

on trees, or as a syringing on plants, where injurious insects infest, but it is a most excellent fertilizer. The saltpetre extracted from the tobacco is one of the stimulants for a soil deficient in that ingredient. It is peculiarly adapted for strawberry plants.

The Sweet William (*Deutis barbatus*) is a widely known and always popular family of plants, perfectly hardy and easily raised from seed. A bed of fine varieties presents an attractive sight. It sports into almost endless varieties,—pink, purple, crimson, scarlet, white, various edges, eyed, and spotted. This flower has been greatly improved of late years.

Candytuft (*Iberis*) is one of the most useful border annuals, very effective in beds, groups, etc. The plants are easy of culture, and the flowers are fragrant and very useful in forming bouquets. No flower garden is complete without candytufts. Early flowers are soonest obtained from seeds sown in Autumn but sown early in Spring in the open border, it will flower from June to August.

When the Petunia is grown as a house plant and trained on a trellis, it presents a much prettier appearance than when grown in the garden. A very neat trellis may be made of old hoops, forming pieces of them into three circles seven, five, and three inches in diameter, fastening each circle firmly with the clasps taken from hoops. Then a fine stick, two feet long, nicely polished and sharpened at one end, must be put through the circles, first under one side of the smallest, then over the same side of the one next in size, then under the other side of the first, etc., weaving them in securely fastening the upper side of the largest one with a little wire staple.

One of the great botanical curiosities of the Island of Ceylon, is "the forbidden fruit," or "Eve's Apple Tree." Its native name is "Dirvi Kaduree." Kaduree signifies "forbidden," and Dirvi, "tigers." Its botanical name is *Tuber memontura dichotoma*. The flowers of this extraordinary production are said to emit a fine scent. The color of the fruit which hangs from the branches in a peculiar and striking manner, is very beautiful, being orange on the outside, and deep crimson within; the fruit itself presenting the appearance of having a piece bitten out of it. This circumstance, together with the fact of its being a deadly poison, led the Mohammedans, on their first discovery of Ceylon, which they assigned as the seat of Paradise, to represent it as the Garden of Eden.

Henry Ward Beecher says that every country place should have that very coquette among trees, the Aspen. It seems never to sleep. Its twinkling fingers are playing in the air at some arch fantasy almost without pause. If you set at a window with a book, it will wink and blink, and beckon and coax, until you cannot help speaking to it. That must be a still day that does not see the Aspen quiver. A single leaf will sometimes begin to wag and not another on the tree will move! Sometimes a hidden breadth will catch at a lower branch, then shifting will leave them still, while it shakes a top-most twig. It is the daintiest fairy of all the trees. One should have an Aspen on every side of his house, that no window should be without a chance

to look upon its nods and becks, and to rejoice in its innocent witchcraft.

A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* says that the principle point in the successful culture of the Lima bean, is to get the seed well started. The best way of doing this is, to plant in a hill of light earth, made so by sifting the soil, if it can be had in no other way. A shovel full of well rotted manure should go into each hill. He mixes sand and muck and after placing each seed bean with the germ downward in the hill, he sifts the covering over it through a willow sieve. Corn planting time is about the right time to plant Lima beans. The after cultivation is the same as for the common pole bean.

LETTUCE IN WINTER.—It is said that heads of lettuce can be produced in Winter in from twenty-four to forty-eight hours by taking a box filled with rich earth, in which one-third part of slaked lime has been mixed, and watering the earth with lukewarm water; than taking seed which had been previously softened by soaking in strong brandy twenty-four hours, and sowing in the usual way. We are assured, but will not vouch for the fact, that a good sized head of lettuce may be obtained in the time mentioned.—*Harper's Magazine*.

Mr. W. H. Randall, of Ypsilanti, Mich., says that he protects trees from mice by cutting a common sized sheet of tin into four equal parts, bending around a fork-handle to give the desired shape, and apply to the trunks. This costs but a trifle, and makes a barrier that the mice cannot get over or around. Dr. Hexamer says that it is easier and cheaper to bank up earth around the trees twelve or fourteen inches high. It is also well to tramp down the snow solid after each fall.

The *Rushville* (Illinois) *Citizen* says: Mr. Wm. King, of this vicinity, has been experimenting with potatoes as follows: He planted, last spring, several varieties of potato balls in a hot-bed, and then transplanted the shoots as is done with sweet-potato plants, one in a hill. They grew and thrived finely, making an unusual large yield of the very best quality of potatoes. In one hill he counted seventy-five potatoes; in another the product weighed eight pounds.

A correspondent of the *New York Tribune*, from Elizabeth, N. J., says that he keeps tender plants perfectly healthy in his cellar all Winter. The cellar is dry, cool, and dark. About the 1st of November, he puts the orange, lemon, oleander, etc., into the cellar. The plants are in large tubs, with exception of the oleander; this he placed in a tub when taken in, and covers the roots with soil. The plants are watered once a week with tepid water.

Dr. Swasey, of the *Southern Horticulturist*, advocates the high training of pear trees, and give up the pyramidal system. He says the object in high training is to give free access under the head of the tree, for light, air, whitewash, and brush, and team, in cultivation; and the cutting out of the leader and confining the base of the head to three or five main branches, is designed to give an open, round-headed tree that will give every leaf and