

always be cultivated. A bearing fruit-garden would afford a more delightful promenade for the family, if kept in grass, closely cut, but it would soon cease to be a pleasant resort if allowed to decline in fertility, and consequently in the quality of its fruit.—*American Rural Home.*

### HARDY SHRUBS.

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Persons who have places in the country sometimes desire to plant a few shrubs that will thrive and bloom without too much nursing. To assist them in their efforts, I will give a list and description of about a dozen of the most desirable varieties for general culture.

In the first place a few suggestions about the planting and treatment of hardy shrubs may not be amiss. They can be planted at any time from October to May, when the ground is not frozen or is not too wet.

Now allow me to say a few words about the pruning of shrubs. This is a very simple affair. All shrubs that bloom in spring, or early summer, should *not* be pruned in winter or spring unless they have been newly planted; in this case they should have their tops shortened. When shrubs grow too many shoots, a number of them should be cut out entirely in February or March. If they grow too tall the tops can be clipped in summer, after the plants are through blooming for the season. But *Altheas* and *Hydrangea Grandiflora* should always be cut back in winter or early spring, because they bloom in late summer on the young shoots, while the *Spireas*, *Deutzias*, *Weigelas*, and all shrubs that bloom in May or June, must have shoots of the past season's growth to produce their flowers.

*Weigela Rosea.*—This beautiful Chinese shrub is one of the most effective

plants in the lawn. It produces its beautiful rose-colored flowers in June in the greatest abundance. The plant grows to the height of six or eight feet, and will thrive in any soil.

*Weigela Nana Variegata.*—This is another fine plant. It is desirable both for its flowers and its beautiful foliage, which is green in the centre and white on the outside of the leaf, and retains its distinct color all summer. The flowers are a beautiful blush in color, and it would be hard to find a more charming looking plant than this when in full bloom.

*Hydrangea Grandiflora.*—This fine shrub was introduced into this country from Japan. It is as hardy as an oak. It begins to bloom in this section (latitude of Philadelphia) about the latter part of July, and the flowers remain on the plant until frost. When the flowers first open they are pure white; after a few weeks they become rose-tinted. They are produced on the ends of the young shoots in large panicles, which are a foot or more in length, and good bushes will grow from 50 to 150 of these immense heads. This plant should be trimmed every year, at any time from November to April. If you want large flowers, prune sharp; if smaller bloom is preferred, prune light. Plant it on the lawn in a sunny place (for this variety does not require shade), keep the sod from growing around the roots, and give it a surface dressing of stable manure in the fall, and you will have a plant of which you will be proud. It will flourish for a lifetime with decent treatment. It will grow from seven to eight feet high.

*Viburnum Plicatum.*—This is a beautiful shrub of the Snowball family. It produces its flowers in pure white bunches like the old variety, but the plant has firmer and thicker foliage and a more erect habit of growth. It blooms