

# THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST



\* \* MAY \* \*

## CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM NOTES—VII.

**T**HE snow has been gradually disappearing since the middle of March, but there has been little warm weather since that time and very little rain. Sleighing was good in the country up to the end of March. While it is too early yet to write from experience, the probability is that this spring will not be any earlier than last year. At this date, the 14th April, snow may still be seen in places which do not get much sunshine; the frost is not yet out of the ground, and the weather remains cool. What is now needed is a warm rain, followed by drying winds.

The benefits of mulching fruits and flowers in autumn are already apparent. Strawberries in the vicinity of Ottawa which were not covered last autumn will nearly all be killed out. The strawberries at the Experimental Farm which were given a light dressing of straw do not seem to have suffered much, but as the covering has not yet been removed some varieties may have been injured. The lawn grass which was mulched with manure has a greener appearance than where left uncovered and the grass in a few

exposed places may be killed outright. It is very probable that bulbs such as hyacinths, tulips, and narcissus where not protected have suffered. At the Experimental Farm we are confident that they will be all right. The tulips already are showing well, and snowdrops are coming into flower. The great advantage of a mulch which will lie loosely over herbaceous plants was very apparent this year, as where evergreen houghs were used they came out much fresher. This is especially applicable to pansies, as, if a mulch lies too closely over them, they are liable to suffer almost as much as if no mulch was given.

During the past winter extensive experiments have been carried on with lime mixtures of different strengths on apple trees infested with oyster shell bark louse. The trees were thoroughly sprayed with the mixtures and were made quite white from top to bottom. The object of these experiments was to find out if the oyster shell bark lice could be removed thoroughly and economically from the trees by the use of lime, as there was no evidence to show from experi-