Garden, Orchard and Forest.

Washes for Fruit Trees.

The orchard can no longer be considered, in Canada, as a mere adjunct to the farm, demanding little care from the farmer and returning little or no profit. Canada has shown her capabilities for raising all fruits grown in the temperate zones equal to any other part of North America. Everything pertaining to fruit culture is worthy the greatest attention from all who are occupied in the cultivation of our soil. Fruit growers have many enemies to contend with, and not the least troublesome are blight and insects. From the *Western Farm Journal* we select an article on "Washes for Fruit Trees" that is at least worthy of trial:—

Insects and mildews injurious to the leaves of fruit tree seedlings and root grafts can be kept in subjection, or destroyed by a free use of the following combination of lime and sulphur:—Take of quick or unslaked lime four parts, and of common flour of sulphur one part; break up the lime in small pieces, then mix the sulphur with it in an iron vessel; pour on them enough boiling water to slake the lime to a powder; cover the vessel close as soon as the water is poured on. This makes a most excellent whitewash for orchard trees, and is very useful as a preventative of blight on pear trees, to cover the wounds in the form of a paste when cutting away diseased parts, also for coating the trees in early spring.

It may be considered as a specific for many noxious insects and mildew in the orchard and nursery; its materials should always be ready at hand; it should be used quite fresh, since it soon looses its potency. This preparation should be sprinkled over the young plant as soon or before any trouble from aphides, thrips or mildew occurs, early in the morning while the dew is on the trees, This lime and sulphur combination is destructive to these nests in this way by giving off gaseous, sulphurous compounds which are deadly poison to minute life, both animal and fungoid; while the lime destroys by contract the same things, and its presence is obnoxious to them. In moderate quantities it is not injurious to common vegetable life.

Another recipe for a wash for orchard trees is to put one-half bushel of lime and four pounds of powdered sulphur into a tight barrel, slaking the lime with hot water, the mouth of the barrel being covered with a cloth; this is reduced to the consistency of ordinary whitewash, and one-half ounce of carbolic acid is added to each gallon of liquid at the time of application. Apply to the trunk; it will not hurt the branches or foliage if applied to them also.

An experienced fruit grower recommends the use of the following simple method:—He takes lye from wood ashes or common potash, mixes a little grease with it, heats quite warm, and with a little syringe throws it up into all parts of the trees, branches and trunk. It will effectually kill all kinds of caterpillars and worms that are infesting the trees or running over the bark. Trees treated in this manner are exceedingly healthy and vigorous in appearance, possessing a smooth glossy bark.

Seasonable Hints.

It is too soon for window plants to get into trouble yet. They generally look well till after New Year, after being brought in during October. But soon over-watering, or under watering, or the effects of minute insects, or waste gas from the burners, or sulphurous gas from the heaters or stoves will begin to tell, and there will be trouble. As these are about all the difficulties in window-plant culture, one soon learns to avoid them, and, indeed, nothing but a real love of window-plant will enable any one to learn. It is what the best of magazines, with the smartest of editors, cannot teach. It is a good season to watch for coming troubles. As soon as the slightest thing seems wrong, search at once for the cause of the trouble. They are often but small, and easily remedied at the outset.

The Camellia is very apt to drop its buds if the atmosphere is too dry; but generally dropping follows any check to the roots by which the regular flow of moisture to the bud is stopped. This may be either too little or two much water; if two little, of course there is not enough moisture; if too much, the fibres are liable to have their points injured, and thus are unable to draw moisture to the bud. Usually, the last bad results follow from over potting. With a large mass of soil, water is apt to not pass readly away, when the soil "sours," as it is termed. A pot full of roots will seldom drop the Camellia buds for any other cause than too little water.

A great enemy of the Camellia is the Red Spider. The leaves indicate its presence generally by a brown tinge, which the pocket lens, which every gardener of course carries, readily detects. All plants are more or less liable to these insects. The best way to keep them down is by a free use of the syringe in fine days, using water in which some sulphur has been strewn. Tobacco smoke is still the best cure for aphis. Scale is a very troublesome pest; water heated to 130° is still the best. This injures very tender leaves, but the scale is rarely on such, it usually keeps to the branches or in thick leathery leaves.

Tree Carnations,—these are now indispensable winter flowering plants, and want a very light place to do well. They do not generally care about very large pots—about five or six inches—but they are very much benefited by rich manure water.

The Cala Lily is now extremely popular. This also loves light. It must have a good supply of water, and good soil to flower well.

Fruit Trees.

When fruit trees are grown among vegetable or farm crops, they will generally take care of themselves, and seize on some of the food intended for the crops; where nothing else but trees are grown they should be top-dressed occasionally. It pays to feed orchards as well as other things. The season of leisure is a good one to do it in. The best kind of manure for the purpose is that which can be had the easiest. Where no crop whatever is taken off, coal ashes are good. It is said there is no fertilizing material in coal ashes, but somehow trees grow wonderfully when top-dressed with them.

Young growing trees are very much benefited by having their bark slit by running the knife up and down freely, they must not be cut cross-wise or horizontal; also they are much benefited by having their trunk and main branches washed with whitewash, sulphur and soot. These are "old fogy notions," but try them and blame us if they prove wrong. Where branches have grown too thick cut out the surplus ones. If this happens to be a large branch paint the scar to keep it from rotting till the wound heals over. If the trees are large, and the old bearing wood seems weak, cut some of it away and encourage young vigorous branches from the interior to take their place. If you have a large orchard of plum trees it may pay to keep a person in early summer jarring the trees. If you have but a few trees it is better to invest fifty cents in mosquito netting to cover each tree with, and you may now keep this in view in pruning time, and cut your tree so as to best suit your netting. Look after the lables. Much of the interest in an amateur's orchard is in knowing the names. After years of observation and experiment we have found no fancy labelling so good as a good piece of pine wood about six inches long, one inch wide and the eighth of an inch thick, the name written when fresh painted with white lead, and a piece of very thick copper wire ran through the end. It should be hung around the trunk over a fork, and with a loop many inches round, so as to give room for many years' increase in the diameter of the stem. On this the names may be written so large that he who runs may read; and if well done such a label will remain good for ten years at least.

The Value of Forest Trees.

"F. R. E.," in a letter to the *Prairie Farmer*, tells his method of growing chestnut trees, and the value of chestnut and other woods for the inside finishing of houses :

Permit me to say that when land can be had at a reasonable price, it is best to plant the nut where the tree is to grow and remain. I would plant 4x5 feet, putting in two nuts at a place. If both grow, transplant one the spring after its first season's growth. Cultivate with harrow or shallow cultivator three years, then leave nature to care for herself. In this, the growing of the chestnut, one very valuable item seems to have been lost sight of, viz., the value of chestnut wood as lumber, when the trees have made size, so that boards 16 to 18 inches wide can be had from them. My experience in studying woods for inside finishing of houses, where no paint is to be used, has shown me that no wood when worked down smooth, oiled and varnished, brings out a grain more beautiful than the chestnut. The butternut is another good one. In designing woods for rooms in earlier days I gave the oak for the dining room and library; I gave curled maple for tho main room and butternut for the panels and mouldings for the parlors; hickory for the hall, and varieties of ash for the chambers; chestnut for the kitchen. I did this but once, for my kitchen was the handsomest room in the house. Since that time, if I want a showy finish of wood, beautifully grained, I take chestnut. For doors I sometimes use either butternut or black walnut, or oak, for the main frames, putting in panels and mouldings of chestnut.

The Oyster Plant or Salsify.

Oysters are cheap enough and abundant enough in all conscience; and there is little need of us who live in the great oyster centres of trade talking about a substitute. Still there are some who do not like oysters, and vegetarians who won't eat oysters, and once in a while some one who cannot get oysters, and to all these the salsify or oyster plant is a great blessiug. There are, however, very few who can grow it well, and it is by no means uncommon to hear people say that their attempts to grow it have been time and money thrown away.

So far as our experience goes, it is no use to try to grow salsify on high, dry ground. What are called early gardens are not spots to try to grow this vegetable. It must have cool ground; and then we think it likes a heavy rich ground rather than a light one. The Jerseymen bring it to market sometimes in tolerably good condition, and we are apt to associate every Jersey crop with a rich damp sand. However this may be, we have no doubt that in the ordinary garden soils a heavy one is much better for salsify than a light one.

And then it must be sown very early. It takes time to grow to a good size, and needs the whole season to do it in. It is not at all a tender plant. A little frost is laughed at; and so no one need fear to sow it as early as it can be got in, for fear cold weather may follow the sowing.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

Room for Apple Trees.

BY E. IN OHIO FARMER.

One very important thing which all trees and plants absolutely need, yet which only a very small proportion of them ever get, is sufficient room. It is strange that there is such a universal practice of crowding. In nine cases out of ten a man who is to set a dozen trees will not give room for more than eight. Many men who are first-rate farmers in other respects err in this direction. They may have fifty acres of land upon which there are no trees, but this does not keep them from setting them too thickly on the land which they devote to the orchard. These same men can see that if corn is plantod too thickly it will not do well, and that all farm crops need sufficient room in order to thrive. But when they come to plant trees, which need light, air and room, more than anything else which is grown on a farm, they crowd them too near together.

And the evil seems as great and frequent to-day as it was twenty years ago. Then there was some excuse for it; planting trees was comparatively a new business on the farm, and the few which had been put out had not grown enough to make the evils of close planting evident. But now the experience of many years throws a light upon the methods of planting which was then unknown. Men of the present day have often seen the evils of close planting and ought to avoid them. But each farmer seems determined to learn for himself and pay a needless tuition in the school of experience. The trees are all quite small when they are set, and sufficient allowance is not made for their rapid growth. When taken from the nursery, it seems as if twenty feet apart would give plenty of room. Some farmers, who think to be on the safe side, give twenty-five feet, and very few allow thirty or thirty-five. For a while twenty feet answers well enough, but in a few years it is evident that the trees are too near together, and that they will all be injured by excessive crowding. In some cases farmers have cut out every other tree, and thus left a good orchard with the trees far enough apart. But this is an expensive operation, and involves a great waste. It is much better to take plenty of room at first.