

# HORTICULTURE.

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

## GRAFTING.

THE many new and superior sorts of fruit we now meet with will make many discontented with the produce of their gardens, and now is the time of year to look over the trees and see what can be done to improve them. I have already been asked how best to do this—Grafting is one of the means in this direction, so I give a few simple directions. There are various methods of grafting, I shall only mention two; first, whip or splice grafting; the name almost explains it:—Take last year's growths and reduce them to one-half of the diameter, along a distance of 3 or 4 inches, the edge of each part terminating in a thin wedge, and cut the scion of graft to match. The two must be firmly bound together so that the whip is perfectly strong. The splice will be best when the two pieces are the same size—then you have wood, cambium, and bark all round, and a perfect fit—but one side must in any case be perfect. Cut the stock across at the height required, then make a clean, smooth diagonal cut across the stock and, without delay, place the two fresh cut surfaces together and bind them tight with bass or soft string and the work is completed; if the fit is good and the inner bark of scion and stock fit against each other all will go well, otherwise failure. One of the great advantages of whip grafting is—you head your trees down so slightly and you can put in in such a number of grafts in a short time; you can also change the variety almost imperceptibly.

The year before last, on a small Siberian apple tree, I whiped in six scions of a large seedling early apple, and last summer gathered 21 unusually fine apples from it.

A pear tree in England was successfully grafted with over 100 grafts one season, and bore a fine crop the next.

The other method which is more useful for larger trees, is called "crown grafting." Prepare the scion as for whip grafting, the wedge may be longer or shorter as desired. The top of the stock must be squared, a slit made down one, or, where the stock is large, two or more sides of the stock, and the bark slightly raised; a portion of the scion is pushed into the slit, bound firmly into position, and the process is complete. Exclusion of air and water is necessary, so that either clay or wax must be used. Warm over a slow fire  $\frac{1}{2}$  common pitch,  $\frac{1}{4}$  consisting of resin, bees wax and tallow; apply with an old brush, laying on the mixture thickly over the crown of the stock, smearing the tie, and a little above and below the point of union; this will seal all up tightly. Care must be taken not to put it on too hot, though it must be warm.

J. W. WEBB.  
Fern Hill, Boleskine Road, March 21.

## THE COMING FRUIT GROWER.

A prominent writer on the fruit industry says that the coming fruit grower is on the way. He is the new-school fruit-

grower; he is cutting loose from old ways, such as were brought from the older settled countries of Europe. He is adopting and bringing forth new ideas; he has the courage of his convictions. No more "same old thing" for him. He reads the books and papers on horticulture—every sensible man does, and he is a sensible man—but he sees plainly that "books" are written from a one-man's point of view and are not adapted to his special location.

The coming fruit grower will be a man who thinks. In many instances he thinks now, because at one time in his life he was a merchant. That force of thought which gave him success in mercantile life he now applies to tree growing and fruit producing. He proves to his neighbor who does not think that thought is a profitable thing in fruit raising, just the same as it was in keeping store.

It will not be long before the coming fruit grower will devote his entire thought and energy to raising one kind of fruit. He will pursue special lines like the successful dairyman, horse raiser, hog raiser and the poultry fancier. There will be no "scrubs" in his orchard; his trees will all look thrifty, and he will see to it they are kept so. He will help those up that get behind.

Apple growers in Tasmania made a determined effort to compete in European markets with the apple growers of Canada and New England, but have finally abandoned the effort because of the heavy freight charges, says *Meehan's Monthly*. The apple growers of North America will always have an advantage in the high coloring which the climate gives to their fruit. Australian apples generally have a good flavor, but beauty always scores a point.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

To J. W. Webb—I am told that to grow good Asparagus, the ground should be trenched a yard deep. Is this necessary and can you advise me on this subject, also best sorts to grow?

## ASPARAGUS.

## 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.

## E. G. PRIOR & CO, L'TD.,

WINDMILLS, INCUBATORS, SPRAY PUMPS,  
GARDEN TOOLS, LAWN MOWERS PRUNING TOOLS, ETC.

Victoria, Vancouver. Kamloops

## WANTED

This coming season from 200 to 500 tons fruit.  
All varieties.

The Okell & Morris Fruit Preserving Co

## J. W. WEBB, Gardener.

Open to engagement in all branches by the day or hour. Apply FERN HILL, BOLESKINE ROAD, or to Winnett & Cooper, 18 Trounce Ave.

## 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 any 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 all possible natural conditions for a great diversity of fruit growing—apples, pears, cherries, plums, prunes, gooseberries, currants, raspberries, strawberries and blackberries grow better here 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	2 "	" " 16 cts
Peaches	2 "	" " 16 cts
Cherries	2 "	" " 17 cts
Plums	2 " 6 to 8 ft	" " 18 cts
Prunes	2 " 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.

## WINNETT & COOPER,

18 TROUNCE AVENUE, Victoria, B. C.

## Wanted IN SEASON.

50 tons Cucumbers and Tomatoes  
Due to arrive in March

15 Tons New Maple Syrup and Sugar.  
Falconer Vinegar and Pickle Works.

Fort Street, Victoria, B. C.

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For Destroying Insects. Does Not Fail.

Spraying Pumps and Garden Tools for sale

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As a fertilizer, it has no equal for Floriculture, Horticulture, Agriculture. Make your chickens lay by feeding ground bone.

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