

THE FRUIT GARDEN.

Crapes Cracking. — Sash Frames, etc.

THE CANADA FARMER. — I have lately attempted the cracking of glass sashes, fruiting them, the last season for the first time. The roots of the vines extend to the outside border. What is the cause of the berries cracking? and what are the best known preventives? Some sorts seem very subject to this disease, the Chasselas Musque, for instance.

Are you aware of any plan for glazing sashes, more simple, expeditious, and economical than the antiquated mode of putting in the glass with putty? NOVICE.

The cause of the berries cracking is probably from the unprepared nature of the soil outside the house into which the roots extend. The ground is probably impacted by the treading of persons around the house.

The best way for glazing sashes will be found to be that in use by most nurserymen, viz., to bed the glass on putty, and put in tacks on the top. There are frames made in which the glass slides into a groove. In practice, they do not work well. There is sometimes a difficulty in extracting bits of glass from the groove when a new pane is to be placed in lieu of a broken one.

Strawberries in Beds.

My ground is clayey, and will grow large berries and runners for plants at the same time; so it is not necessary for me to clip off the runners when the plants are bearing fruit. As early in the spring as the ground can be worked, I prepare the ground and set the plants. I make the beds five feet wide; the paths eighteen inches wide. If the beds are wider, the middle of the bed will be too far distant to reach when standing in the path, taking care of the plants and gathering the fruit. If narrower, there will be too large a proportion of the land devoted to paths.

The plants I set are of the previous years' growth, which can be told by their having whitish roots; older plants have brown or black roots. I set three rows of plants lengthwise of the bed; the plants two feet distant from each other in the rows; the outside rows I set eighteen inches from the line of the path, and the plants in the two rows are set opposite each other, so that the plants in these two rows are two feet distant from each other each way. The plants in the middle row are set opposite to the centre of the spaces in the outside rows. In taking care of the plants the first season, I train some of the runners to the places where they are wanted, and pin them down with a wire hook at the time they are taking root, in order that the bed shall be equally covered with plants.

In the latter part of the season, when the beds become covered with plants I clip off the runners in order to check the growth of the plants on the bed. The wire hooks spoken of are made of bonnet-wire size, about four inches in length, one end bent like the bend in a hair-pin. Pins with a hook, made from a twig of a tree, will answer the same purpose. If my land were sandy or gravelly, or that which is called warm land, I would dispense with the middle row of plants in the bed, so as to not have the bed too much overrun with plants. — *Cor. Country Gentleman.*

THE SNYDER BLACKBERRY is pronounced to be hardier than the Kittatinny, and an immense bearer.

PREVENTING DAMAGE BY CURRANT WORMS. — Dry ashes are recommended as being a sure preventive against the ravages of the currant worm. When the worms first appear, dust the bush thoroughly with dry ashes when the morning dew is up on them. The application must be repeated two or three times at intervals of a few days, as more worms will hatch from previously laid eggs.

STRAWBERRIES. The *Fruit Farmer* says that the Col. Coney strawberry is poorly supplied with stamens, and hence it is better to plant every fourth or fifth row with a good fertilizer, which yields fruit equally large and fine, as the Jucunda, Chas. Downing, or Seth Boyden. The two last named are hardy and good bearers. The same journal says, in another place, that the maximum distance for shipping strawberries without injury is 150 to 200 miles — occasionally much farther. The following are named as good shippers for the above named distances: — Nicanor, Wilson, Green Prolific, Seth Boyden, Triomphe de Gand, and Jucunda.

GRAFTING THE GRAPE. — The *New York Times* directs a correspondent who had enquired about grafting grapes thus: — The grape may be grafted with even more facility than some other fruits. The stock should be cut off six inches below the surface with a fine saw and a smooth cut, and the scion inserted in a cleft, just as is done with an apple or pear graft. The stock is then bound with a waxed cloth, and the earth replaced. The scion should be of such a length that the eye is brought to the surface of the ground, but no higher. This work should be done at once, before the sap starts, after which the vine would "bleed" severely. If the stock is large, two or three scions may be grafted upon it.

The Hoosac Thornless Blackberry.

The engraving represents a new variety of blackberry, discovered by Mr. Frank Ford of Ravenna, O., several years ago, while he was on a visit to Massachusetts. While he was berrying one day on the Hoosac Mountain,



he came upon a lot of canes bearing berries of such superior character, that he secured some and propagated them in Ohio. The berries preserved their good qualities and proved very productive and hardly coming through the late severe winters without damage, while other standard varieties were killed. The engraving is a copy from a photograph, reduced about one-half in size. The Hoosac is an entirely thornless variety, so that the gatherer can pass among the canes without danger of casualty to the clothing.

THE FLOWER GARDEN.

The Aster.

The Aster, says James Vick, was popular when we had our little garden nearly half a century ago. We used to call it then China Aster, but those children who wished to



be very nice would say *Reine Marguerite*, and would often get laughed at for preferring so hard a name, just because it was French. The Aster was sent to France from China by a missionary, and the English name means China star, while the French is Queen Daisy. It was then a single, showy flower, bearing not much more resemblance to the

Aster of to-day than the mayweed does to the dahlia. However, we thought it very pretty, and it afforded us a great deal of pleasure.

The Aster now is a general favorite, and its popularity is on the increase. For an autumn show of flowers, we were about to say, we have not its equal, but we are reminded that when we get enthusiastic over any of our special favorites, we are ready to say the same thing about a good many. Perhaps we can safely say that for an autumn display it has no successful rival among the annuals. Give the Aster a deep, rich, soil, and mulching with coarse manure is very beneficial, and if extra fine flowers are needed for exhibition or any other purpose, a little liquid manure occasionally will give the most gratifying results. Plants may be grown in the hot-bed, cold frame, or a seed-bed in the garden, but to obtain good flowers the Aster plant must be strong and "stocky." A plant that is what gardeners call "drawn" will never produce very fine flowers. A "drawn" plant is one that, by being crowded in the seed-bed, or some other cause, has become tall, slender and weak.

The Aster transplants 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. It is not best to have Asters flower too early in the season, and there need be no haste in starting seed in the spring, for the Aster, like the dahlia, is essentially a fall flower, and the flowers are always the largest and most perfect and enduring in the showery weather and cool, dewy nights of autumn. The tall varieties with large flowers need a little support, or during storms of wind and rain they are often blown down and their beauty destroyed when in full blossom. Set a stake in the ground near the main stem, so that its top is only about two-thirds the height of the plant. Then fasten the main branches to this stake, not in the way too common, which is merely to pass a string around the whole plant, stake and all, thus injuring both foliage and flowers. The proper way is to attach several strings to the stake, so that they will not slip down, then pass each one around two or so of the main branches in a kind of loop or sling, so that the plant will retain its natural position, and may be swayed by the wind without receiving the least injury.

Asters are so very dissimilar in habit, ranging from the little dwarf, scarcely six inches in height, to the stately plant of more than three feet, and bearing flowers almost as large as a peony, that a few words seem necessary to prevent persons purchasing what they do not desire. The smallest of the family is the little *Dwarf Bouquet*, which presents a bouquet of flowers about five or six inches in height, with scarcely a leaf. These are excellent for borders around beds. The *Dwarf Pyramidal Bouquets* make plants from ten to twelve inches in height. Next in height is the *New Schiller*, about fifteen inches, of very peculiar habit, the leaves being almost entirely at the base of the plant, and drooping. Another class, like the *Imbricate Pompon* and *Chrysanthemum-flowered*, grow from eighteen inches to two feet in height, while the tallest class, represented by the *New Rose*, *Perfection*, and others, range from two to three feet.

FRAGRANCE AND THE "TEARFUL BULB." — The *German-town Telegraph* is authority for this: It is said that onions certainly increase the fragrance of flowers, and that if a large onion is planted near a rosebush, so as to touch its roots, the odors of the flowers will be wonderfully increased, and the water distilled from these roses far superior to any other.

ADIANTUM FARLEYENSE. — Those who have seen this beautiful fern, and have thought one a foot in diameter a good one, will open their eyes at the annexed statement of a correspondent of the *Gardeners Chronicle*. No doubt, some of your readers, when visiting the Liverpool Chrysanthemum Show, were struck with the magnificent specimen of *Adiantum Farleyense* exhibited by Mr. Cromwell, gardener to Thomas Moss, Esq. I for one was astounded. It measured fully 6 feet through, and was one dense mass of fine fronds, all in perfect health and beauty. *Adiantum Farleyense* is the queen of ferns, without doubt, and the specimen referred to excited the admiration of all who saw it. It was evident it had been at home in the hands of Mr. Cromwell, as he must have thoroughly understood the nature of all its wants.

GARDEN LABELS. — "An amateur" writes in an English journal: I use labels made of glass, and write the name of the plants upon them with a diamond, or they can be written upon with a blacklead pencil when they are required for flower seeds, or for one season only. For espaliers or wall trees I drill a hole through one end of the labels, so as to suspend them with copper wire, or nail them to a wall with copper nails. If nails are used, they should not fit the holes too tight, nor should they be driven quite home, so as to allow the glass to expand a little when warm. Made plain without holes, the cost per label would not exceed 1d. each; with holes about 2d. each. Small labels could be made for pot plants at about 6d. per dozen.