

Garden, Orchard and Forest.

Seasonable Hints—July.

BY HORTUS.

Very little will require doing in the orchard this month beyond an occasional inspection for insects and the pruning of suckers from roots, superfluous branches in the tree and cutting off dead limbs. Promptly remove any signs of blight and black-knot by cutting off affected parts, this is the only remedy. Watering the mulch around newly planted trees and removing of grass or weeds growing around them will assist their growth. Straighten crooked trees by bending in opposite directions to crooks—it is surprising what may be

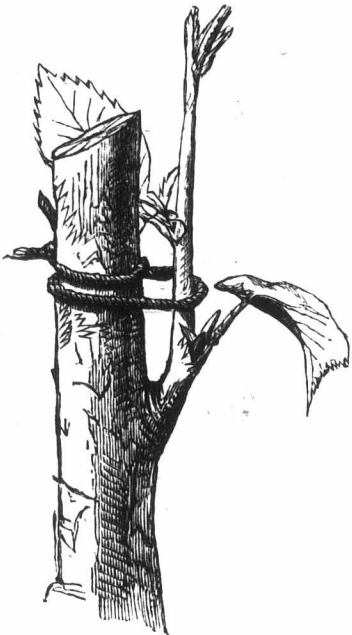


FIG. 1.

accomplished by doing this frequently—there is no excuse for crooked trees if treated at this time of the year. Trees, shrubs, &c., transplanted this season and making an effort to grow should be assisted by watering with clear water, but do not use liquid manure. The injudicious use of this kills more than enough—people are so anxious to make things grow that the evil of too much kindness is as great as that of neglect. Remove suckers and branches on limbs that have been grafted,

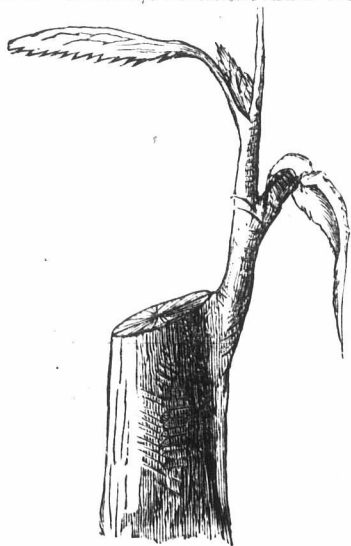


FIG. 2.

that is, provided grafts are growing—so as to force growth into the grafts. Budded stocks that have been sprouted and bud tied up as shown in Fig. 1 will have made growth sufficient and be strong enough to take care of themselves; the buds therefore should be heeled early this month to allow

stock to heal over. To avoid cutting the bud the operator must handle knife, which should be very sharp, with confidence and a quick deft movement leaving the stock and bud as in Fig. 2. The latter part of this month is the proper time for budding, that simple method of propagating all kinds of fruit and ornamental trees, described and illustrated in back Nos. of *ADVOCATE*. It is a necessary accomplishment to the enthusiastic orchardist who can at will multiply his varieties by budding several kinds on the one tree and thus enjoy what limited ground may not allow to have single trees of. Very little art or skill is required in trimming and training grapevines, many persons are deterred from the cultivation of this luscious fruit by the thought that great skill is necessary to manage them—grow the vine as much like nature as possible so long as it is kept within reasonable bounds. Tie up to stakes or trellises. Remove suckers except two or three you might wish to layer or for new canes to bear next season's fruit. The main object of attention is to throw the strength of the vine into the fruit and the next year's bearing cauls, these you must determine upon and henceforth pinch off superfluous lateral shoots and unnecessary growth. The gathering and marketing of fruits will be pleasing and profitable occupations during July. Make notes in your diary of such kinds as have best withstood the severe spring frosts and record your experience in the columns of the *ADVOCATE* for the benefit of your neighbors. To secure best prices at market great care should be taken in picking the fruit clean and not bruising it, keep out leaves and decaying fruit, have your fruit cases neat and clean. Have a well ventilated room, cool and airy for storing the fruit till ready for shipping. Such attention will be found to add materially to the disposal of fruit to good advantage. Herbaceous plants, such as Peonies, Phloxes, &c. may be divided and replanted after flowering. Layering, a method of propagation to which attention was drawn last month may still be done. Amongst the flowers and vegetables the hoe and rake should be kept going, especially after rains. Stirring the soil frequently renovates and fertilizes it—the earth being kept in a light and permeable condition the roots of the plants can extend freely through it in search of food. Plants with tap roots like beets and carrots require deep culture, till such time as their foliage covers and shades the ground, then a slight hoeing on an occasional hand pulling of stray weeds will be all the attention required. Fill up any gap in your turnip rows by sowing white turnips or corn which will come in for green fodder for stock in the fall. Nothing looks worse than long gaps in rows which may result from several causes, bad seed, clogging in the drill or the fly. Cabbage could be planted in these vacancies with profit. Where early potatoes have been taken off sow white stone turnips, it is better than having the ground idle, the leaves boiled make the best of greens for table or left will furnish good food for stock. Celery may be planted at any time during this month, and may be grown as a second crop after early beans, onions &c. have been disposed of. The common method is to plant in prepared trenches 3 feet apart and six inches in row—a moist cool situation is just the place for celery. When earthing up be careful not to cover the heart of the plant which otherwise would rot.

People are pretty certain to attend to potato bugs without being reminded of them, the best remedies yet are to hand pick the beetles, and Paris Green mixed with land plaster sufficient to give the plaster a greenish gray tinge for the larva. Hot water is recommended to destroy the worms on cabbages, it is surprising how hot the plants can stand the water without being injured.

Treating Orchard Ground.

The raising of fruit is the raising of a farm crop. Now, to do justice to grain, corn, grass and other crops, care has to be taken. We plow, harrow and get the land in good tilth; we manure it; we drain it, if necessary. If these things are neglected, there will be no crop; if negligently done, there will be a poor crop.

Fruit trees are a farm crop. If the land is properly cultivated and enriched, and if it is well drained, there will be a good growth; if not, there will not be so good a growth. As we treat our orchard, so it will be. Hence, the effect of our neglected orchards which we so much see. Make the orchard a specialty; that is, devote it to fruit; cultivate the ground for that purpose.

And here an explanation is necessary: If your ground is deeply rich, porous and drained, surface cultivation has little effect. The roots plunging down get out of its reach. Manure applied is retained at the surface, if the soil is retentive—as a good, well balanced soil is. Then grass may be grown and grass removed. We have seen this in numerous cases, and with the most gratifying results. And here we have found the best success in fruit growing. The best orchard (apple) that we ever knew was in such soil. The roots piercing down many feet, plowing was permitted up to the tree. This orchard was kept constantly in grass, is in grass to-day, and has been uniformly good for the many years that we have known it.

Such land, then, is an exception to the general culture of the farm. It does not affect the culture of the grain and grass crops, but it is an exception to the treatment of fruit trees. The advantage here is the depth of the soil. The underground strength is made use of, which cannot be reached by the grain and grass crops, though clover does it to some extent; and clover grows excellently in such soil, producing two heavy crops, from five to six tons per acre. But trees revel most in such soil. It is the soil that should be devoted to them.

Where there is a shallow soil the thing is entirely changed. You now have the roots where you have to feed them. They soon absorb the strength of the scant soil. If in addition, grass or grain is sown, the matter is still worse, unless the crops grown are given to the land. Then there will be an advantage, because an addition of manure may be applied in the regular way. The land may be cultivated, but enrichment must go with it, either in leaving the crop or adding manure. If not, the orchard will suffer and finally decay.

The Jerusalem Artichoke.

Our American agricultural exchanges have for some time been occupied with treatises on the Jerusalem Artichoke, as a farm crop especially profitable for hog feeding. An article on this plant from an English agricultural paper shows the estimation in which it is held in that country, where it has been so long known. The *Agricultural Economist* on this subject writes as follows:—

This, which on good soils runs up to a height of six or more feet, is one of the most useful plants for a screen. It grows thick and massive, as well as tall, and if the rows—which should be at least three feet apart—are planted quincunx fashion, the plants form a dense impenetrable mass of stems and leaves, through which the strongest weeds can hardly penetrate. The stems have been recommended by some as a fodder plant. They are coarse food at the best, though hungry bullocks will at least pick the strong wood-like stems pretty bare of leaves, and the stems chopped up and thrown into yards adds to the bulk of the manure heap. They are also, where fuel is scarce, not bad stuff for heating the oven; but the roots, or semitubers, are the most valuable portion of the crop. They are, perhaps, the very best substitute we have for potatoes. By planting the smoothest sets and scorching out all the eyes with a hot iron, excepting about three of the finest, the produce is much finer and more even in quality. This mode of treatment is far preferable to cutting the sets, which does not answer very well for the artichoke. It should be planted nine inches deep, eighteen inches to two feet between the sets, and a yard or four feet between the rows.

As to soil, situation, preparation, &c., what suits potatoes well will suit artichokes better. The chief reason why artichokes are not more generally grown arises from the careless and indifferent treatment they have as a rule received. Any