

Pruning Fruit Trees

Pruning is a necessity where best results are to be expected from fruit trees. A tree can be given all the attention possible relative to cultivation and fertilizer, but unless it is judiciously pruned the branches will become thick, weaken and die. These become the harboring places for insects and fungus diseases which prey upon the trees and fruit. Even if the branches do not die they become so thick that the fruit is inferior in size, color and quantity. Well pruned low headed trees, having the bearing wood well distributed, and being stout and stocky, are able to bear and hold up heavy crops of fruit. They also facilitate spraying, thinning and harvesting. They are also by far more ornamental in appearance than the awkward, long limbed unpruned trees. Pruning is necessary, therefore, where the best trees and first class fruit are desired.

To get the most satisfactory results pruning should be done every year. By annually heading back and thinning out the small branches during the early life of the tree and removing the dead branches here and a stray limb there, in after years the tree can be kept in good, healthy fruiting condition, and it will never be necessary to cut out large limbs or unbalance the tree by very heavy pruning. Pruning should consist more in directing the growth each year than in checking it by one heavy pruning which is to make up for years of neglect. If a tree is properly directed and shaped when young it will never be necessary to cut out many branches or large limbs in later years.

Pruning should commence when the tree is planted. When the tree is planted cut back the dead and broken roots to good living wood, leave a clean smooth cut. The young tree should be pruned back to the height the head of the tree is to be formed, which height should be consistent with the methods of cultivation. I would suggest 16 to 18 inches for the peach and 21 to 30 inches for the apple and pear. If the young tree is whip like the side buds may be allowed to form leaves the first season to cause it to become stout and stocky. If it is stocky enough, all the buds may be kept rubbed off as they start except those intended to form the main branches of the tree. It is a common fault to start a young tree with too many main branches which afterwards crowd each other to such an extent that it becomes necessary to cut out large limbs. Three or four main limbs if properly placed are enough for any fruit tree. The main limbs should be well arranged around the tree and at slightly different heights on the main axis. After the first season's growth all branches except those just mentioned, should be cut away, and these should be headed back about half. The annual pruning afterwards will consist largely in heading back the previous season's growth and keeping the head thinned out. On the upright growing trees, as the Kieffer pears, prune to a bud point outward as far as possible to cause the head to spread. When the tree begins to bear a full crop of fruit, it will not bear a surplus amount of wood, hence very little pruning will be necessary, except in the case of the peach tree, which should be thinned out and headed back even after it is bearing full crops of fruit. Pruning is best done when the trees are dormant preferably in the spring just before the buds start.

It sometimes becomes necessary to remove old trees which have become choked with water sprouts and dead limbs. The reclaiming process should take two or three years, depending upon the condition of the tree. The first year most of the water sprouts, all of the dead limbs, and a few of the worst offending branches should be removed. The second year more of the unnecessary limbs may be taken out. The third year the operation may be completed. In removing large

limbs, as well as in cutting smaller branches, always make a smooth close cut so that no stub is left. It is impossible for a wound to heal where a stub is left. The stub dies and rots out, leaving a hole, which condition will eventually cause decay of the heart of the tree. The larger wound should be given a coating of ordinary paint. This excludes the rain and preserves the wood until the wound is entirely healed.

The best pruning tools are a sharp saw, the narrow type, and sharp hand shears. A sharp knife can sometimes be used to advantage. There are scores of different types of pruning tools, but the ones just mentioned will be found most convenient for all purposes. Remember the axe is never a pruning tool.

O. M. Clark, Asst. Horticulturist
S. C. Experiment Station

When "Bunt Pulls the Strings" has undoubtedly added materially to the popularity of Scotch characters and actors in America. Duncan, the head taster of McLean's timber gang and Mrs. Duncan who gives mother love and a home to Freckles, in the dramatization of Gene Stratton-Porter's novel of the same title are two of the most lovable and quaintly humorous Scotch characters ever introduced in a play. At the Opera House, Monday, March 17th.-adv.

Industrious Pullets.

Mrs. Clement A. McLaughlin, of Salem, N. H., tells of an egg-laying record for January. The record was made by ten pullets hatched out July 2, which commenced to lay November 28. During the month of January they laid 252 eggs.—Savannah News.

Anatol Friedland, the celebrated Viennese composer, has been engaged by Manager A. G. Delamater to compose the music for the songs sung in "FRECKLES". Also a Woodland Fantasy to be played by the orchestra before the rise of the curtain. In fact, nothing has been left undone by the management to make "FRECKLES" the artistic as well as financial success of the season.—At the Opera House, Monday, March 17th.-adv.

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All persons indebted to the estate of Joseph W. Phillips, deceased, are requested to make prompt payment of such indebtedness to the undersigned and all persons having claims against the said estate will please present the same properly attested to me.
Geo. F. Dukes, Administrator,
Cum testamento annexo.
March 11, 1913.

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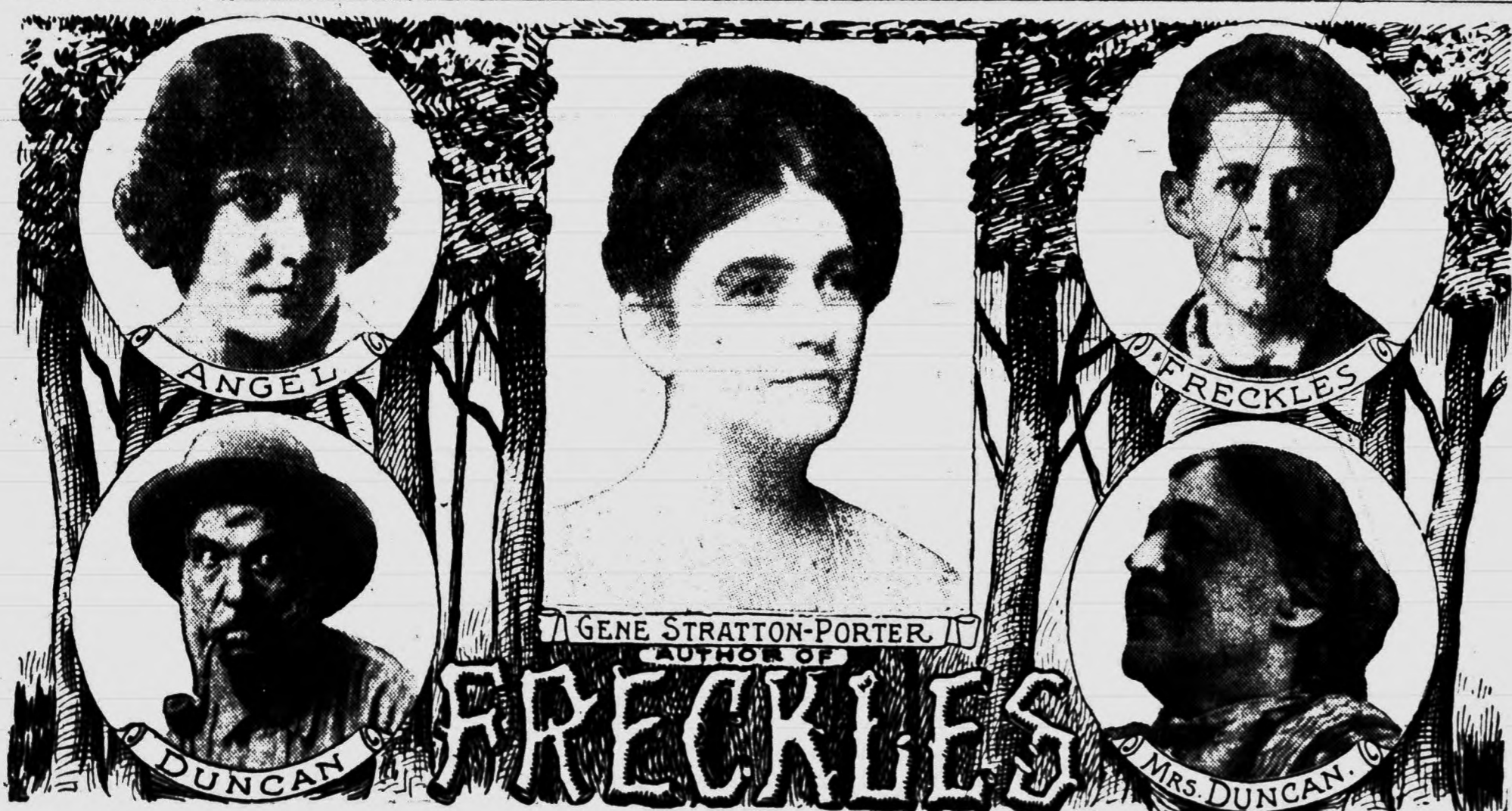
Schedules Effective January 12, 1913.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURES BARNWELL, S. C.

N. B. These schedule figures are shown as information only and are not guaranteed.
2:08 a. m. No. 23 daily from Columbia to Jacksonville. Pullman sleeping car Cincinnati and Augusta to Jacksonville.
4:20 a. m. No. 24 daily from Jacksonville to Columbia. Pullman sleeping cars Jacksonville to Cincinnati and Augusta.
8:35 a. m. No. 134 daily from Allendale to Columbia.
9:00 a. m. No. 25 daily from Columbia to Savannah.
9:45 a. m. No. 31 daily The Southern's Southeastern Limited from New York to Jacksonville. Pullman sleeping cars, dining car service.
11:45 a. m. No. 149 daily from Batesburg to Allendale.
2:12 p. m. No. 148 daily from Allendale to Batesburg.
5:06 p. m. No. 32 daily The Southern's Southeastern Limited from Jacksonville to New York. Pullman sleeping cars, dining car service.
6:06 p. m. No. 133 daily from Columbia to Allendale.
7:18 p. m. No. 26 daily from Savannah to Columbia.

For detailed information, sleeping car reservations call on nearest ticket agent, or,

A. H. Acker, TPA., W. E. McGee, AGPA., H. F. Cary, GPA.,
Augusta, Ga., Columbia, S. C., Washington, D. C.
S. H. Hardwick, PTM., E. H. Cozman, VPA&GM
Washington, D. C.



At the Barnwell Opera House, Monday, March 17th, 1913