

Agriculture, &c.

FORMATION OF A FISH POND.

Having had some experience as a landscape gardener, I offer a few hints respecting the formation of a fish pond, which may possibly prove useful. It would be difficult to give a correct plan without some knowledge of the location. The ground should be retentive—clay is the best; mark off the sites with pegs, then take off the top or surface soil, and remove it to some distance beyond the line; then dig out to any depth desired, gradually sloping from the edge to the centre, if a small one; if large, it may be carried at a level, after sloping to the desired depth. Any portion of the excavation not retentive, should be filled with puddled clay—i. e., clay made of the consistency of putty, and well worked, by means of wooden rammers with rounded ends, not less than twenty inches in thickness.

Should the pond be on a lawn or level plateau, the soil excavated may be formed into an embankment, the slope of which should not be at a less angle than 45 deg. on the inside; and the top of the outside about 30 deg., and the top as level as possible, and well-defined edges. The surface soil may now be laid on the embankment, and well beaten or rolled. A small pond of this kind may be made both useful and ornamental. Numerous varieties of the finny tribe would doubtless succeed—the carp family particularly. It may be used also as a convenient bathing place, if the embankment is planted with shrubs, which will greatly heighten the effect. On a small scale, the outline should be curvilinear, as sharp lines have always a harsh appearance to the eye.—Cor. Southern Cultivator.

CARROTS.

Those who have light loamy or sandy soil may enjoy the comfort and luxury of this vegetable. It is not only wholesome in itself and nutritious, but an excellent promoter of digestion. To grow the carrot in perfection, the soil should be well worked and thoroughly pulverized, and well supplied with perfectly rotten manure. The seed should be sown about an inch deep, in drills one foot apart, as early as the ground can be nicely worked. An ounce of seed is enough for one hundred feet of drill. After the plants appear they will require thinning out to about four inches apart. They will grow better if frequently hoed, and the weeds never allowed to appear.

The Early French Short Horn is the best variety by far for table use. It comes to maturity early, and is sweeter than any other sort.

HOUSE PLANTS.

A room for mixed plants should not be heated above 65 degrees by day, or lower than 55, nor higher than 50 or lower than 40 by night.

This winter, we hear more of plants being frozen than usual. Early in the winter the sudden change of the wind took many unawares, and spoiled their plants, and very cold weather has destroyed many more.

Many of the most careful have lost their pets.

What shall be done with these plants? How can we soonest fill our windows again? are questions asked every day. The loss is great; we miss our plants as we do pieces of furniture or even members of the family.

Many threw the remains out of doors, others down the cellar, while some kill what is left by kindness.

I would say, cut back the branches as far as frozen and too near the earth, if killed as far, water slightly, and only when the earth around the plant is dry and seems to need it. Do not keep the plant as warm quite as before it was frozen, and if there is any life in the branches, they will soon show it by buds and leaves.

Many plants, such as fuchsias, will sprout from the roots and make a strong growth; others will start out near the roots, and send up healthy flowering branches. Watch and destroy the insects, if any appear.

But if it is feared and known that the old plants will not grow, seeds may be planted in the pots that will soon give foliage and flowers, or bulbs may be set in empty pots.

Hyacinths, crocuses, tulips, and other bulbs, may be set at once, and in a few weeks fine flowers cheer the household. Sow verbena, petunia, argeratum, aly-

sum, canna, mignonette, stock, zinnia, and many other kinds of seed, and you will have good bedding plants at least; sow good seed; do not waste your time with poor varieties.

For hanging baskets sow seed of lobelia speciosa or gracilis, abronia, mimulus, ice plant, nemophila, maundaria, and other climbing and hanging plants.—C. L. Whitney, in Miskegon Enterprise.

Scientific.

CLIMATOLOGY OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

F. Allison, Esq., has published a Tabular Statement, shewing the full particulars of Temperature, rain, snow, winds, &c., &c., for March, of the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario. From which we extract the following:

Table with columns: Location, Mean, Max., Min. Includes Halifax, N.S., St. John, N.B., Quebec, Montreal, Toronto, Ontario.

A RING OF SATURN LOST.—Prof. Struve, the distinguished astronomer of Pultowa, has been for years watching the rings of Saturn; and the inner one of the three rings, an obscure, partly transparent mass of what appeared to be vapor, has been seen to approach the body of the planet, and to widen its distance from the other rings, which seemed to be fluid in character, or perhaps made up of myriads of small bodies, moving together like the streams of meteors which supply the periodic showers. But during several months past, this inner ring has fallen more rapidly, and finally the attraction of Saturn entirely overcame the centrifugal force, and it closed upon the body of the planet, forming a belt, which was gradually diffused over its surface, so that there is now no trace whatever of the ring left. Is this to be the fate also of the other rings? or will they ultimately gather into satellites, as has more commonly been supposed?

PROTECTING ROOFS FROM FIRE.—A wash, composed of lime, salt and fine sand with wood ashes, put on in the ordinary way of whitewashing, is said to render the roof fifty fold more safe against taking fire from falling cinders, or otherwise, in case of fire in the vicinity. It pays the expense a hundred fold in its preserving influence against the effects of the weather; the older and more weather-beaten the shingles, the more benefit derived. Such shingles are generally more or less warped, rough and cracked. The application of the wash, by wetting the upper surface, restores them to the original or first form, thereby closing the spaces between the shingles, and the lime and sand, by filling up the cracks and pores in the shingle itself, prevents its warping for years, if not forever.—Fireman's Journal.

A BIG BLAST.—An extraordinary blast of granite took place at the Bonaw quarries, Argyleshire. A perpendicular rock-face, about 100 feet square, was pierced below the centre by a tunnel 2 feet high and 2 1/2 feet wide for 50 feet inward, and then branching off at right angles for 13 and 15 feet terminating in a couple of chambers, wherein 8,000 pounds of gunpowder were deposited, and fired by a galvanic battery. There was a slight report, and then a burst outward into the quarry of about 80,000 tons of granite.

WEIGHT OF WOOD.—In the Carpenters' Hand-Book, we find the following given as the weights per cubic foot, respectively, of the woods named:—Beech, 40 pounds; Birch, 45 pounds; Cedar, 28 pounds; Hickory, 52 pounds; Ebony, 83 pounds; Yellow Pine, 38 pounds; Cork, 15 pounds; White Pine, 25 pounds; Lignum-Vitæ, 83 pounds.

ARTIFICIAL BREEDING OF FISH.—About 29,000 ova were placed in the hatching troughs of Messrs Brown & Co.'s Trout Breeding establishment in Galt during the past season, from which over 25,000 spawn have been hatched. The young fry are thriving excellently and are rapidly increasing in size.

A patent has been taken out by a Mr. Stewart, of Edinburgh, for the construction of India rubber wheels, which are said to be extremely durable, and suitable for even rough roads and extremes of climate.

MESSENGER ALMANACK.

MAY, 1871.

Full Moon, May 4th, 6h 45m. afternoon. Last Quarter, " 11th, 10h. 9m. morning. New Moon, " 19th, 6h. 31m. morning. First Quarter, " 27th, 8h. 48m. morning.

Table with columns: Day, SUN, MOON, High Tide at Halifax. Includes dates from 1st to 31st.

THE TIDES.—The column of the Moon's Southing gives the time of high water at Pictou, Cornwallis, Horton, Mansport, Windsor, Newport, and Truro.

High water at Pictou and Cape Tormentins, 2 hours and 11 minutes later than at Halifax. At Annapolis, St. John, N. B., and Portland Maine, 3 hours and 25 minutes later, and at St. John's, Newfoundland 20 minutes earlier, than at Halifax. At Charlottetown, 2 hours 56 minutes later. At Westport, 2 hours 51 minutes later. At Yarmouth, 2 hours 20 minutes later.

FOR THE LENGTH OF THE DAY.—Add 12 hours to the time of the sun's setting, and from the sum subtract the time of rising.

FOR THE LENGTH OF THE NIGHT.—Subtract the time of the sun's setting from 12 hours, and to the remainder add the time of rising next morning.

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