that we have in the potato an exceedingly uncertain crop—one on which no positive reliance can be placed, as a full and complete crop is now the exception, and possibly a very sparse crop may some day become the rule. The severe check that the potato has received during the last two years is, I fear, beginning to shake the confidence the growers had reposed in it; and should it at any time prove to be a general failure, it would not be merely a severe loss to the potato-growing community, but a heavy national misfortune also. To advise the cultivation of the marrow for the production of a winter crop is nothing new; but the advice is just as strongly needed now as it has ever been in days past, and although it would be absurd to suppose that it was having pretensions to fill the place now occupied by the potato yet it may well become a valuable adjunct to our somewhat sparse winter vegetable supply, as it is ridiculously easy of cultivation, easy to store, and as easy to cook.—*The Gardener's Mag.*

THE FRENCH excel in producing perfect specimens of fruits and vegetables.

UNRIPE FRUIT is seized in Brooklyn. The policemen eat it, and the children are saved.

SETTING OUT CURRANTS.—A. S. Fuller says that currants do better transplanted in autumn than in spring, because the bushes commence growing so early, and the fruit matures soon in the summer. If transplanted early in autumn, they will produce some new roots before winter. For the same reason, it is the best time for planting cuttings. The season is now at hand.

SHADING GREENHOUSE.—Mrs. H. C. P., Norwich N.Y., asks: "In washing or painting the glass of my greenhouse, shall it be done on the outside or inside, and what the material?"

[It is best to shade on the outside. If put on inside it is very hard to get off. Nothing has yet been found that is just the thing for shading, but on the whole, a thin paint of rye flour is the best. Things which stick on the glass well, are too hard to get off when the fall comes. Rye flour comes off gradually, and by fall is nearly all gone. Sometimes, after heavy rains, it may get thin, and it may be necessary to use it twice in one season.]—*Prairie Farmer.*

A BIG SUNFLOWER.—A day or two ago we were shown a sunflower plant on the premises of Mr A. C. Moore, No. 427 Elk Street, which bids fair to rival anything in its line. This thrifty specimen of vegetation stands ten feet high, and its thick branches form a bush of nearly four feet in diameter. There are over fifty full sized blossoms on it and others budding. The prodigy still grows. At the same time and place we saw innumerable specimens of rhubarb of a most extraordinary growth. One stalk measured a fraction over seven inches in circumference, while many others were but little short. Where are your agricultural fairs?—*Buffalo Ex.*

AN IMPORTANT FACT IN GRAPE CULTURE. We would mention a fact which has come within our observation and experience, which, if generally true, is of some importance. It is this: That the fruit bud from the base of the past year's cane throws out larger and better developed grapes than either the first or second. The grapes from these buds also seem better flavored, and generally superior to those on the first or second. In accordance with this hint we have adopted the plan of cutting the cane at such lengths as to have the third bud generally, and sometimes the fourth when a good strong one, and then rubbing off the first and second buds, and leaving the third and fourth for fruit. The number of fruit buds left on the vine must depend on the age and strength of the vine. If the vines are strong and vigorous at three years, from two to three bunches of grapes may be allowed to mature on each without injury.—*Jaques Hardy Trees.*

VINES IN NOOKS.—Three vines of as many different varieties, planted in some sunny nook, or by the side of some building, so as to old and shelter, will, if properly cared for, furnish many a bushel of delicious grapes every year. Make the ground mellow and rich by the use of a spade, and by employing old manure, finely ground bones and ashes, and set out the plants. In three years the rich clusters will appear, and in four years the product will be abundant. It is well to have vines planted so that the waste liquids from the dwellings can be used in fertilization. If there is any food the vine especially loves, it is the soapy liquids which accumulate on washing days in families. Vines drenched every week with these liquids will flourish astonishingly, and extend themselves so as to cover large buildings, every branch bearing fruit. We say to our readers, plant vines.—*Science of Health.*

THE FLOWER GARDEN.

Hardy Spring Flowering Bulbs.

Among Flora's treasures, bulbs as a group or class are one of the most interesting, as well for easy culture and almost universal adaptation as for their variety, profusion, and beauty of bloom. How admirable for gardens, greenhouses, business and living rooms. How refreshing to the sick, how useful to scholars. What a void they fill during winter and early spring. What exquisite living bouquets from such quaint, buddy flower-"onions." There is not a home but may be lit up, not a soul but may be cheered with the beauty of bulb-growth and bloom. Love artificials? Yes, sure, to teach us to love the natural *and their culture* the more. Flowers, gems, all joy that earth affords, belonged to the people, especially to our (unrecognized partners and) successors. God's beloved women and children, with infinitely richer, world-condensing and illustrating common school gardens and museums, ever freest to the hungriest.

For the House.

Hyacinths, crocus, narcissus, and early tulips are the best. For pot culture, the directions given for potting hyacinths will apply to the other sorts of bulbs.

Soil and Site

A warm, sunshiny place is desirable. Hyacinths bloom well in almost any plant-loving situation, with free light, soil, air, moisture and care. The Holland bulb-soil is a fine, moist, old ocean-bed sand, much of it scarce two feet above the water level. Elsewhere a common well-drained garden soil answers well. Those who would improve their natural soil for bulbs may take off four to six inches of surface and spade deeply the remaining soil. Then fill up the bed with an inch or two of surface leaf mould and soil from the woods. This soil is the special delight of lilies. For spring-flowering bulbs, hyacinths, tulips, crocus, etc., add a good coat of well-rotted manure—the books say cow manure—and mix, spade or fork thoroughly together. Where leaf-mould cannot be had, use rotten manure, peat or turf.

On the Lawn.

I recommend planting crocus in clumps of three, simply lifting the turf and placing the bulbs three or four inches deep, pressing down the turf firmly with your foot. Cutting off the foliage with a scythe will not injure them, and they will often last for years. Snowdrops can be planted the same way. Lilies are majestic ornaments for the lawn.

Plant in Autumn.

Hardy bulbs, to do well, must be planted in fall, not in spring. From October to December is the best time, though later will do if the bulbs are sound and well cared for. If your soil is not sandy, in garden planting cover the bulbs with sand.

Depth.

In heavy or ordinary soils, measuring from top of bulb, set anemone and ranunculus one inch, crocus, scillas, iris, snowdrops, hardy gladiolus, and such small sized bulbs about two inches; tulips, jonquils, narcissus, double and single, three inches, hyacinths, strong growing lilies, peonies, etc. four inches, crown imperials and polyanthus narcissus, five inches. In light soil small bulbs will bear deeper setting.

Distance Apart

Bulb beds may be three or three and one half feet wide. Set medium and small sized bulbs in lines six to twelve inches apart, and two to six inches apart in the lines. For larger bulbs, lilies, etc., the lines should be fourteen to eighteen inches apart.

In groups or clumps of say three bulbs in each, set the small or medium sized bulbs six inches apart, in a triangle, the groups a foot apart, with one sort or color in each and unlike its next neighbor, the effect is fine.

In the flower border, along the edge plant crocus, snowdrops and the dwarf scillas in clumps six to twelve inches apart, filling the border with hyacinths, tulips, narcissus, lilies, etc. Hyacinths in masses in beds or in bands in borders, with their colors, red, white, and blue separate, have a fine effect.

Over Winter

To keep out the mice and severe changes, let the ground freeze an inch or two and then cover the bed with old manure, hay or straw (free from weed seeds,) say four inches deep. Excessive covering may heat and rot the bulbs. Early in spring, as the bulbs begin to shoot, remove the covering.

No weeds should be tolerated among growing bulbs.

After flowering, as the foliage turns yellow, cut off the tops, take up the bulbs, spread out a few days in a dry, airy, shady place, to ripen off, and then pack away in dry sand or in parcels, in a dry, shady, frostless place until wanted.

If not desirable to remove bulbs annually, they may be left in favorable locations two or three years, planting the ground after the flower stems are removed, to roses, verbenas, geraniums, and other bedders, or sowed to portulaccas and other quick growing annuals. But the annual arrangement is the better.—*Phœnix's Catalogue.*

Adam's Needle—Yucca Filamentosa.

Among the many interesting plants cultivated in the grounds of Peter Jack, Esq., at Bellahill, we notice the *Yucca filamentosa*, which is now in full flower. It is not known to have blossomed before in this Province, and has in fact been usually grown under glass, but having withstood the unusually severe winter of 1873-4 without the slightest protection, we may now safely add it to our list of hardy plants.

The *Yucca filamentosa* is in several respects a remarkable plant. It is not exactly a herbaceous plant, because it has a permanent stem like a tree or shrub, but it is also very unlike a shrub, for this stem is so extremely short as scarcely to rise above the surface of the ground. When not in flower the plant seems to consist simply of a rosette, of numerous long lance shaped pointed leaves, which have loose threads like manilla fibre hanging from their margins. From the centre of the leaves the flower-stem arises, branched like a candelabrum, to the height of three or four feet, and each branch bears six or seven campanulate flowers of a beautiful creamy white color, which have been likened to sleigh-bells. There will be about seventy of these flowers on the Bellahill plant when all the buds have opened.

This *Yucca* was originally a native of Virginia, was described by Linnæus as *Yucca filamentosa*, on account of the threads or filaments on its leaves, and was introduced into England so long ago as 1675. It thrives well there in warm situations, but is more extensively cultivated in the United States, where it forms a noble lawn plant, stately and ornamental in its leaves as well as its flowers. It is figured in the *Botanical Magazine*, the great repository of plant drawings, table 900.

The individual we have described was originally brought from the United States we believe by Alderman Barron, who, after cultivating it for some years, handed it over to Mr. Jack for experiment. He planted it on his lawn, in a north-easterly exposure, and gave it a rich soil but no particular care. The result has been successful, and everybody now knows that *Yucca filamentosa* is a hardy plant, of easy cultivation, noble habit and graceful mien, and within the reach of every horticulturist who has seventy-five cents or a dollar in his pocket.—*Nova Scotia Journal of Agriculture.*

MILDEW ON ROSES.—Carbolic soap and water is recommended to destroy mildew on roses, to be applied by sprinkling.

LILAC DR. LINDLEY.—This is by far the best addition which has been made of late years to our hardy forcing shrubs. Here we have a sort that will in a short time supersede the French production in the way of white lilac, since it sets its beds as small plants and opens freely, while the French plants are large before fit for forcing. We have some plants eighteen inches high, with a dozen clusters of bloom, and if forced in a shady house, it comes a good white. When it is more plentiful and the plant gets up to say three feet or so in height, there will be no more showy plant for a greenhouse.—*The Florist.*

CUTTING FLOWERS.—Never cut flowers during intense sunshine, nor keep them exposed to the sun or wind. Do not collect them in large bundles, or tie them together, as this hastens their decay. Do not pull them, but cut them cleanly off the plant with a sharp knife—not with scissors. When taken in-doors place them in the shade, and reduce them to the required length of stalk with a sharp knife, by which the tubes, through which they draw up the water, is permitted to ascend freely; whereas, if the stems are bruised or lacerated, the pores are closed up. Use pure water to set them in, or pure white sand in a state of saturation, sticking the ends of the stalks into it, but not in a crowded manner. If in water alone, it ought to be changed daily, and a thin slice should be cut off the ends of the stalks at every change of water.