

Horticulture.

OSAGE ORANGE HEDGES.

We copy the following from the June number of the Wisconsin Iowa Farmer. The Osage Orange has been most thoroughly tried in the West:—

We are well aware that considerable prejudice exists against this species of live fence as not being adapted to our climate and soil; and that this prejudice is entertained by many who are supposed to have experience enough in such matters to give their opinions good authority. We have never felt certain of the value of this hedge-plant until of late, and have therefore recommended a trial of it more as a proper experiment, than as a certain and valuable investment. Now, however, we have become well satisfied that this plant is well suited to the climate and soil of Wisconsin, Iowa, and we will give our reasons why.

A few weeks since we happened to call at the house of Mr. WM. TRUESDELL, in the city of Janesville, and were shown a young Osage Orange hedge, three years from the seed, and having stood two years in its present position. It had stood uninjured the two last very hard winters—not one plant in fifty having died either winter, except where some plants were exposed on the edge of a high wall, with little soil to guard them. The plants were alive to the very bud below where they had been pruned, which was about twelve to fifteen inches above the ground. If these plants, then, can thus stand two such winters, and grow thickly and rapidly, they can stand every effect of our climate. We are well aware that others have not been so fortunate as Mr. Truesdell, but they have not used the pruning shears as liberally as he has. They have attempted to raise walking-sticks, while he has tried to raise a hedge. They may have been unsuccessful in their attempts; he has been successful in his. You can succeed as well as he did, if you will do thus:—

There is yet time to transplant and sow the seed this season—though rather late for the former. We are told the last of May is the best time for transplanting—perhaps the lateness of this spring will allow it to be done early in June, hence we will give some directions how to commence:

Prepare the line of your hedge by deep ploughing (trenching with a spade is of course still better), three feet, or even four feet wide. Set your plants either in one row or two, according to your fancy. If in one, 8 inches apart—If in two, a foot apart, breaking joints, thus—

* * * * *

The two parallel rows being about 4 or 6 in. apart. Cut down your plants early in the season (in August) to three buds. Again, in the fall, cut them down, not to any particular height, but so that the lateral branches of one plant may interlace with those of another, and form an impenetrable mass, so that you cannot thrust your open hand through. As the base close to the ground, becomes dense, allow the plant to rise, still keeping lateral bracing running out and interlacing. After they have been set two years they will run up the height of an ordinary fence in six or eight weeks after pruning. We think in one year more, a very insufficient fence will, with the aid of the hedge, be sufficient protection; and in two years more, you may take away all fence, and leave the hedge as a protection, that will last half a century.

In pruning down as closely as we have recommended, you lose nothing, for the upright stems will instantly grow up to a sufficient height for protection, and the tops will not be winter killed. Remember, however, that the line of your hedge is to be kept perfectly clean and free from weeds. This will require very little labor after the first year, as the plants overshadow the ground too much to allow any great growth of weeds.

THE COST.—A gentleman in Janesville, desirous of forming such a hedge, told Mr. Truesdell that an offer had been made him to set out and raise for four years, at seventy five cents per rod. Mr. T. insisted, that by buying the plants at four dollars per thousand, and paying cash for all the labor, it could be done at twenty five cents the rod. This may appear low, but by raising the plants from seed, it could certainly be done for that sum, if not for less.

If you get the seed, get that that has been raised as far north as it can be well ripened.—The colder the climate the seed is raised in, the better it will fit a cold climate; but with close pruning seed will do well, even if brought from Texas. Plant immediately.

REMARKS ON BUDDING AND GRAFTING.

Buds should always be set before the stock or bud has ceased to grow for the season. In setting pears in pear stocks, it is important to commence earlier than apples, as the former do not grow so long as the latter. Plum and cherry stocks also stop growing early, unless the development is kept up by stimulating manure, and careful tillage. Apple trees, if healthy and in a good growing condition, may be budded late in August. Peach trees continue to grow even longer than apple trees, and it is never advisable to bud them early. In all trees, when budded, there should be sufficient sap to cause the bark to peel freely. Of the proper time for performing this operation in the several kinds of trees above mentioned, the ready peeling of the bark is the only criterion to be relied on. In grafting it is frequently necessary for those who are engaged extensively in the business, to preserve scions for some months before the time arrives for inserting them. For this purpose, no material has yet been discovered superior to damp sawdust. In regard to its efficiency the editor of the *Albany Cultivator* says:

"The mode first suggested to us by T. G. Yeomans, of Walworth, N. Y., of preserving the scions of fruit trees in moist sawdust, has proved superior to any other. It is better than damp moss, in the facility with which the scion may be perfectly imbedded in it, leaving no interstices; and it excels moist sand, it being lighter, more spongy, and entirely free from a grit which may injure a knife. We have without difficulty preserved scions, which were cut in the summer for budding, till the following spring, and inserted them as grafts with entire success; and we have kept winter cut grafts till midsummer perfectly fresh, and employed them successfully in budding. A bushel of sawdust will retain its moisture for many weeks nearly unaltered, but water must not be applied too copiously or water soaking and decay will be the result. The north side of a building or a cool cellar is the best place."

In *Kenwick's Work on Orcharding*, we have the following remarks on Inoculating;

"Inoculating is the operation of transferring any desirable variety of tree upon the stock of an inferior or wild variety. The operation is principally