

Agriculture.

THE FLOWER AND FRUIT GARDEN.

Flowers are more loved for their own sakes than formerly; and this will bring up again the Hollyhocks, Chrysanthemums, Dahlias, Pansies, Pinks, Phloxes, Polyanthuses, and other old fashioned things which the rage for massing nearly drove out of sight.

There have been some interesting novel features introduced into European flower gardens the past year in the employment of dwarf shrubs as permanent borders for flower beds. The little dwarf, variegated Japan Euonymus, E. radicans, variegata, for instance, makes a charming border for Coleus, Achyranthus, and such other things.

So far as the general hints applicable to the every year management of the flower garden department is concerned the annual pruning must be got through with as soon as possible.

Do not transplant till the ground is warm and the buds are about to push. Many die by exposure to winds for a few weeks before they have warmth to push roots and leaves into growth.

The rule for pruning at transplanting is to cut in proportion to apparent injury to roots. If not much the worse for removal, cut but little of the top away.

Box edging lays well now. Make the ground firm and level, plant deep, with tops not more than two inches above the ground.

If flowers have been growing in the ground many years new soil does wonders. Rich manure makes flowers grow, but they do not always flower well with various growth. If new soil cannot be had, a wheelbarrow of manure to fifty square feet will be enough.

If the garden earth looks gay or yellow, rotten leaves—quite rotten leaves—will improve it. If heavy, add sand. If very sandy, add salt—about half a pint to fifty square feet.

If the garden be full of hardy perennial flowers, do not dig it, but use a fork, and that not deep.

FRUIT GARDEN.

Take borers out of a fruit tree, and wrap tarred paper round the stem at the collar to keep them out for the rest of the season.

Wash the bark of trees, where not done, to kill the eggs of insects, and soften the old skin so as to permit it to swell freely.

For small places, a plentiful supply of Strawberries, Raspberries, Blackberries, Gooseberries, and Currants should be provided, and the grapevine by no means forgotten. These seldom fail to do well. Strawberries do well on a rich, dry, but deep soil.

Deep planting causes the annual death of hundreds of thousands of both Blackberries and Raspberries. An inch under ground, and the earth beaten or trodden firm, is enough for these plants.

The Strawberry where it has been covered during the winter, should be uncovered as early as possible in spring, that the warm spring suns may exert all their influence on producing an early crop. As soon as growth commences, a sowing of guano has been

found to be of great benefit to the crop of fruit.

In planting fruit trees aim to have them so that the hot dry sun will not have full effect on the ground about the roots. The great heat in this way injures the trees. Many who have trees in gardens plant raspberries under them. The partial shade seems to be good for the Raspberries, and helps the trees. Blackberries would, no doubt, do well in the same situation; and Strawberries, it is well known, do not do badly grown in the same way.

The Gooseberry and Currant also do well in partial shade. In fact if you would have the Gooseberry and Currant in great perfection, get a lot of old brush wood and cover the rows closely, so that the plants will have to push through and you will be astonished at the growth and healthfulness of the bushes. The decaying wood also furnishes an excellent manure for them. The finest currants ever grown can be had by mulching with chestnut burrs, or even sawdust.

In fruit growing remember that fruits are like grain and vegetable crops, in this, they must have manure to keep up fertility. Unlike vegetables and grain, however, their feeding roots are mostly at the surface. It is best, therefore, annually to top-dress fruit-trees. If manure cannot be had, any fresh earth from ditches or road sides, spread a half an inch or so under the trees, will have a wonderful effect. Indeed, we do not know but that for the pear tree a thin layer of road sand is one of the best of manures. We have seen apples thrive amazingly with a coating of coal ashes.—Gardener's Monthly.

HOUSE PLANTS IN WINTER.—Mr. James Vick, whose large experience as a florist makes him an unexceptional authority on the subject, gives the following suggestions with regard to the management of house plants in winter:—

"Few plants can endure the high temperature and dry atmosphere of most of our living rooms. The temperature should not be allowed to go above sixty-five in the day time, and forty in the night. As much air and light as possible should be given, while the leaves should be sprinkled every morning. A spare room, or parlor, or extra bedroom, is better for plants than a living room. A bay window, connected with a warm room, especially if facing the south or east, makes an excellent place for keeping plants in winter. It should have glass doors on the inside, which can be closed part of the time, especially when sweeping and dusting. The main thing in keeping house plants in health is to secure an even temperature, a moist atmosphere, and freedom from dust. Sprinkle the leaves occasionally, and when they need water, use it freely. If the green fly, or aphid, appears, wash with soap-suds frequently, and occasionally with a little tobacco water, or a decoction of quassia chips. If the red spider comes, it shows the plants are in too dry an atmosphere. Burn a little sulphur under the plants, the fumes of which will kill the spider, and afterwards keep the stems and leaves well moistened. Occasionally, but not often, worms appear in the pots. This can be avoided by careful potting. A little weak lime water is sometimes of benefit in such cases, also five drops of liquid ammonia to a gallon of water, though, perhaps the better way is to re-pot removing the earth carefully, so as not to injure the growth of the plant."

HENS THAT EAT EGGS.—The best way to break hens of egg-eating is to break their necks and re-stock with birds that have not acquired the habit. Fowls that are expert in egg-eating first attack the egg with their bill. If it is a thin shell, a few strokes will break it, and the rest is an easy job. If, however, the shell is a thick one, they generally fail to break it with their beak; then they begin to scratch in the nest, and with their feet, throw the egg against the hard sides of the box until it is broken. First of all, make hens lay hard-shelled eggs, so hard that they cannot be readily broken by a hen's bill. This can be done by feeding freely with slacked lime, ground or broken bones, oyster shells, etc. To prevent breaking against the sides of the box, the nests should be high and lined upon the sides with cushions filled with hay or other soft material. Their only chance then is that they may throw two eggs forcibly against each other. To prevent this, I rob them of the nest egg, and gather the eggs several times a day. It is a good plan to leave a few China eggs

near the nest for them to work at, which will make their bills so sore that they will strike the real egg with less force.—Cor. Poultry Yard.

HANGING BASKETS.—Plants with slender branches which naturally hang down, are most suitable for hanging baskets. "Mother of Thousands"—the "Wandering Jew" with its pretty marked leaves—the "Lobelias,"—and some of the trailing "Campanulus or Bell flowers"—the well named "Rattailed Cactus," and the so-called "Ice-plants," are all more at home when suspended than when grown in any other position, unless it may be when placed on brackets each side of the window, where they have a very charming appearance. I would suggest that the suspended basket or flower-pot should be supported by a piece of cord passed through a small pulley, by which means it will be easily lowered down for the purpose of watering.—Canadian Farmer.

AN ESTABLISHED FACT!!!—One year's trial has proved the wonderful benefits arising from the use of the Nutritious Condiment of "THE NORTH BRITISH CATTLE-FOOD COMPANY OF LONDON AND GLASGOW," hundreds throughout this Province who have used it, testify that it is decidedly the best thing for seasoning the food of animals, especially HORSES, COWS and OXEN, during this season of the year, it is also the cheapest—one cent's worth seasons one meal, and effects a saving of twenty-five per cent, on the ordinary food. Get a small bag, and try it, and you will be satisfied. Sold in bags, at \$1 1/2, \$2 1/2, \$4 1/2, and \$8—a Pamphlet with full directions for use in each bag. Address, GEORGE FRASER, Manager, North British Cattle Food Co., 83 Lower Water Street, Halifax, March 26. 1m.

Joyful news for the Afflicted. GATES' Life of Man Bitters. CALEB GATES, Esq. Aylesford, Feb 7th, 1872. Mr. Caleb Gates—Dear Sir—This is to certify that I have been troubled with the dyspepsia for about three years and have taken almost every kind of medicine within my reach that has been prescribed for the disease, but could find no relief. I took one bottle of your Bitters and one bottle of your Invigorating Syrup which effected a complete cure. You are at liberty to publish this for the benefit of other sufferers. I am, sir, respectfully yours, MRS. W. H. GRAYES. Sworn to before me, TUPPER, J. P. Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, Sept. 1871. Mr. Caleb Gates—Dear Sir—I have very much pleasure in writing to you so that all may receive the same benefit from your Life of Man Bitters and Invigorating Syrup. I was much troubled last winter with a severe cold which continued to get worse until I feared it would settle upon my lungs. My cough was incessant. I could get no relief from any quarter or from any medicine man, until I accidentally fell in with your valuable Syrup. I now honestly on my oath state that one bottle of it gave me instant relief. I use it continually in my family and would not be without it on any account. Several other persons with whom I am acquainted have also been cured by your valuable medicines. I shall be happy to give any further information concerning your medicines at any time. I have also been cured of palpitation of the heart by the use of Gates' medicines. One of my daughters was in a fearful state as regards a cough or cold, and she received immediate relief and a perfect cure, and can honestly recommend it to all young and old. JAMES YOUNG. Sworn before me—one of her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Lunenburg. JAMES D. SELIG, J. P. April 9.

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HALIFAX, N. S., APRIL 9, 1873.

MESSENGER ALMANACK. APRIL, 1873.

First Quarter, April 4th, 2h. 22m. afternoon. Full Moon, " 12th, 5h. 37m. afternoon. Last Quarter, " 20th, 1h. 33m. morning. New Moon, " 28th, 6h. 28m. afternoon.

Table with columns: Day, SUN., MOON., High Tide at Halifax. Rows for days of the month from 1st to 30th.

THE TIDES.—The column of the Moon's Southings gives the time of high water at Parrsboro, Cornwallis, Horton, Hantsport, Windsor, Newport, and Truro.

High water at Pictou and Cape Tormentine, 2 hours and 13 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 54 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.

WINDSOR & ANNAPOLIS RAILWAY. CONDENSED TIME TABLE. DECEMBER, 1872.

HALIFAX TO ST. JOHN.

Table showing stations (Halifax, Bedford, Wind Junction, Mount Uniacke, Newport, Windsor, Hantsport, Wolfville, Kentville, Berwick, Aylesford, Middleton, Lawrence town, Bridgetown, Annapolis) with departure and arrival times.

ST. JOHN TO HALIFAX.

Table showing stations (St. John by Steamer, Annapolis, Bridgetown, Lawrence town, Middleton, Aylesford, Berwick, Kentville, Wolfville, Hantsport, Windsor, Newport, Mount Uniacke, Windsor Junc., Bedford, Halifax) with departure and arrival times.

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