

## Hints on Propagating Mistletoe from the Berry.<sup>1</sup>

BY

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The best tree for growing mistletoe on is a young Siberian Crab, with a stem below branches of about four feet in height. Young apple-trees are suitable also, and, in general, soft-wooded trees, such as the rowan. The best time for sowing is spring, about April, and the berries must have been freshly gathered within a few days. There are male and female mistletoe plants, which must be grown near each other in order to produce berries on the female plant.

Select a branch of from one to two inches in diameter, with clean, smooth bark, free from roughness or inequalities of any kind; also free from little side twigs from which birds could pick the berries. No incision, scratch, or bruise is to be made on the surface of the bark. This is of the utmost importance.

Take the berry between the finger and thumb and gently squeeze out the seed on to the bark, throwing away the skin. The seed will readily adhere by the viscid substance which is contained in the berry. The seed should not be rubbed in any way, but simply placed on the branch. In a short time the gummy substance dries up, leaving the seed firmly adhering to the branch. Several seeds should be placed together, or near each other, as probably only one out of half-a-dozen will grow.

Shortly after the berries have been placed a young green process appears, which turns towards the bark, and ultimately fixes itself there by a disk, but a year will have to elapse before it can be seen whether the seedling will grow or not.

<sup>1</sup>As we receive frequently applications for information upon this subject, this note by Mr. William Paxton of Orchardton, Fountainhall Road, Edinburgh, an enthusiastic and successful cultivator of mistletoe, should be generally useful.—*Regius Keeper*.

[Notes, R.G.B., Edin., No. V, 1901.]