you are near cold storage.

As regards culture; it is quite a mooted question. I have been to quite a number of horticultural meetings, in Missouri, Illinois and other states, and I find just as much diversity of opinion there as there would be here today, probably. The fad that they have just now is clean culture; it is a very fine fad; if you are going to have the very finest ideal for an orchard, you have got to keep it clean, free of sod, without anything green between the trees, because that is the ideal condition.

The question of culture in the home orchard is quite a burning question, because we know and you know and every one knows that the home orchard is the neglected place on the farm. If there are any Canada thistles, quack grass, or any of those things to be grown on the farm, they are grown in the home orchard. The trees are neglected, they are not pruned, and once in a while a tree will die under such use, and they will come around and say, "Why, we cannot raise apples here, the trees die." I have quite a large orchard of some five thousand trees, and I find in that orchard the trees die, but before this I have made this state-

ment, that in the community in which you live some of your neighbors die, and sometimes you cannot tell why they have died, at other times the cause of their death is very plain, and it is the same law that governs both the individual and the orchard, I think.

There are a good many other things in connection with the home orchard. The home orchard will not get spraying; ninety-nine out of every one hundred home orchards, in Wisconsin we will say, are never sprayed. Now, if you are going to educate the people of Wisconsin to the point of having home orchards, you have got to teach them to spray, and we have some gentlemen here who have been at that business this year, I am glad to say, giving demonstrations and working along that line, and I think that ought to be spread all over the state and that lesson ought to be thoroughly given.

In regard to the pruning question, every man has a way of pruning. Of course there are certain general principles in regard to pruning that are established, but when you come to the actual pruning, there are a great many people that have their own notions. I have a orchard that I have never pruned, and I have less apples on them, and I am going to put a tree butcher in and clean them out bye-and-bye, and I hope to get better fruit, and maybe as much as I have had heretofore, but I believe judicious pruning is a good thing.

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A Member: Would you plow an orchard that has been in blue grass sod now, or wait till spring?

Dr. Loope: Not now, wait until spring.

Mr. Hager: I do not agree with the doctor on the grass part and I do not want this society to go on record in favor of grass orchard, because if you do, the tendency is that they will quote this society as saying that grass is all right, and they will seed them down about the second year.

Mr. Periam: As to the question of plowing an orchard, it is self-evident that it would be ruinous to any orchard to plow it just as the orchard is ready to go to rest for the winter, because it generates a second growth.

Mr. Palmer: I practice plowing last thing in the fall, plow as shallow as I can; I never had bad results, and I think I have good results as far as curculio is concerned.

Dr. Loope: Do you have any blue-grass sod?

Mr. Palmer: I do not let any blue grass get in at all.