

Keeping Grapes Fresh for Winter Use.

If you desire delicious, fresh grapes in winter, or even up to the next spring, they can be had by a very little expense. Pick the bunches only on a dry, warm day, and place them in a cool, shady place for at least three days; then commence to pack them in paper boxes that will hold about ten pounds. Between each layer of grapes place a single thickness of newspaper; the boxes should not contain more than three layers in thickness. Then place in a cool, dry room—not in a cellar, for the natural dampness there will cause mould and decay. In this way the past very damp season we kept Concord, Delaware, Hartford and Diana, the last being in good condition in March.—*Rural World*.

A Word for the Toad.

During the past week the Striped Potato-bug (*Lyta vittata*) came into my potato-patch, and in two days defoliated about a thousand hills, when four of us set to work gathering them. In one hour we gathered a full gallon. Where did such a quantity of these bugs come from in so short a time? But the most curious part is to come? A black boy who was helping me said he did not like to gather the bugs, because wherever they were numerous he found a lot of toads, and he was afraid of toads. This attracted my attention, as I had seen a number of toads myself, and, to my surprise, I found that they were eating the bugs. One fellow ate twelve bugs, at the rate of four per minute. He would not eat any faster, although we ran the bugs all around and over him. Has any one else noticed this? It is certainly new to me, for I did not think anything would eat these Blister Beetles. The Ladybird is shy of them, and so far as I have observed, none of the common cannibal beetles will attack them.—S. F. T., Hannibal, Mo., in *Am. Entomologist*.

Horticultural Notes.

To the Editor.

SIR,—I have noticed through the summer many complaints about mice girdling apple trees. I have never lost a tree from this cause, since I adopted, some sixteen years ago, the very simple plan of putting strips of cedar bark, or bits of shingles, round the trunk, which I do every autumn and remove them in spring. I just put them up round the trunk, touching the ground, and tie the strips with a string. Any little boy or girl could cover an orchard in a day, and the same strips will do for years. I have only some two dozen of trees, and do the job myself.

This has been the most extraordinary season for vermin I ever remember. Squirrels and chipmunks ate all my strawberries, and a third of my gooseberries. Field mice tried

everything; they destroyed a great many dwarf peas, and carrots, turnips, beet root, and savoy cabbage. There was a great crop of plums, but they rotted in bunches. I examined the rot closely, and it was evidently a very rapid decay, no insect being visible. Our apples, too, rotted, and there are some kinds with worm holes in almost every apple. I never noticed either plum or apple rot till last year; the worms are old acquaintances. I caught a good many of the vermin in rat traps. There is one very valuable vegetable, namely rhubarb, which no animal ever injures, and it is in my opinion about the most useful and I believe most wholesome plant in the garden, and this year it was good till September, having been first pulled the last week of April.

I noticed the doings of the curculio, but all the damage they did was very small. I think some of the birds pierce the fallen plums for the purpose of eating the curculio, as I noticed many of them with big holes in them and the worm gone. I have always lots of birds, and I do not grudge them all they steal, as their music and the good service they do in eating insects, and their pretty cheerful ways, far more than compensate for any mischief they do.

One family of squirrels was brought up about the house somewhere, as one morning five little fellows were descried sitting in the tin pipe at the eaves of the roof, and three of them were murdered before they got fairly launched in the world. It was cruel, I daresay, but they are awful little thieves. I had a nice row of crocuses, and the little villains carried off every one just when they were about ready to remove for the summer. They did not meddle with the tulips just in the same place. I found the hellebore most effectual on the currant and gooseberry trees, but I think I had to administer one or two doses every fortnight during the whole summer. Still I saved my fruit, and half an hour or so in a summer morning will suffice for the purpose.

I didn't mean to spin so long a yarn when I began, and I hope you will excuse it. F.

Fergus, 28th October. 1870.

Fall Bearing Raspberries.

Mr. U. H. Davies has sent us some ripe raspberries, gathered on the 12th of October, and which he found growing near the G. W. Railway track in the vicinity of Woodstock, and says that he has lived in Canada forty-four years and never before met with such a phenomenon.

There are many varieties of fall bearing raspberries, some of which are cultivated in our gardens, but they are none of them of much value when grapes are abundant. We are satisfied with raspberries in their regular season, and do not care to return to them when pears, grapes and apples have become abundant.

Protection against Mice.

To the Editor.

SIR,—The annual loss sustained by the ravages of mice among fruit trees all over the country, during the winter months, makes it a question of considerable importance, how we may cheaply and effectually protect them from being girdled. The importance of this subject will be deemed a sufficient apology for laying before your readers my plan for accomplishing this desirable object.

I use well-burnt round tiles, such as are used in under-draining, four inches in diameter by fourteen inches long, divided lengthwise in two equal parts. Clearing away the dirt two inches deep from each tree, these pieces are brought together around each tree, fastening their tops with a piece of wire and drawing the dirt around against them, and pressing with the foot, the work is done. If they are properly burnt these tiles will stand many years.

Two boys will thus protect several hundred trees in a day, costing in all two and a quarter cents a tree. The above-sized tiles were bought from Mr. Campbell, of Hamilton, for twenty dollars per thousand, that is, two thousand pieces. May I request that if you are aware of a more effectual plan you will publish it.

W. H. MILLS.

Orchard not Bearing.

To the Editor.

SIR,—You would confer a favour by giving me information on the following subject, either by letter or through the columns of your valuable journal. Eight years ago I set out some standard apple trees pretty late in the spring, since which time they have grown steadily each season, so that now they spread out from ten to twenty feet in diameter, and yet they bear no fruit, at least, not till this season, when there were a few apples on some of them. They all appear to run to wood in growth. What I want to know is, how can I check this rapid growth and cause them to bear, without injuring the trees? Last year I pruned them well, but still the growth seems as rapid as ever, without yielding fruit.

By replying to the above you will greatly oblige an old subscriber.

Lucan.

S. CLATTERHAM.

REPLY.—Seed down the orchard for a few years, and the growth of wood will be checked and fruit buds will form.

MILDEW ON ROSES.—A correspondent of the *Cottage Gardener* gives the following cure for mildew on roses: Rub down in a gallon of soft water one pound of soft soap; with the solution syringe the upper and under surface of the foliage, and the mildew will disappear as if by magic.