



Farm and Garden

PROTECTION FOR TREES.

Cornstalks and Wire Netting Shield Them From Vermin.

One of the most timely and useful bulletins seen in a long time is a recent pamphlet issued by the Ohio experiment station, Wooster. F. H. Ballou gives practical methods of protecting young trees from the attacks of mice, rabbits and other vermin. As all fruit growers know, these little animals often cause great loss by gnawing the bark from the base of the



CORNSTALK PROTECTOR.

tree up. The damage is usually worse in hard winters, when the natural food of these animals is scarce. They have been known to work in open winters and to gnaw completely some of our best young trees. Mice are worse, as the hunter puts most of the rabbits out of commission. There is more damage done in sod than in open ground, as the mice like to nest in the grass.

One of the surest ways to invite disaster is to leave a mulch close around the trunk of the tree. The mice will work under it. If there is a bare space for a few inches around the tree there is usually little danger, for the mice rarely cross a bare place to work at the bark. In an ordinary winter one finds a mound of earth or coal ashes almost a foot high at the base of the tree ample protection. With deep snow

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WIRE NETTING PROTECTOR.

this often fails, as the mice sometimes work under the snow if there is a nest near by. With rabbits, of course, this mounding will not answer.

Mr. Ballou gives a number of plans for protecting the tree trunk. His pictures are so clear that little description is needed. The object is to put something around the tree trunk which will keep the vermin away. If rabbits abound this protection should be high enough to prevent their reaching over it when standing on their hind legs. Perhaps the simplest plan is shown in the first cut. Here ordinary cornstalks are used—cut to the proper length, placed around the trunk and tied with wire or string. Rabbits do not tear the stalks off. Mice would gnaw them, and to circumvent them a roll of wire netting can be used. This is put at the base of the tree outside the stalks.

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