

Garden, Orchard and Forest.

Seasonable Hints—May.

BY HORTUS.

This month will be found to be the best time in the year for the planting of all kinds of evergreens; just as the season becomes too advanced for planting with safety all kinds of deciduous, fruit and ornamental trees, the time for handling evergreens may be said to commence, and be continued till the new growth attains a height of five or six inches; then a little more care will be necessary to keep roots from exposure to wind and sun. When planting it would be well to dip roots in thin mud; after earth is filled in, cover the ground with a thick mulch of litter, straw, &c. On very dry sandy soil give your trees a good watering occasionally. Aim to finish your planting before the very hot weather sets in, which commences generally about the 1st of June. Select some cloudy day to go to the swamps adjacent for a wagon load or two of such evergreens as there may be found growing; these plant in rows two feet apart and six inches in row. From this small nursery, which may receive such additions as time and inclination will allow, hedges screens and wind-breaks may be planted around the farm. When planting do not put any manure near the roots. Evergreens are impatient of manure, and if soil requires enriching, it will be better to use the manure as a mulch for the first season; this also applies to the use of manure when planting fruit trees.

A simple method of layering grapes to produce strong young plants, by those unacquainted with other means of propagating, will be found in the following: Make a trench with a hoe six inches deep, in a V shape; in this lay a cane from the vine, pegging it down securely at the bottom of the trench; leave it till the buds have attained a length of four or five inches; then draw in enough soil, pressing it with the fingers around the young growth to within an inch of the top of growth. Again, in a week or so put in more soil, and continue doing so till the trench is level. In the fall, before the ground freezes, remove your layers, which will be found strong rooted, each eye making a fine plant.

Grafting may yet be practised till trees are in leaf.

The improvement and adornment of the grounds surrounding the residence should receive as much care and attention as would be spent in the erection of the building itself. Many will spend thousands for buildings, and grudgingly devote a few dollars for the purchase of plants, paying little attention to the landscape beauties of their premises, forgetting that by the judicious laying out of paths with the arrangement of flower beds, grouping of trees, &c., in accordance with the character of their residence, they will form a picture that will be an object of admiration and emulation to their fellow countrymen. For the planting of small borders or beds, the following neat growing shrubs will answer the purpose: Double Almonds, Prunus Triloba; Spireas in variety; Daphno mezereum, two colors; Forsythia; Tartarian Honeysuckles. These, intermixed with shapely specimens of spruce and an occasional group of roses, are sufficient for the adornment of small grounds. Paeonias, Phloxes, Lychnias, Delphisium and other strong-growing, hardy perennials, can be advantageously used in connection with the above. Once they are planted, very little labor afterwards is required to always have nice surroundings. The digging up of the grounds, and raking and levelling off the same, will be found agreeable occupation and relaxation from the heavier duties of the farm.

An odd, awkward corner of the garden will be a

capital place for a small rockery, and if a little shady it will be all the better. Here the many beautiful ferns and creeping plants which may be found growing wild in the woods and along fence sides, can be transplanted safely; the graceful foliage of the ferns contrasts well with the irregular forms of the rockery.



For edgings of walks and beds, a foot wide of sod kept nicely trimmed can hardly be excelled; otherwise dwarf box, Tom Thumb cedar and white cedar form nice edging and may be kept as low with the shears as fancy may dictate.

As suggested in the last number of the Advocate, many neat and ornamental rustic contrivances may be constructed with but little exercise of taste and labor. Select three birch poles about ten feet long and group in the form shown in the



illustration. From the centre at the top may be suspended a basket filled with plants such as white Petunia, &c.; beneath this arrange a small bed of rich soil, filled with Gladiolus or other scarlet flowering plants. The idea may be carried out, i. e., a camp fire. Another object may be composed as follows: Select an old stump, cut a flour barrel



in two and into the half fill earth; plant a geranium for centre, and around the edge place such plants as German ivy, so as to trail over edges; place this on your stump, and you will be pleased with its quaint and simple beauty. It will look just as nice when the plants are grown as if you had spent \$20 or \$30 for an iron vase.

In the vegetable garden most of the seeding and planting will be well advanced by this time.

Whatever seeding there is yet to be done, remember to have the soil in right condition before sowing. If very wet the ground is sure to bake if worked upon, and it is far better to wait even till June than be in a hurry now and have your labor and seed wasted. If the soil is very dry, when sowing be sure to pack it well after sowing with the back of the spade or by the use of a hand roller; treading the soil well in the sowing of ordinary vegetables will greatly facilitate even germination. The cultivation of the cabbage has been greatly affected of late by the ravages of the worm. Although many remedies are in vogue for destroying this loathsome pest, we find the best to be plenty of manure and water. A patch of cabbages grown in a moist, rich place will be found to grow so luxuriant as to defy the worm, which must turn to those grown in poor, dry places for sustenance. Many thousand plants of tomatoes, peppers and such plants as are transplanted are destroyed by being cut off close to the ground by the cut worm. This sly individual works by night and hides in the soil around the base of the plant during the day. Especially on light soils it is found to be very destructive. A remedy for this pest is to wrap a small piece of paper once around the stem of the plant, so as to extend about an inch or so above and below the line of the soil.

[If shrubs such as those named cannot be conveniently had, evergreens, such as spruce, cedars and balsams can be procured from the woods. They should be transplanted when small, and those selected that are branched closely from the ground. They can be kept neat and will be highly ornamental. There are also to be procured from the woods native shrubs well worthy of more attention than is generally paid to them.—ED.]

Superphosphate in a Garden.

About a year ago I purchased two hundred pounds of superphosphate to apply on my garden. I think it will be of some interest to you to know the results. I planted one-fourth of an acre with potatoes, in hills two feet four inches apart each way. In every hill I put about one-half of a garden trowel full of superphosphate and two single eyes of the potatoes. In about two hundred and fifty hills I dropped the fertilizer and covered it very little before I dropped the seed. In all the rest of the hills I planted the seed with the fertilizer together. I hoed them twice and the harvest was sixty-two bushels, although I did not cut more than one bushel for seed. The kinds I planted were Extra Early Vermont, Snowflake, Brownell's Beauty and Compton's Surprise. I could not see any difference in the yield of the potatoes where the seed was dropped with the fertilizer, or the fertilizer dropped first, covered a little and then the seed put on the top of it.

I had a most remarkable result from the use of superphosphate on cabbage. I transplanted two hundred and fifty plants of Brunswick improved, but before I set out the plants I dropped in each place a handful of fertilizer and mixed it with the soil. The growth was so rapid that I was compelled to pull the cabbage early in September, because it burst open and the stems began to decay. I had the same rapid growth with onions, sweet corn, beets, &c.—Cor. Husbandman.

Cultivation of Apples.

The following valuable suggestions are from an essay by Prof. Beal, of the Michigan Agricultural College:—

A young tree must be treated very much as you would treat a hill of corn. Hoed crops will answer in a young orchard. Sowed crops will do much harm to young trees. It is a good plan to keep young trees mulched. It prevents the rapid evaporation of moisture from the soil, keeps the surface mellow, prevents the soil from freezing and thawing in winter, and becoming overheated in summer. Whether to cultivate or not can be told by the looks of the trees. If the color of the leaves is good and the growth all right, and the trees bear well of fine fruit, they are doing well enough even in grass. To judge of the condition of an apple tree is much like judging of the condition of sheep in a pasture.