to take two years for the operation, cutting half of the roots each year. Such trees may be removed in safety, especially if a good share of the top is removed at transplanting.—*American Agriculturist for October.*

PYRETHRUM, OR CHRYSANTHEMUM CORYMBOSUM.

This is a robust herbaceous plant with elegantly cut foliage and white and yellow flower heads, know also in gardens as *Pyrethrum corymbosum.* Under cultivation it grows about 4 feet high, and probably higher in rich soil. It is as hardy and persistent as the allied species, *C. Parthenium*, syn. *Pyrethrum parthenium*, of which the Golden Feather is a variety. In a wild state it grows from 1 to 3 feet high, and it is a common plant in Central and Southern Europe, ranging from Portugal to Switzerland, Austria, and Turkey.

The insecticide and insectifuge qualities of the dried and finely powdered flowerheads of different species of *Pyrethrum* and the harmlessness of the powder to man, to other animals, and to plants, have long since been known. Used against various household pests, under the names "Persian insect powder" or "Dalmatian insect powder," it has hitherto been put up in small bottles or packages and sold at high prices. The so-called Persian powder is made from flowers of *Pyrethrum carneum* and *P. roseum*, while that from *P. cinerariæfolium*, a native of Dalmatia, Herzegovinia, and Montenegro, is more generally known as Dalmatian powder. Some interesting experiments made during past year on different insects by Mr. William Saunders, of London, Ontario, show that the use of this powder may be satisfactorily extended beyond the household, while a series made by Professor Riley in the summer of 1878, with the same powder on the cotton worm, showed it to have striking destructive powers, the slightest puff of the powder causing certain death and the almost instant dropping of the worm from the plant. Repeated on a still more extensive scale the present year at Columbus, Texas, the powder proved equally satisfactory in the field.

Here, then, we have a remedy far exceeding any other so far known in efficacy and harmlessness to man and plant, and the only question has been to reduce its cost. Mr. Milco, a native of Dalmatia, has been cultivating the *P. cinerariæfolium* in California in constantly increasing area for the past three years, and deserves great credit for his efforts in introducing it. The insect powders made from the California grown flowers have proved to be very effective.—*Scientific American.*

THE BANANA.

A slight description of the banana as it is seen growing may be interesting to some who enjoy its delicious substance without knowing what form it presents during the primary stages of its growth. The stem of the plant is not woody, but consists of the footstalks of the former leaves wrapped round each other, and it rises to the height of twelve or fifteen feet. The leaves are very large, of a long, oval form, five or six feet in length and beautifully green in color. The middle rib of the leaf is tough and strong, but the rest of its substance is thin and delicate, and is easily torn by the wind alone, in a direction at right angles with the rib.

The manner in which the fruit is devoloped is quite interesting. From the midst of the leaves, and at the top, appears a large, smooth, purple cone, hanging down gracefully at the end of a stalk. The flowers are all wrapped up in this cone, which consists of a large number of closely packed spathes. By-and-by the uppermost of these