

PROPAGATION OF ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS.

It is much to be regretted that the propagation of many of our ornamental shrubs is so little understood by amateur gardeners. There is nothing more pleasing to the eye than this class of plants, and as they can be had in a succession of bloom throughout the whole season from early spring until late autumn they should be as eagerly cultivated, especially by the rural population, as either flowering or foliage plants which decorate the gardens of the small city lots. Where grounds are of a sufficient size to show their beauty there is nothing to compare with these queens of Nature.

A very interesting book might be written on the propagation of shrubs, their season of blooming, height and general appearance, color and form of flowers, general situation of sun or shade, their capabilities of resisting cold, best method of protection during winter months, etc.

The multiplying of many of them is a perfectly simple matter, and when understood is both easy and interesting.

To propagate from cuttings as a rule, wood should be selected from the current year's growth that has been well ripened; make the cuttings eight to ten inches long, dig a trench along a stretched line, keep the rows straight and from two to three feet apart or even more if the plants have to stand many years in the nursery row. Place the back of the spade to the line, the earth should be thrown out on the side furthest from the operator making a V shaped trench, so that when the cuttings are laid in on the side next the line they will not fall over, place the cuttings in the trench from four to six inches apart, partially fill in with the soil thrown out, and firm the soil at the base of the cuttings with

a piece of wood made for the purpose, say five feet long, two by six inches



square at the lower end, the rest may be rounded off to make it handy and light, the earth is only to be "firmed" not rammed too tight, but it must be brought snugly against the base of the cuttings which should be placed in the trench so as to leave the top bud or eye exposed above the ground after the trench is filled in level.

The cuttings are best made the end of October, or beginning of November, when the wood has well ripened; some people advocate planting cuttings in the autumn, but I prefer to tie them in bunches by twisting a wire round them (twine sometimes rots) and burying in a dry place where the water will not remain on the surface of the ground, doing the planting in the spring as described. The object of making the cuttings in the fall is so that the callus may form at the base; this effort of Nature always takes place previous to the young rootlets being formed, and this callus process goes on during the winter months so that growth begins earlier in the spring, than it would otherwise do if the cuttings were made in spring, giving the plant a longer season and consequently greater growth during summer.

Many shrubs may be grown by taking cuttings in May or June, after the leaves are expanded and some new wood is made, but they must be kept watered and shaded for a short period until they get time to root; a little mulch on the ground will also help to keep the soil moist. The lower leaves of these green cuttings must be removed, but the upper ones are left above the ground. If the