When to Prune Hedges.

April is as good as any time to prune hedges, whether of hemlock or Norway spruce, arbor vitæ, or the maclura. The thing to avoid is a hard frost, and we rarely have it in April. Box-edging in yards and gardens can also now be pruned. This, instead of cutting-off square at the top as many do, exposing a dead or yellow interior nearly the whole season, should be pruned on both sides to a point, cutting a little above last year's growth.

One thing should be borne in mind by those who are growing young hedges, which is, not to allow them to grow too large before the pruning-shears are applied.

An evergreen hedge, particularly, by commencing to prune when the bushes are about four or four and a half feet high, can be made in any shape or form that may be desired, without leaving unsightly stumps. They always seem to us as though they *liked* to be pruned. They sort o' feel a little proud, at least they look smart and jaunty, after having their heads cropped.

Young hedges should receive careful attention, or they will become an eyesore instead of an ornament—and many such eyesores can be seen in the county of Philadelphia. They should be cautiously forked under the branches, at least every particle of grass and weeds should be removed, and if the soil is not rich apply a good mulching of manure; but if sufficiently rich, grass, straw, or refuse of any kind may be used. The hemlock, especially, which makes the most beautiful of all hedges, and the only one that really does well under shade, shows the effect of manure by a luxuriant growth of the darkest-green foliage that nature can present.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

Potato Planting.

To the Editor.

SIR,—I have often thought that certain qualities of land were better adapted for certain kinds of potatoes, and my surmises receive confirmation by a comparison of my own experience with that of Mr. Membery. I found, for example, that in the Cuzcos and Goodrich varieties the amount of rot last year was about equal, but not worth notice in either kind. My crop was not as large as Mr. Membery's, but was nevertheless a matter of astonishment to my neighbours. I find that a change of seed pays well. I noticed an interesting fact in regard to cutting and planting; at one time I had not enough cut to finish planting the patch out, so I took the potatoes with me, cut them in the field and planted them instantly; and I saw when hoeing them that the outside row, which had been thus planted, was in advance of the others, and I know of no other cause. I could see to a hair where the sets had been so cut and planted.

JOHN HOLLOWAY.

Scarboro'.

Cultivation of Broom Corn.

This is a crop that can be grown to most advantage on rich warm soils. The land must be well cultivated, and brought to as high tilth as can be done. It is planted in rows, thirty inches to three feet apart. The hills are to be eighteen inches apart in the rows; a tea-spoonful, containing about thirty seeds, is usually allowed to each hill, in order to make sure work, and when the plants are well up, all but eight or ten of the strongest are pulled out and thrown aside. If old well-rotted manure can be had, some may be applied by covering into the hill before planting the seeds. About half a bushel of seed will plant an acre. If too few stalks are in each hill they will become large and coarse, which is undesirable, as the finer the brush is, provided it is not too slim, the greater is its value to the broom-maker.

After the crop has been well established, and the first hoeing done to kill the weeds and thin out the plants to the right extent, the land is to be kept mellow and well cultivated with the plough and horse-hoe, the last ploughing being done when the plants are three to four feet high.

As the seed as well as the brush is of value, and the first autumn frost kills the plants, the operation of harvesting should be performed as soon as the seed is ripening and before frosts come. The stalks are bent down at a height of two feet from the ground, laying those of two opposite rows across each other obliquely, leaving a clear passage between every other two rows for the convenience of passing through when it is ready for cutting. After it has been so bent over, the brush will cure sufficiently in from four to six days to be cut, which is then done with a sharp hook or sickle, leaving about one foot of the stalk, or even less, in the ground. After being cut, it is sometimes laid out to dry still more; but if the weather has been very favourable, and the brush is dry enough not to heat or get mouldy when packed away, it is carried to the barn. If it is bound in small sheaves, there will be less trouble in getting off the seed. If not perfectly dry, the brush must be spread out on scaffolds in the barn till dry. The process of extracting the seed is called "scraping the brush;" this is done in a machine invented for the purpose. It is an upright implement of elastic wood or steel, fastened to a bench of the requisite height for an operator to sit at. The brush is taken in hand, and the top part, as far as the seed extends, is brought down on the top of the machine, forced through between the teeth, and drawn outwards toward the operator. This separates the elastic portion of the brush, and when drawn out the seeds are scraped off in the process. An average crop of broom corn yields from five to eight hundred pounds of brush, and sixty to seventy bushels of seed. If the stalks are cut before the seed is ripe, the brush is stronger and more elastic and durable; but the value of the seed then lost is a serious item, and unless the grower can make certain of obtaining as much higher a price as will cover the loss of seed, he will not submit to the sacrifice. The seed weighs forty pounds per bushel, and is said to be valuable for feeding stock, though we have had no actual experience in that way to enable us to state its value for that purpose. Sometimes the broom-makers will contract to take the whole crop on the ground at a fair price per acre, and attend to the cutting and curing themselves, when they desire to take pains to have a particularly good article of brush.

Raise Your Own Seed.

Farmers should pay more attention to the matter of raising the seed required to produce their root crops and garden truck. The matter of supplying seeds has passed in a great measure out of the hands of the actual growers into those of a class of middlemen who come between the grower and the retailer, and as has been shown by recent investigation in Britain, the competition among them has become so close and keen that every possible device is being resorted to in order to make profit, and yet undersell one another as far as price is concerned. Thus it comes that the adulteration of seeds, especially those of turnips, mangolds, carrots, and other largely grown roots and vegetables, is carried on to an extent that makes it almost imperative on the farmers to rouse up a little, and endeavour to put a stop to the adulteration by themselves raising their own seed, and thus, by withdrawing custom from the seed-dealers, teaching them the lesson that "honesty is the bost policy."

As many are aware, there is some care and caution required to grow the seeds of many plants successfully in such a manner as will prevent intermixing, or hybridizing, as it is called. This disposition to mix must be guarded against, and a little knowledge of the characteristics and habits of some of the most important roots will be of value. Many vegetables belonging to the same species or family have a natural tendency to mix, if two varieties are fructified near enough each other for the pollen of one kind to be thrown on the flowers of the other. Two kinds of turnips, cabbage, beets, etc., if planted near each other, in order to produce seed, will result in a cross or hybrid. So, if turnips and cabbage, or pumpkins and squashes, are planted near each other, the seed resulting would be neither turnip nor cabbage in the one case, but produce a valueless cross between the two, and neither squash nor pumpkin in the other, but a hard warty vegetable having neither the sweetness of the pumpkin nor the flavour of the squash. But beets and carrots, turnips and mangolds, or parsnips and celery will not cross upon each other, and any two of these, as above given, may be in close proximity to the other without danger of hybridizing. Care must also be taken to keep watch on the ripening process, and