

QUESTION AND ANSWER DEPARTMENT

White Black Raspberry

We have discovered a berry growing wild in our garden which we believe to be of a new variety, but would like to know if others of its kind are known. It seems to combine the qualities of the black and white raspberry, the fruit being of a light brownish shade but having the flavor and shape of the black raspberry. It is also like the latter in growth, foliage and general characteristic, except that the stems are somewhat lighter in shade. The bush is very hardy and a fast grower, spreading rapidly. The fruit is greatly liked here for canning and preserving, and as the bush bears well, it is quite profitable. I am sending a sample of the fruit and a small branch.—B. W. S., Ontario Co., Ont.

The brownish shade of color in evidence on the fruit is entirely new to me. I know of no varieties which even approximate this color. I have seen a yellow unnamed sport of the black raspberry, but it would seem to be entirely distinct from the one under discussion. A variety of this color could hardly become of commercial importance, although judging from your correspondent's description of the bush and fruit it might be a valuable novelty.—J. W. Crow, O. A. C., Guelph.

Occasionally there is an albino form of the black cap found in the wild condition and this is one of them. From time to time these albino forms have been introduced to cultivation under names, but have not been commercially valuable. Some of the names which they have received have been American White Cap, Haskell's Yellow, Yellow Pearl and Golden Cap. The flavor is usually inferior to the black cap. They vary from white to golden yellow and often have a brownish tinge which makes them unattractive for market.—W. T. Macoun, C. E. F., Ottawa.

Pruning Hedges

Would you advise me as to the best time for clipping spruce and cedar hedges? They have been planted about two years. I want to clip them to a point in the centre as I think it would be better in the snow than a flat top. Can you tell me how to set about it. I want to find also the size of a piece of ground for sowing grass seed. How would I get it?—B. S., Island of Orleans, Que.

Spruce and cedar hedges may be pruned either in spring or fall, but spring is the customary time. They should be trimmed the second year after they are set, or sooner, although not very closely until they reach the desired or permanent height. If the plants are allowed to grow for a year or two without trimming, they lose their lower

leaves and become open and straggly. Prune them each year but never back of the growing twigs. These trees have no dormant buds the same as deciduous trees, hence if they are cut back to where the leaves disappear, no new growth will be thrown out. If you propose trimming to a point in the centre, it would not be well to produce that form altogether the first time of shearing. Plan to reach it in the course of two or three years, or even more, pruning each year more and more in accord with it.

You will find directions for measuring ground on page 146 of the July issue of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

Elephant Ear Plant

Please tell me if I could lift an elephant ear caladium and keep it in the house during winter as a winter plant?—R. B., Waterloo Co., Ont.

The elephant ear plant (*Caladium esculentum*) being a bulbous plant, does not lift very well in the fall. By lifting it carefully, it might be possible to grow it indoors for a few weeks, but they are seldom a success when lifted. Keep the plants during winter in almost dry sand or soil in a temperature of about fifty degrees. A wet, cold cellar does not suit them. A moderately dry place is best. They should be dug immediately after the leaves are frosted and before ground freezes.—Wm. Hunt, O. A. C., Guelph.

Trouble with Elm Tree

On one side of a very large elm tree the bark is loose and coming off. Could one of your tree experts tell me the cause, also what he would advise to prevent further damage? It is a very fine tree in centre of lawn and I do not want to lose it.—F. M. G., Elgin Co., Ont.

It is not possible to say definitely what is the matter with the elm tree without seeing it and learning what the exact conditions are under which it is growing. In most cases where shade trees die on the side of the trunk as described, the injury is at the root. If the roots on that side of the tree are dead the wood of the tree is likely to die on that side. By examining the roots, it can be learned whether it is at the root where the trouble is in this case. By removing the dead bark, scraping the wound back to living tissue and keeping the injured part covered with white lead paint, the tree may in time heal over. If it can be discovered what caused the death of roots, further spread of the trouble might be prevented.—W. T. Macoun, C. E. F., Ottawa.

Treatment of Tuberose

How is a tuberose treated after flowering?—A. S., Wentworth Co., Ont.

Tuberose are of very little use to flower the second year, especially if they have been planted out. If grown in a pot, bring in before frost and keep in the soil in a temperature of 45 degrees. They are seldom successful the second year.—Wm. Hunt, O.A.C., Guelph.

Water Hyacinth

How is a water hyacinth kept over winter?—A. S., Wentworth Co., Ont.

A water hyacinth will keep best in a cool, moist cellar, or if planted out of doors, it should be covered early in November in a foot or 18 inches of leaves or long manure, and some boards or a barrel put over to keep out the moisture.

Fuchsias in Winter

Can young fuchsias be kept growing all winter or is it best to put them down cellar? I would like to make show plants.—B. K., Waterloo Co., Ont.

Young fuchsia plants, if in good growing condition now, can be grown on for a while, but they should have a period of partial rest late in winter so as to give them a good start in Spring. A cool cellar with a temperature of forty to fifty degrees, suits the fuchsia when resting in winter. Bring the plants into the house before frost. Keep the soil barely moist when plants are resting.—Wm. Hunt, O.A.C., Guelph.

Take an interest in our question and answer department. It will help you.

Clean up the orchard before the snow flies.

All tender and half-hardy plants should be mulched. Even hardy plants are benefitted by some protection.

When your house bulbs are in full bloom have a photograph taken of them, and send it to THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

The rudbeckia or golden glow is an excellent perennial for the background in the border or to hide an unsightly corner, but it should not be allowed to crowd out other things. Do not have too much of it in the garden. Divide the roots this fall. Use what is necessary elsewhere and throw the rest away.