

# HORTICULTURE.

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

## CALENDAR.

**D**O not be in too much haste when the weather is wet and the ground sodden with water. Seeds sown in wet ground come up weakly (if they vegetate at all), and will not be so early by weeks as those sown when the soil is warm and dry. "Too much haste, less speed."

The fork should be freely used to make the surface fine. Seeds sown in drills are in every way preferable.

Sowings of parsnips, broad beans, peas, spinach, early horn carrot (for drawing young), and small beds of leeks and early breakfast radish must now be made. Lettuce may be sown on warm border, to be afterwards transplanted and treated like celery. If leeks were grown well, they would be more generally appreciated. Beds can also be prepared for onions, and a warm border for small seeds, viz., cabbage, Brussels sprouts, kale, etc. Brussels sprouts are best started early in a frame. When ground is scarce, spinach may be sown between early cabbage and cauliflower.

## ASPARAGUS.

Asparagus beds may still be made; the deeper the soil and the greater the abundance of well rotten manure used the better for this valuable vegetable. Two-year-old roots are the best to plant. Form out the beds five feet wide, and plant three rows—the middle row first and then one on each side a foot from the edge and twelve inches between the plants in the rows. Wider beds are more difficult to keep clean. Colossal and Giant are the two best sorts to plant. Those who wish to rear their own roots should now plant the seed thinly in rows 12 inches apart, in light, rich soil. Keep them free from weeds, and, when the plants are three inches high, single them out, of course reserving the strongest plants. If the beds are well cared for, heavily mulched with long manure in the winter and plenty of salt used, they will last for fifteen years.

J. W. WEBB.

Fern Hill, Boleskine Road, March 30.

It is alleged that winemakers in France have begun to utilize the seeds of grapes in the production of oil. Hitherto, the seeds have been a waste product, much as was cotton seed during so many years. But it is found that grape seeds contain ten to fifteen per cent. of oil which may be used for various purposes. As an illuminant, it is said to be especially valuable, as it burns without smoke.

Professor Rolfs, of the Florida Experiment Station, alleges that "numerous tests have been made to see what effect a variation in the amount of different elements of fertilizer would have upon the qualities of the fruit. The difference is much less than was thought it would be; indeed different samples from the same plots show nearly as much variation as samples from different plots. In general,

it seems that an abundance of potash has a tendency to produce fruit with slightly less sugar and more acid; and phosphoric acid a tendency to sweeten, while nitrogen produces luxuriant growth."

Apple tree planters are running largely to the red varieties this spring according to the Pajaronian. It is well known that, other things being equal, a well colored apple sells best. Indeed it often happens that highly colored apples will outsell pale ones of much better flavor and keeping qualities.

Conditions continue very favorable for the coming fruit crop which promises to be large. The buds are bursting, trees are in blossom. Spring is with us. The fruit season will be some weeks late. The backward condition of the trees, caused by the cold weather will prove a benefit, as this condition will carry them beyond the danger point of heavy frosts, etc. There is no exception to be made of any variety at present, all promise equally well.

The stem half of an orange is usually not so sweet and juicy as the other half, because the most of the juice gravitates to the part which is downward.

In Australia the strawberry has hardy roots, and is a wonderfully hardy plant, that adapts itself to the change of climate from the snowy regions around Cooma and Kiandra, to the glowing summer heat of northern Queensland. Let the strawberry have reasonably good garden soil, keep weeds from it, and it will yield fair, and, as a rule, heavy crops of excellent fruit. Absence of moisture soon tells on it, and the plants die off in very dry weather.

## 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.

Winnett & Cooper,

18 TROUNCE AVENUE.

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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 an 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 a possible natural conditions for a great diversity of fruit growing—apples, pears, cherries, plums, prunes, gooseberries, currants, raspberries, strawberries and blackberries grow here better 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	" " " " " "	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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