

HORTICULTURE.

(Under this heading all questions relating to flowers or horticulture will be answered.)

THE GARDEN—POTATOES.

THE best sets for planting are moderate-sized, smooth potatoes. If you are short of these, it is best to cut them with not less than two eyes to each piece. Long manure is objectionable, unless the ground is stiff, when it should be dug in in the fall, and the ground left as rough as possible, so that the frost could pulverize the soil. If the ground has not been manured, get the rows out two feet apart and spread well rotted manure in the furrows, and sow nitrate of potash. Potash is the very best fertilizer for potatoes. Plant the potato sets ten inches apart and cover before the sun dries up the manure. A perfectly prepared soil gives the best results. This can only be obtained by early, deep digging. As soon as the potatoes are up, hoe round them and cultivate frequently before earthing up. "The constant moving of the soil is the secret of good gardening."

Evergreen shrubs may yet be lifted with care. Mulch them well, and, in dry weather, water and sprinkle with the hose occasionally.

Roses must be looked over for grubs and insects, and disbudding as previously advised will be most beneficial.

Carnations and Picotees should be watered with liquid manure occasionally.

Auriculas coming into bloom should be kept from wet, which spoils the blooms. They prefer a shady position, and are greatly improved by good surfacings.

Flower seeds raised in frames should be pricked off into boxes as soon as large enough to handle, and hardened off preparatory for planting out.

Hardy annuals may now be sown, but most of them come in quickly, and when planted too early their beauty is over before autumn arrives.

All bedding plants should be well hardened off before planting out.

Keep Chrysanthemum cuttings growing steadily with plenty of light and air. Do not allow them to be drawn up weakly, and top them regularly to make compact plants. Move them into larger pots, as they become filled with roots, and use plenty of bones.

Sow Primula seeds for early flowering.

Those who have frames should not forget to plant their Celery seed, and prick off the plants into rich soil as soon as you can handle them.

Keep all surfaces well hoed, and destroy weeds when young. Regulate borders, etc., with line and spade.

J. W. WEBB.

Fern Hill, Boleskine Road, April 12.

As many of our readers are yet planting out fruit trees, especially the prune, it will be well for them to remember the essential soil qualities, which are: First, the hard pan must be down at least two feet below the surface; it should be of a clay sandy loam, volcanic ash or approaching those qualities as much as possible; third, the ground should have natural or artificial

under drainage, that is it should not be stagnant with water; fourth, the ground should be thoroughly pulverized before planting to a depth of at least twelve inches, either by the use of plow and sub-soil plow, or with the spade. If a large field is planted, deadfurrows can be made lengthwise and across in straight rows so trees can be planted at the centre of crossings.

The Provincial Board of Horticulture met in the New Westminster Board of Trade rooms, Tuesday afternoon. There were present Messrs. J. R. Anderson and A. Ohlsen, Victoria; Theo. Trage, Salt Spring Island; Thos. Cunningham, New Westminster; E. Hutcherson, Ladner's Landing; and R. M. Palmer, Inspector of the Board. The rules regulating the work of the Board were adjusted and adopted. Considerable discussion arose in reference to matters arising in the Inspector's reports and as to the work which should devolve upon him. His work in the past has lain more largely among the Islands where the fruit pests are worse than elsewhere, but he is now to devote a large measure of attention to Mainland interests, working upwards towards the Interior. The vast extent of territory of necessity makes it slow work for the Inspector to get over all that has to be done. He has found great willingness in the past on the part of the people to aid the Board in their work of pest extermination. Of course there are some who cannot be got to see exactly as is desired, against whom it may be necessary to adopt more forcible measures, for which the Board has very ample powers conferred on them by the late Act. They are very reluctant to use these powers except under extreme necessity.

Among the "Orchard Notes for February" in the *Agricultural Gazette* of Sydney, South Australia, occurs the following: "All over the colony, February is a fairly busy month for the fruit grower, for, though a large portion of the peaches, plums and pears, early apples and all the cherries and apricots have been disposed of, there is still a large amount of fruit to market, so that the principal work during the month, as during January, will be the gathering and disposing of the fruit."

FRUIT LAND.

We have several 5-acre blocks of land well adapted for growing large and small fruits, three to four miles from the city on good roads. Some of these blocks are all cleared and fenced, with residence and out buildings all ready for the planter to set out his orchard. Now is the time to take advantage of low prices, and the season to plant out your trees.

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This coming season from 200 to 500 tons fruit. All varieties.

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Important to those wanting Nursery Stock:

Having entered into an arrangement with the proprietors of this journal to open a horticultural and floral department, and, at the same time, to do away with the existing high prices paid for fruit trees and bushes and vines of all kinds, which have always been considered an obstacle to the planting of orchards to any extent in British Columbia, and, furthermore, has been detrimental in the settling up of the country, and, at the same time, one of the strongest arguments we have had to contend with in the sale of fruit lands.

Right here on Vancouver Island exists all possible natural conditions for a great diversity of fruit growing—apples, pears, cherries, plums, prunes, gooseberries, currants, raspberries, strawberries and blackberries grow better here than in California. They ripen later in the season, true enough, but ours is a better fruit, especially the prune, which grows twice the size of the California raised prune. It has also more meat in comparison to the stone. We would advise the growing of the prune, as what money can be made out of a small orchard is astonishing, and there is no danger of glutting the market. If all available land on Vancouver Island was planted out in prunes, it would not commence to supply the market of Canada.

By arrangement with the largest nursery in Oregon, and more especially a firm noted for delivery of stock true to name, places us in a position to deliver any of the following trees at Victoria, duty and freight paid:

Apples	2 yrs. 4 to 6 ft.	per 100	12 cts (each)
Pears	2 "	"	16 cts
Peaches	1 "	"	16 cts
Cherries	2 "	"	17 cts
Plums	2 " 6 to 8 ft.	"	18 cts
Prunes	1 " 4 to 6 ft.	"	15 cts
"	1 "	"	per 1,000 10 cts
Apricots	1 "	"	per 100 18 cts
Crabapples	1 "	"	15 cts
Nectarines	1 "	"	20 cts
Quinces	1 " 4 to 5 ft.	"	22 cts

Special rates on quantities of 1,000. Blackberries, grapes, evergreens, nut trees and ornamental trees. Prices of same on application.

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