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Old Oak Process Trees!

Discovered, Introduced, Propagated and Sold EXCLUSIVELY

—BY THE—

STARK NURSERIES,

LOUISIANA, MISSOURI.

MAY 10 1888
5694

DUPLICATE

TRADE MARK PATENTED APRIL 26TH, 1887.

NOTICE.—The exclusive right to propagate, advertise and sell the OLD OAK PROCESS Trees, is secured to the introducers by Patented Trade Mark: any infringement will incur the penalty of the law.

The discovery and introduction of the OLD OAK PROCESS trees marks an era in fruit growing, the vast importance of which is beyond all estimate—transcends all horticultural discoveries of past centuries, and is destined to revolutionize fruit and orchard culture throughout the world. They are propagated exclusively on *whole* roots, many kinds on whole *Mariana* roots, and are grown wide apart to allow of full and free development of root and branch. Being on whole roots they always make the largest and best trees, well supplied with both tap roots and side roots, grow more symmetrical in form, and have well-balanced heads or tops. Not their least remarkable quality is their almost invariable fine size and form; nearly all have bodies from three quarters to one inch thick at the ground; are from five to seven feet high,—except of course, poor growing varieties and dwarf trees,—and all have the finest and most shapely tops it is possible to grow. By using the whole root the tap root is preserved and the roots penetrate deeper into the earth, thus obtaining more moisture and holding the tree firm and upright, and producing a more even flow of sap to all parts of the tree. Common root-grafted trees, made on pieces of roots form plenty of *side* roots but no deeply penetrating tap roots or *feeders* to guard them against injury in sudden changes and through extreme cold winters, or to support them during severe drouths; such trees lack in hardiness, are unproductive and easily blown about by winds, soon become diseased and consequently are short lived.

The superiority of whole root trees has long been acknowledged by intelligent horticulturists, yet nine-tenths of the apple trees sold are piece-root grafted. It costs more to propagate whole root trees, and it has been difficult to get planters to pay that additional cost; but we are glad to see the people in some sections awakening to their interests. In some places the horticultural societies have passed resolutions condemning piece-root grafting, and their members resolving that they will only plant whole root trees. We do not wish to wait to be *led* in the path of duty; our aim is to *go ahead* and do the *best* we know for our customers. We have invested a large sum in getting up a *splendid* stock of OLD OAK PROCESS trees, relying upon the better judgment of purchasers to sustain us in the enterprise.

There has been much complaint for many years of trees dying prematurely in orchards, sometimes even before they had arrived at a bearing age. Upon examination the trouble would sometimes be found at the root, and very often just above ground, at which point the bark would be found cracked or blackened. This latter trouble does not always kill the tree at once, but often causes it to die prematurely. These ills can, to a great extent, be obviated by planting whole root trees. We have not space here to discuss the question fully, but we will point out a few further reasons why OLD OAK PROCESS trees are best.

In the first place, in piece-root grafting we take a seedling stock, cut the root up in pieces of about two inches in length, sometimes making five or six cuts out of one root; into each one of these we insert a graft three or four inches in length; when these are set out in the nursery-row the graft is placed so that only about one inch remains *above* ground—therefore two or three inches of the *scion*, which grew high up in the pure air and sunshine, is placed *in* the ground, entirely out of its proper element. The ground is the place for the root, but the scion should be where it can get light and air. Trees grown from piece-root grafts are entirely unlike Nature's plants, the scion being several inches below its proper place. The roots from these small pieces cannot be so well developed as to properly feed the tree or hold it up; hence such trees are often uprooted by storms, while those with a better system of roots stand firm. To grow trees naturally, we must plant the whole stock, with its crown near the surface, as nature produced it; then we have the *whole* root, strong and unimpaired by division, to feed and develop the tree, which will be hardy and well equipped to resist the severe changes of wet and dry, hot and cold seasons. It needs no argument to convince those who have seen the roots of OLD OAK PROCESS and piece-root grafted trees that the former are much more numerous and more perfect in their development than the latter. Now, since the tree is not only held in its place by its roots, but also receives the most of its nourishment through them, it is plain to see why it will grow larger, live longer, and bear more when propagated on the whole root than when but a small piece of the root is used.

We do not propose to stop growing piece-root grafted trees at once, for the reason that it would be ruinous to our pecuniary interests to do so, as there are persons who are "penny-wise and pound foolish," who *will not* be convinced that one tree is not just as good as another. They say "a tree is a tree," although they would never speak of other property in this way—a colt for instance. Yet there is as much difference in proportion between trees as colts. What the colt is, however, can generally be seen, but the buyer of trees must wait for years before he sees what the tree is; and the colt if not wanted, may be sold in a month or a year, but if the tree turns out to be a disappointment, it is beyond remedy. But we will convince these persons just as fast as we can that, in a matter of such importance as planting an orchard, there is no economy in saving a few dollars by purchasing an inferior article. Select the best, so that they will endure for the longest possible time, and not have your hopes blasted by your trees failing at the time you expected them to be in their prime, OLD OAK PROCESS trees cost four to six times as much for stocks to begin with, besides being much more expensive to plant, dig, pack, ship, etc.; so our customers can see that it costs us fully the difference in price asked for them. There is just as much or more money in growing piece-root grafted stock, but we have gone largely into growing OLD OAK PROCESS trees because we know they are the best. Our ordinary root grafted trees are as good as any grown, and while purchasers want and will have them, we will continue to supply these cheaper trees of as good quality as can be produced.

But although OLD OAK PROCESS trees are more costly, they are worth many times as much, for *what we want is a long-lived, healthy, fruit-bearing tree*, one that will come *early* into bearing, that will withstand the severest winters and protracted drouths; and to this end it is also of the utmost importance that it should not be crowded in the nursery, thereby depriving it of the advantage of *full natural roots*, for "perfect roots will produce perfect trees."

Dr. Warder, the eminent pomologist, declares that much the most serious fault of nurserymen is "the too common error of *crowding* the trees." And then notice the following: Some use only the original collar of the seedling stock, the only point at which the most perfect and successful union between the aerial and terrestrial portions of trees should, or can be made. Trees propagated by this method are more hardy and better able to resist the severity of winter than others of the *same varieties*, which have been grafted in the root, and also such trees come sooner into bearing.

Chas. Downing, in the great work of his life, "Fruits and Fruit-Trees of America," says: Large quantities of trees are propagated by using pieces of roots, thus forming from the root of one stock, two, three, or more, grafts. This practice, although quite common, is of *very doubtful* value and by prominent horticulturists considered as tending to debilitate and reduce vitality—the seat of vital life in fact resting in the *natural crown* of the seedling, and *that*, once destroyed cannot be renewed. It is therefore apparent that but *one healthy permanent tree* can ever be grown from a single seedling stock.

Than Downing and Warder, no higher authorities have ever lived in America, or in the world.

And still further proof of the advantages of whole roots, which is of itself convincing to all observant minds, is found in the thousands of seedling orchards all over the United States, all without exception perfectly healthy, and bearing annually heavy crops of fruit, notwithstanding many of them have passed their hundredth year. Along the Hudson River, and in many of the New England States, where are found the most experienced orchardists in America, men who have made fruit-growing a life business, as did their fathers before them, they will not under any consideration now plant a piece-root grafted tree. Observation of their old seedling orchards, and costly experience with the cheap grafted trees so generally grown by nurserymen of late years, have thoroughly convinced them of the utter worthlessness for permanent orchards of these so-called "improved root-grafted trees." As a consequence they now seek trees in the production of which the plain lessons set by Nature herself are not disregarded. And in California where fruit growing is better understood, is a greater business, and is carried to a higher degree of perfection than any where else in the world, they absolutely will not buy or plant a piece-root graft. We ship large quantities to California every season; latterly, although at a much higher price, *every order has been for whole root grafts*.

Then again notice the following from Report of Mo. State Hort. Soc. for 1886: In this connection we would say that many orchard trees, particularly Ben Davis, are injured in dry seasons because of rooting too shallow. In the ordinary root-grafted tree scarcely ever any *strong, healthy tap-roots* result, and the tree, lacking the support that deeply penetrating roots alone afford, will inevitably suffer from drouth, heat and cold, and will be *short lived*. We should choose trees grafted on whole roots, although very expensive to make, plant and dig. The same report says in regard to OLD OAK PROCESS trees on *Mariana* roots: The Mariana is a vigorous grower, productive and hardy; is propagated from cuttings and so can be used as a stock for budding—and herein lies the promise of great things for the future of plum, peach and apricot culture. A stock, free from the objections that attach to the St. Julien and the half-hardy, borer-ridden Myrobolan, that does not sprout and sucker like our native plum,

which withal soon falls behind the engrafted tree in the race for growth, certainly meets the proverbial "long-felt want." This the Mariana stock does very fully and completely; it forms an admirable root, is perfectly hardy, free from borers and diseases, cannot be outgrown, and never sprouts or suckers. Other plums budded on Mariana will surprise even themselves, while peach trees will find it a congenial union, and bidding defiance to borers and all the ills peach wood is heir to, will be prepared to move several degrees further toward the Northern Pole. And what a field is here presented for the new Russian apricots! We dare predict the day will come when the use of all other plum stocks not only will have ceased, but even the peach stock to a great extent will have been superceded by the Mariana. Chas. Downing says in regard to the apricot that it should always be budded on the plum stock, when it is found more hardy and durable, is but little liable to *diseases* and may be considered a *hardy* fruit-tree.

We offer our Old Oak Process trees with our guarantee for their quality and excellence. **CAUTION.**—Every order containing either Old Oak Process trees, or *Strictly First-Class Extra Selected* stock, has our *Patented Trade-Mark Tag* attached. Each O. O. P. tree bears a separate label, usually *printed*; cheap list trees but one label to a bunch of each sort; if the entire order is cheap list stock (whether it includes any No. 1 piece-root grafted apple trees or not) it bears a *red tag*, without our name.

From Eaton Bros., Champaign Co., Ill.—We have been much pleased with your *Old Oak Process* trees. We also once planted an orchard of root-grafted trees, which is proving short-lived, we believe, just on account of the piece root plan. We believe the O. O. P. something that is *good*, and that will prove of immense benefit to future fruit-growers.

From Hon. Henry M. Dunlap, Rural Home Fruit Farm, Savoy, Ill.—The trees arrived in good order. Only 7 of the Willow Twig are alive of those rec'd last year, while all of the other varieties are living [400 trees—S. N.] The Willow Twig you sent me this year [*Old Oak Process*—S. N.] were the finest of that variety I ever saw, and I was somewhat in doubt as to their being true to name, but on closer examination they show the characteristic growth of that variety.

From Prairie Farmer, Chicago.—Successful Orcharding in Illinois: First graft the tree in the crown or collar, near the ground. Then you have a good, vigorous, healthy young tree, with a natural tap root, and the foundation is thus laid for a long-lived tree. Do not plant a tree which has been grafted in to a piece of a root, for when you do, you lay the foundation for your tree on decaying timber.

From St. Louis Journal of Agriculture.—THE KIND OF TREES.—I give my experience and mistakes as a horticulturist. Life is too short to make the second mistake in this pursuit, and by telling our mistakes we may prevent others from making them. In the spring of 1864 we set out an orchard of 109 apple trees, all of which were grafts on short pieces of roots.

The same spring we planted a small nursery of seeds for the purpose of grafting or budding, that we might reset those that died and also enlarge our orchard. Being crowded with other farm work at the season of budding, the seedlings were left over for the next year. When at the proper season for budding we found some too large to bud near the ground, consequently we inserted the bud higher up where the tree would be of proper size, some being put in as high as 12 to 20 inches on the seedling trunk. By the time these budded trees were large enough for transplanting, the borer had played sad havoc with the 109 trees. They proving to be a tempting bait to this arch enemy of the horticulturist. Some 20 or 30 were killed outright. We refilled the vacant places with the budded trees from our own nursery which are doing well, while their neighbors have gone the way of all the earth. Some of these budded trees formed an ugly knee at the junction, but for all that we find the tree and also the apple all right, and nearly every fall laden with fruit.

Before we were aware that the root grafted tree was an inviting bait for the borer we set another orchard of about two hundred trees of the same kind; more than half of which have succumbed to the borer, with all our watchful care. The root grafted trees when laden with fruit or sleet sometimes turn out by the roots, showing no tap roots, all being lateral roots, leaving the old end of the original root unhealed, which invites the enemy. J. J. ARTHUR, Pike Co., Mo.