

❖ Question Drawer. ❖

Ashes for Fruit Trees.

696. SIR,—I have a large heap of ashes, probably fifty loads, which has been left from making potash. It has lain some thirty years, but is still so strong that grass does not grow upon it. Would it pay to haul it upon an apple orchard, and if so, what quantity per acre? Please answer through THE HORTICULTURIST.

A SUBSCRIBER, *Pickering.*

Leached ashes, such as our correspondent speaks of, has lost its most important element, namely, potash, which is one of the most important fertilizers for the fruit orchard. Still there is probably a small portion of this element yet remaining, and a certain amount of lime also, which would be of some benefit as a fertilizer. If the land is stiff upon which it is proposed to put these leached ashes, the mechanical effect will be particularly beneficial. In any case we believe it will pay our correspondent to cart these ashes and apply them to his orchard. It was a great mistake to allow them to remain thirty years without being applied to the land. Few of our Canadian gardeners seem to appreciate the excellent results which are obtained by a liberal application of wood ashes to the land for almost any crop. As to quantity, we usually advise about fifty bushels per acre of unleached ashes. Two or three times that quantity of these leached ashes would do no harm.

Irrigation.

697. SIR,—I notice that you answer questions free. I have a large garden here of light sandy soil in some parts that will continually dry up at every season in spite of all kinds of manure put upon it. I am growing a good many small fruits and am putting in waterworks and hose. Last season and this I am giving the land a heavy dressing of hardwood sawdust which was used as bedding for chickens, cow and horse, and had been kept under cover. I have also put on well-rotted manure for seven years continuously. I know that the want of water is the great difficulty. A part of the land is low and flat and is under-drained. The subsoil is white clay fifteen inches below the surface. Now I want to irrigate the sandy part where the stuff all wilts in August.

F. W. PLANTE, *Warton.*

It would be a great boon to fruit growers if a simple system of irrigation could be planned which would be efficient and not too expensive. We will be glad to receive the experience of any of our readers under this heading.

Dahlias.

698. SIR,—During the last two summers my dahlias have been very unprofitable, yielding very few blooms. The buds would turn black, die and drop off. On a dozen extra strong plants I had not twenty good blooms. Can you give the cause and suggest a remedy?

W. A. BROWNLEE, *Mount Forest, Ont.*

Reply by Webster Bros., Florists, Hamilton, Ont.

We have found that the dahlia buds fail most upon plants that are exposed