

flower, with a very unsightly centre, and no lover of flowers would tolerate in his garden for a moment such coarse-looking objects as form the colored specimens in Mrs. Loudon's work on Ornamental Annuals, published in 1840. For some fifteen years the attention of seedsmen has been directed particularly to this flower, and the improvement has been most marvellous.

Really astonishing is the improvement made in the Aster from year to year. We have them in our grounds now, so large, than an engraving of one of natural size would almost cover a quarto page—almost as large as a Peony, and as perfectly double as the best Chrysanthemum or Dahlia. For an autumn display, the Aster is unsurpassed. Give the Aster a deep, rich soil, and mulching with coarse manure is very beneficial. Plants may be grown in the hot-bed, cold-frame, or a seed-bed in the garden. They can be transplanted very easily. Twelve inches apart is the proper distance for making a showy bed of the large varieties; the dwarf kinds may be set six inches or less. The tall, large-flowered varieties, need a little support, or during storms of rain and wind they are easily blown down when in blossom. Set a stick in the ground, close to the roots, and fasten the stem to it at about the centre. The top of the stake should be about six inches below the flowers, and it will not be seen. Engravings are needed to illustrate the habits of the several varieties.

#### CARE OF LAWNS.

THERE is no season of the year when careful and persistent watchful attention and labor are more requisite to the perfection of a lawn than that of the early spring months. Nor is there any season during which the same amount of labor is better repaid by the future results. A severe rain, followed by a sharp frost, or a half dozen clear days, warm and bright, with cold, freezing nights, always result in throwing more or less of the turf and grass roots, which, if not at once and almost daily rolled and again pressed down, would by exposure at this time die out; besides, if the lawn be now left to take its own course without the use of the roller, there will ensue more or less of a rough, uneven surface, caused by some lines of soil being finer and heavier than others, and therefore settling more rapidly and firmly.

If by any previous neglect the lawn has already got upon its surface small pit holes or undulations, varying from four to six inches across and half the depth, now is the time to go over it with a barrow of fine soil and fill them up, at the same time filling the soil with a heavy seeding of pure lawn grass seed; then finish by rolling again and again.

If the lawn has become impoverished, make a mixture of pulverized hen manure, or guano, two parts, and two parts of fine, very fine, bone meal, not bone dust, one part of plaster, (gypsum,) together with two parts common salt, (seven parts in all,) and sow at the rate of eight bushels to the acre. Sow just before a rain, and as soon as the rain is over roll thoroughly, and then follow with two bushels of clean blue grass seed to the acre, and another, and another, and yet another rolling. Before doing anything, however, rake the lawn thoroughly to clear it of chips, stones, etc.—*Cor. Rural New Yorker.*

#### HOUGHTON SEEDLING GOOSEBERRY.

This was the first introduced of the American gooseberries, which have almost superseded the English varieties in our gardens, being, unlike the latter, entirely free from mildew. It is one of the best flavored of the American varieties, and well worthy of cultivation, though its habit of growth is not so good as some others. The best way of managing it is, to take a young plant grown from a cutting, with all but two or three of the upper eyes removed, and drive a durable stake by it, to which the leading shoot should be carefully tied. Every Summer one or two tiers of branches, which will take a drooping position, should be grown from the main stem. In this way it may be carried to the height of five or six feet forming a beautiful pyramid, than which there will be few objects in the fruit garden more attractive. Being very productive, a few plants will give an ample supply for a large family. With a little thinning and shortening of the wood early in the Spring, taking care to remove the old wood, and retain such as is young and vigorous, the plants will last a long time, and the fruit will be much finer than when left unpruned. Or, if preferred, the tender flexible shoots of this variety may be easily trained to a trellis, and for this method, a partially shaded place will be as good as one exposed to the rays of the sun.—*Jour. of Horticulture.*

#### GARDEN GLEANINGS.

A GRAPE vine in Jonchecy, France, 54 years old, yielded three tons of grapes last year. The stem is 100 feet long, and the branches cover a space of 200 feet square.

THE *Gardener's Monthly* says:—"It has been argued that asparagus will not come true from seed, but, like rhubarb, it can be propagated true only by division of the roots. There is no reason why varieties of asparagus may not do as well from seed as peas or beans."

ONE of our successful farmers says he plants peas with potatoes in the same hill, and thus has great success. The writer has often planted peas with corn, and from three or four pea vines, and say two stalks of corn in a hill, has gathered peas much later in the season than when the peas were more openly exposed, or in other words planted by themselves.

JAMES VICK says that no cabbage with which he is acquainted has given such general satisfaction as the Filderkraut. It is very conical or "sugar-loaf" in form, is very solid, and keeps well. It forms a solid head even under unfavourable circumstances, and scarce three plants out of an acre fail to make a fair marketable head.

THE *Gardener's Magazine* (London) mentions that in the department of Vaudoise (France), out of 60,000 acres of vines, 20,000 acres have been utterly ruined by what is called the "vine disease," and that the loss in some districts has been even greater than this, so that many entire plantations have been grubbed up and planted with other crops.

THE Slug, which appears on the leaves of the pear, plum and cherry, usually on the upper surface, can be easily destroyed by dusting the tree thoroughly with slaked lime or unleached wood ashes, as often as the slugs make their appearance. Indeed, the dry dust from the surface of the ground, if thrown with a little force upon them, will usually kill them.