

A correspondent of the *Rural World* says that an ordinary hot-bed is a capital place for drying fruit. A floor is laid inside, on which the fruit is placed. Then put in the sash, raising both ends to ensure proper ventilation and to prevent the fruit from baking instead of drying. Here the fruit is safe from damage by rain, insects, etc.

Beetles, wasps and flies are great enemies to the canker-worm. The former eat the worms, and the latter deposit their eggs in the bodies of the worms and when the maggots are hatched they eat the worms. Birds are also great destroyers of this pest, but birds are killed or driven away because they help themselves to some of the fruit.

A writer in the *Springfield Republican* protects his cucumber vines from the bugs by growing beans among them. We find a few broods of chickens answering every purpose, but hear of a man who complains that "the bugs eat the cucumbers; the chickens eat the bugs; the cats eat the chickens," and plaintively inquires, "Who will eat the cats?"

One great advantage of planting potatoes and corn in rows a good width apart, so as to have room for horse labour between them, is that a supplementary crop may be put in after the last hilling. Quick growing beans, white turnips, and cabbage plants may be planted thus, and the products be of no small use in helping to get stock well through the winter.

The *Germantown Telegraph* says that fruit trees that are trained low can have their fruit gathered from the ground or from a step-ladder, and will frequently bear perfect fruit within from twelve to eighteen inches of the ground. This low-branching of trees shades and protects the trunk from the hot sun in summer, and thus ensures for it a longer and more productive life.

The *Lewiston (Me.) Journal* describes the following simple method of preventing the ravages of the borer:—Previous to the first of June, we wound around the bottom of each tree, some rigs to the height of six or eight inches, taking pains to prevent any access to the tree beneath the rigs. The operation was a very simple one and performed in less time than it took to survey the trees. Not a tree was touched by the borer last year, except in one instance where we found a deposit above the bandage.

Hearth and Home says:—One of our amateur florists has lately been experimenting with the gladiolus, and has discovered a method of propagating them more rapidly than in the usual way. The bulbs are buried in sand and then placed in a warm place in autumn; for instance, under the stage of a greenhouse, and, being kept slightly moist, new buds are formed on nearly every portion of the surface. In the spring the bulbs are divided, and the pieces with buds on them are planted the same as whole bulbs. By this process the multiplication of this fine class of plants is far more rapid than by natural divisions or from the small bulblets.

The *Horticulturist* says that if a fruit grower has a muck bed within reach he is fortunate. For all light or loamy lands, the application of a hundred or more loads per acre of well-prepared muck, is of the most beneficial character. It should be exposed to the air six months or even a year before it is applied to the soil, and composted meanwhile with lime, unleached ashes or fish guano.

The *Gardener's Monthly* says that in summer-pruning or disbudding, it is also worth while to watch for shoots pushing stronger than others, and always to take them out. This the only way by which shoots of equal strength can be encouraged in every part of the tree. This is particularly true of grape-vines. If a shoot once gets the start of the others, in strength and vigor, the others will gradually get weaker.

A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* says that he made, in the following manner, a very useful implement for clipping the runners of strawberries: He purchased a common chopping knife such as women use in kitchens, and inserted it in an old rake handle. The advantage of this over shears is, that you can stand erect while at work, and cut about you in any direction the instruments will reach, the knife being rounding.

The *Gardener's Chronicle* says that the root Aphid of the grape-vine appears to be spreading through England. The editor has received some vine leaves in a dreadful state of disease, the whole of the bark being decomposed and turned into a shapeless, brown powdery matter. He thinks the matter is really of great importance inasmuch as it is clear that where this insect gains ground, the cultivation of the grape-vine will become extremely precarious.

Almost everyone who has had any experience in gardening knows the importance of pruning newly planted trees. But in transplanting cabbages, beets, tomatoes, and similar vegetables, few ever think of taking off any of the leaves, an operation fully as important as the reduction of the branches of an apple or pear tree. Let everyone who is about setting out any of the succulent plants, try the cutting off of the larger leaves, and they will never omit it again.

The *Prairie Farmer* says: Surely the rose is early. We have before us a full dozen of the Early Rose potatoes, sent us by Samuel Stratton, of Litchfield, Ill., that were taken from one hill, ten weeks from the time the seed was planted. About one-half of them are seemingly fully grown and ripe, while the balance are of various sizes. The aggregate weight of the twelve is two pounds. They all grew from a single eye. Mr. S. planted in rows three feet apart, hills sixteen inches apart, and covered with a plough. Mr. Stratton informs us that he had them for table use in seven weeks from the time of planting.

FUDDLING THE ROOTS.—Many of our readers may have neglected to transplant a choice shrub or tree, until it seems to them to be too late in