

Garden and Orchard.

Seasonable Hints—June.

BY HORTUS.

To keep ahead of the weeds from this time onward should be the determination of every person wishing to succeed. Eternal vigilance is the only price of liberty and freedom from weeds, and the necessary work of eradicating them will have the good result of loosening the ground and assisting the growth of the crops. So much rain fell last year that it prevented people from keeping their ground clean, and so the weeds got such a start that it was impossible almost to catch up to the work. Let the first hoeing be done thoroughly—no slipping over—and have the weeds all raked off and burnt. If thrown into the manure pile, salt and lime should be scattered through them to destroy the seeds, otherwise they will go back to the land in the manure, making the land dirtier than ever.

Newly planted trees, if not mulched, should be done at once. If the ground is very dry, water well before laying on the mulch. It is immaterial what you use for mulching, whether leaves, manure, chips, in fact anything will do that's handy, so long as it retains the moisture, and anything is better than none at all. Staking is next in order, and must not be neglected. Use bands of straw, well twisted, or old rags for tying the tree, to prevent chafing. Let your newly-planted trees look like Fig. 2, and they will look as if they had received proper care. Many persons, after planting out a young orchard, are in doubt as to what cultivation would be best. We say put the ground in potatoes or roots, but do not, under any consideration, put in grain crops, not for a few years at least. If you desire to seed down to grass, give the trees four or five years' loose cultivation of the soil before so doing. Keep a sharp look out for insects. Have powdered hellebore, or pyrethrum convenient. Whale oil soap, sulphur and Paris green swear vengeance against slugs, grubs and bugs.

The past winter has been severe on the raspberries. Franconia suffered particularly. In some sections the canes are killed down to the ground. The reason of this is not so much the winter, although it was excessively cold, as the fact that the canes were not well ripened; so much rain kept the canes growing and full of sap right up to cold weather. If, when the canes are growing, they were nipped to about four feet in height they would throw out a lateral growth like Fig. 1. This would have the threefold effect of hardening them, increasing the fruit-bearing branches, and making the plant stalky and able to bear up the fruit.

It will pay plum growers to look after the curculio. No remedy yet known is better than shaking the tree early in the morning and killing the insects.

Newly planted strawberry plants will make better stools for fruit by having the runners pinched or hoed off as they push out.

Good care is everything this month. Do not let a tree or plant suffer for a pail of water. See that grafts put in last month are not choked out with suckers. Keep the hoe and cultivator going amongst the rows of trees and bushes.

Four General Favorites in the Flower Garden.

The lily of the valley is one of my especial favorites; this delightful flower should be planted near the house, where it can be seen from the window. It is not showy, but it is the most beautiful of all spring flowers. The best bulb for summer flowering is the gladiolus. Planted in deep, rich soil in June, they will bloom in August, and by a judicious selection of early and late kinds, they can be had in flower for two months. I prefer to set half-a-dozen together, thinking the effect much finer than when a less number is planted in one place. The flower-stalks should be tied to small stakes as they grow up, or high winds will blow them down. A good, strong bulb will produce from three to five spikes of flowers, and a clump of forty or fifty stems of these brilliant blossoms is a sight worth seeing. They ask for rich, mellow soil, and perhaps a little water in a very dry season—nothing more, and no other flower can give so much in return for so little required.

The dahlia is a general favorite, but I know of no other flower which occasions so much disappointment annually, as this one does. If the season is a wet one, success is moderately certain, provided the plants were started in good season, but if it is a dry one, your dahlias will be poor, miserable things. The secret of dahlia culture is a deep, rich soil, and plenty of water. It is a good plan to start the tubers into growth in the house in March or April; they cannot be planted in the open ground before June with any safety, as the slightest frost will be the death of the young plant. But good, strong plants put out in a rich soil in June, and kept well supplied with water,



FIGURE 1.

will blossom by the last of July, and continue to do so until frost. It is always advisable to give them a watering once a week after blooming begins, with some kind of manure water. Mulching the ground about their roots with coarse straw is a good thing. Dahlias must be well staked, as they are so brittle of stalk that a slight wind often does



FIGURE 2.

considerable damage when they are heavy with blossoms. The varieties are so numerous that the tastes of all can be satisfied so far as color is concerned.

The tuberose is one of our most beautiful fall flowers, and can be made to flower successfully in

our gardens if it is started quite early in the house, and forced into rapid development after being put in the open ground, by a liberal use of fertilizers. They are the most fragrant of all flowers, and their long spikes of waxen white blossoms are among the most delightful of all garden ornaments during the late September days when so few other flowers are in season.

The Old Orchards.

It is the same old story, the same that was told last week, says the Michigan Farmer, by the Farmers' Club of R. "Our orchards are not in a satisfactory condition," "our orchards are unproductive," "our trees are decaying," "our fruit is scabby and wormy." This is the song of the orchardist.

But, says the Club, we believe that cultivation will change all this. Cultivation is the panacea, and cultivation of the decayed orchards is what?

1. It is breaking up of the crust, and a loosening of the hide-bound earth. It is fall plowing, a practice highly recommended. It is an occasional planting to crops; though this may be held by some as heterodox orchard culture, we dare to recommend it. We have not been the friend of raising two crops at one time from the same piece of land, believing that it is enough for an orchard to bear a crop of fruit; but the more we observe and think about it, the more we favor the cultivating of orchards by an occasional planting and cropping. We had rather see an orchard cropped than to see it hide-bound. One of the best orchardists in the State crops and feeds, feeds and crops, and he has fruit, and his trees flourish. He does not rob, but gives restitution. It is better to crop an orchard and fertilize it than not to crop at all. Cultivation is the opposite of neglect. Indian corn is one of the best crops for an old orchard. It will then get plowed and turned over; it will be cultivated by plow and hoe. Some hoed crops are strongly recommended—such as potatoes, ruta bagas, beets, carrots, beans, or any crop that requires a lifting and stirring of the soil. But it must be remembered that such are exhaustive of potash, the very food of trees and fruit. Sown crops are not recommended, because they forbid a mellowing of the soil, and grass is for the same reason to be avoided, unless pastured with swine.

2. Cultivation of orchards is manuring them, and thereby giving them plant food and something to live on. Lime, and especially wood ashes, are prime fertilizers, and indispensable; while a compost of turf ashes and stable manure is of the first consequence.

3. Cultivation of orchards is mulching them, or covering the ground about the tree with coarse litter and straw; leaves from the woods and sawdust are occasionally put in service.

At a meeting of the Potomac fruit-growers Hiram Pitts, Virginia, said that a lack of drainage is liable to induce blight in pear-trees. He also recommended that the trees be allowed to form low branches so as to protect the trunks from exposure to the direct rays of the sun. In regard to pruning he said his plan has been, when nature indicated a disposition to form handsome tops, to let the trees alone and only interfere when necessity dictated. Much may be done if necessary, when the tree is young, by pinching off undesirable shoots and shaping them without any heavy pruning, which causes the tree to put forth additional suckers. The best time is when the tree is at rest. Any unsuccessful putting out of small shoots from the limbs ought to be pinched off at once. Wood-ashes make an excellent fertilizer. I have applied ashes from wood and coal mixed with great advantage. Ground bones are good for the pear and other fruit-trees—better than fermenting manures. It is all-important to prevent the tree from overbearing; this should be done as soon as the young fruit has ceased dropping. There is no benefit to be derived from crowding the tree in planting; the standards should be at least 20 feet apart and dwarfs 12 feet,