

over, and it is doubtful whether the advantages of the plan compensates for the untidiness. It is perhaps better to follow the suggestions of Mr. Sargent and others in our last and previous volumes, to set the machine so as not to cut so low as we did on the first introduction of mowing machines, where it has not been done.

Pruno shrubs, roses and vines. Those which flower from young wood, cut in severely to make new growth vigorous. Tea, China, Bourbon and Noisette roses are of this class. What are called annual flowering roses, as Prairie Queen, and so on, require much of last year's wood to make a good show of flowers. Hence, with these, thin out weak wood, and leave all the stronger.

To make handsome, shapely specimens of shrubs, cut them now into the forms you want, and keep them so, by pulling out all shoots that grow stronger than the others during the summer season.

The rule for pruning at transplanting is to cut in proportion to apparent injury to roots. If not much worse for removal, cut but little of the top away. Properly pruned, a good gardener will not have the worst case of a badly dug tree to die under his hands. In nursery, where those matters are well understood, trees "never die."

Box edgings lay well now. Make the ground firm and level; plant deep, with tops not more than two inches above ground.

Roll the grass well before the softness of a thaw goes away. It makes all smooth and level.

Graft trees or shrubs where changed sorts are desirable. Any body can graft. Cleft Grafting is the easiest. Split the stock, cut the scion like a wedge, insert in the split, so that the bark of the stock and scion meets; tie a little bast bark around it, and cover with Trowbridge's Grafting Wax, and all is done; very simple when it is understood, and not hard to understand.

Hyacinths, Tulips, Lilliums, and other hardy bulbs set out in the fall, and covered through the winter, should be occasionally examined, and when they show signs of active growth, must be uncovered; in this latitude this is not safe until towards the end of the month.

The improvements that the last few years have made in the Hollyhocks have rendered them very popular for ornamenting shrubbery borders, to which they add very great interest, and are peculiarly appropriate. They may be transplanted quite early in the season, and flower the more freely for it. They are propagated by dividing the roots in the spring, or by seeds sown as soon as ripe in the summer. The choice kinds are increased by eyes made by cutting up the flower stems. These are struck in a gentle bottom heat.

And now, having taken a look at our flower-beds, and lawns, and trees, and shrubs, do not forget the walks and roads, which, however well kept the other parts of a garden may be, are often neglected. Nothing is so disgusting to a tasteful mind as a slovenly path.

Walks and roads are not used as much to add mere embellishment as in Europe. They are costly to make and keep in order. In American gardening they are only employed where absolutely necessary, and then turned and twisted as little as may beautify, without losing sight of their necessary duties. Old tan bark makes a cool and delightful walk under the shade of trees. It must be laid on a dry bottom, or it becomes very unpleasant in wet weather. Slag from furnaces, ground up with ashes, is the very best material for garden walks, and the color is far more agreeable in hot weather than gravel. Notwithstanding its dark color, it is not so hot, and it does not pack quite so hard as the regular road material. Sand, on the other hand, though it does not pack at all, is very hot, on account of the very hard nature of its particles.

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