

Question • Drawer

44. SIR:—How late in the season may bush beans be sown?—W. W. R., TORONTO.

If with any prospect of ripening a crop, not later than the 20th of June; but if for using green, they may be sown as late as the 12th of July.

CINERARIAS.

45. SIR,—How shall I care for Cinerarias to keep them perennial? All that I have seen die after blooming, do they want a rest; if so, how should they be treated while resting, and for how long?—J. K. D., *Almonte*.

Reply by A. Gilchrist, West Toronto Junction.

Cinerarias are not worth keeping over; they are best raised from seed each season. No florist to my knowledge tries to keep them over. I never do.

ALKALINE WASH FOR APPLE TREES.

46. SIR:—Which is the proper time to apply an alkaline wash to fruit trees?—M. J. C., WINDSOR.

That depends on the object. If for the bark louse, about the first week in June, as then the young lice are most easily destroyed; if for the borers, once a month in June, July and August, for at that time the moth is busy depositing her eggs.

SCOTT'S WINTER APPLE.

47. SIR,—Please give me short information about Scott's Winter. (1) Is it hardy? (2) How long under favorable circumstances will it keep? (3) Is it a good cooking apple? (4) Habits of growth? X. Y., *P. E. Island*.

Reply by R. W. Shepherd, Jr., Montreal.

(1) It is quite hardy. (2) Will keep under favorable circumstances all through winter to end April. (3) It is an excellent cooking apple. (4) Growth vigorous, rather upright than spreading.

DURATION OF AN ASPARAGUS BED.

48. SIR:—Please say how many years an asparagus bed will last.—W. W. R., TORONTO.

The duration of an asparagus bed depends very much upon the treatment it receives. Injudicious cutting, that is continuing to cut too late in the season, is very injurious, and if persisted in year after year would soon spoil the bed. With proper care an asparagus bed should last in good condition for a period of at least twenty years, and we have known them, under certain conditions, to go on for an almost indefinite period.

CURING TOBACCO.

49. SIR,—How shall I cure tobacco, in order to have it at its best, to use in the greenhouse?

I tried to dry some in the shade, by hanging it up in an old building, but it got somewhat mouldy and does not appear to give as strong a smoke as cigar stumps.—J. R. D.

Tobacco is usually cured by hanging up the plants, singly, in a building through which there is a free circulation of air. Mr. Gilchrist thinks that the best and cheapest way is to send to the nearest cigar factory and get a bale of it, if wanted for smoking a greenhouse.

PLANTS DAMPING OFF.

50. SIR,—WHAT is the cause of plants "damping off"? I am loosing hundreds of Cabbage and Cauliflower in that way; I transplant them but it appears to do very little or no good. There are not many of any other kinds that are going in that way. Can you give a remedy? The plants are in a greenhouse; have not started hot beds yet. Temperature varies considerably.—J. K. D.

Reply by A. Gilchrist.

Early Cabbage and Cauliflower are very liable to damp off in a close greenhouse or hot bed; give plenty of ventilation, it is a Fungi and develops rapidly in a close atmosphere.

FRUIT GROWING IN MUSKOKA.

51. SIR,—The strawberries I received and planted last year all lived and made a good growth. I cultivate the Wilson, and find them very successful. We gathered a good