

PARLOR AND WINDOW.

Flowers cost so little, and their care and culture is commingled with so much pleasure in watching their progress, that they may be considered the cheapest luxuries afforded humanity. It is a mistaken idea that flowers in a room exhale poisonous gases. A single lamp takes from a room more oxygen than a whole bay window full of plants. Plants or flowers giving off strong perfume should not be permitted in a sleeping room. Plants, like human beings, subsist on air, food and light, and it is given to those who have become most familiar with the proper proportions required of each to reach the greatest success in maturing and having choice flowers. As even temperature, as a general thing, is best for house plants, and they should never be kept in a room where it is below 40°. Too great heat and too little light are injurious to plants. Guard against too dry a heat in a room by having a dish of water where it can be evaporated by the heat. Plants should be ventilated, although not allowed a draft of very cold air. A few of the large leaved plants, such as callas, cornelias, oleanders, &c., should always be washed (taking care not to wet the flowers), for the leaves of plants, like the human skin, contain innumerable pores, which should not be allowed to become clogged. Finally, they should be watered judiciously, and to such an extent as a careful study only of their needs may dictate. —From *Brigg's Illustrated*.

THE TRUE WAY TO WATER TREES.

If trees standing in grass land are watered, the surface round about the body for three or four feet in each direction should be covered with mulch of some sort, to retard evaporation. It will be labor lost to water trees on the lawn without exercising this precaution as the water will disappear before a hundredth part of it has reached the roots. Straw, hay, lawn-grass, weeds, shavings or tan bark, will make an excellent mulch. Spread the mulch three or four inches deep, pour three or four pailfuls of water round each tree, and the water will permeate the entire soil, keep it damp, and supply the moisture which the tree must have, or die. If the soil is in a tillable condition, draw the earth away from the tree to the depth of one or two inches; pour in two or three pailfuls and return the mellow earth, which will keep the surface from breaking. Yet mulch is far preferable to the latter mode.

When the soil appears nearly dry to the touch, the roots cannot possibly derive the needed supply of water to keep the leaves and branches from injury during the rapid evaporation which is going on night and day. When the atmosphere is as dry and hot as the air in a huge lumber-kiln, it will have the moisture in every tree and plant, and the moisture of our bodies, even if it is the hot air, has to take it (the moisture) out of the hide. Hence we must drink, and the roots of the trees and plants must be supplied with water, or they wither and die.

A great many persons scatter the grass from the lawns and the weeds from their gardens in the highway, which is bad horticulture in many respects. If they would spread such grass and weeds around their growing flowers or around any garden vegetables, the mulch would save the labor of carrying hogheads of water to supply the plants with necessary moisture, and the covering would keep the surface mellow, keep the weeds down, and save a good deal of manual labor; and the crop would be heavier. —Our *Home Journal*.

TRANSPLANTING SEEDLING TREES.

All seedling fruit or forest trees should be transplanted while young as a hastening process, as well as to insure safe removal in later years. Transplanted seedlings grow more rapidly than untransplanted, and when the operation is properly performed a tree will be as large in ten years, as it would have been at twenty, if allowed to remain where the seed was sown or naturally grew as it fell from the parent tree. I do not know of any exception to this rule, for the hickory, butternut and black-walnut, which are generally difficult to remove, if transplanted when one or two years old, and deprived of its tap root, will throw out numerous side or lateral roots, which not only causes vigorous growth, but insures success in transplanting.

One of the most erroneous theories ever promulgated is that a tree will grow more rapidly and remain healthy longer if it is never meddled with from the time the seed is placed in the earth. Such a theory belongs to the barbarian and non progressive ages, and not to the nineteenth century. —*Ex.*

CLEARING MOSS FROM FRUIT TREES.

The *American Agriculturist* says nothing is better than carbolic soap and lye. Make common lye of wood ashes, not strong, and add half a pound of carbolic soap to three gallons of boiling lye. Apply hot with a swab of old trees. It has been used with entire success on apple, pear, peach and cherry trees, destroying every particle of moss it touches.

RENOVATING ORCHARDS.

When the least symptom of failure or decay in a bearing orchard is perceived, the ground should have a good top-dressing of manure, and of marl, or mild lime, in alternate years. It is folly to suppose that so strong growing a tree as the apple for instance, or indeed most other fruit trees, particularly if planted rather thickly, will not, after a few heavy crops of fruit, (and very little, if any, thinning seems ever resorted to), exhaust the soil of much of its proper food. If we desire our trees to continue in a healthy bearing state, we should, therefore, manure them as regularly as any other crop where the ground needs it, unless a rotation of grain and grass crops is practiced, (and the remnants ploughed in), which, of course, in the orchard, cannot be so well done as elsewhere. Orchards will amply repay the expense of proper manures.

We subject our orchards to bear too excessive crops, by which they exhaust most of the organic matter laid up by the trees. When some of the fruit is thinned out in a young state, leaving only a moderate crop, the apple like other fruit trees, will bear annually more regular crops, as it will also if the soil is kept in high condition. Fallow crops are the best for orchards—potatoes, vines, buckwheat and the like. An occasional crop of alfalfa or grain may be taken, although alfalfa is rather too coarse rooted and exhausting for a young orchard. When this, or grass, is necessarily grown among young trees for a year or two, a circle of three feet in diameter should be kept loose by digging every season about the stem of each tree. We hardly need state that it is an indispensable requisite, in all young orchards especially, to keep the ground at short intervals mellow and loose by cultivation. —*Pacific Rural Express*.

SETTING OUT TREES BY THE ROADSIDE.

The growth of timber to take the place of our rapidly disappearing forests, has led farmers in some sections to set out trees. While it may not be convenient or desirable for all to adopt this plan, all may set trees by the roadside along their own land. There are many advantages to be obtained from them, which can be seen at once, to more than pay for the trouble. They beautify the premises and give a better appearance to the landscape; and if the trees are maple, which is one of the best and most easily raised, when grown, they will furnish a large yield of maple-sugar. If butternut, or walnut, the nuts are, in a measure, the compensation for the labor of setting them out. There is to be in the future such a demand for wood that it will not answer to cut them down, and not replace them in some way.

In Baden and other German States, as well as in some parts of France, the law obliges a person to plant a tree in place of every one cut down. In this way, miles of rows of shade trees line the roads, making pleasant shaded walks through all the towns and villages.

It is a fact not generally known that trees increase their wood-making capacity in about the ratio of the square of the number of years indicating their age. The third year they make nine times, the fifth year twenty-five times, and the tenth year one hundred times the amount of wood they make the first year. The trees grow more rapid as it gets older, and we cannot afford to cut them down until they get their growth.

Some towns in this section have already formed associations for beautifying their towns by planting parks and setting out trees by the roadside. If this is not done, individuals can, with but little trouble and without expense, procure trees and set out in front of their own lands, and stimulate their neighbors to do the same, so as to make a uniform and continuous line of shade trees along the roadside. —*New England Homestead*.

The *Galt Reformer* refers to the peculiar operation of frost as manifested upon apple trees in the vicinity of Harrisburg, which had their trunks split from the roots to the branches, with the severe frost of this winter. These trees are large and vigorous, but considerably exposed, being on the top of a hill. We have not heard of similar instances in any part of the country.

PRUNING GRAPES.

In localities where the grape vines have, from being uncovered, been injured by the severe winter, we would caution our readers not to be too hasty in cutting back. Many may retain sufficient vitality to bear a part of a crop. At all events, cutting back, or even trimming, whether in healthy or injured vines, should not be practiced after soft weather comes, else the vines will bleed severely and perhaps fatally. Pruning should always be done in the fall. If neglected at that time they may be pruned in the winter, but never in the spring until after the new growth is somewhat advanced, after which bleeding ceases.

THE SUM AND SUBSTANCE OF SUCCESSFUL FRUIT CULTURE.

The most important items in fruit culture are:—

1. Thorough and perfect drainage, either natural or artificial.
2. Proper preparation of the soil for planting; clean after cultivation, and constant care of orchards.
3. Regular manuring of the trees for the first three or four years, unless the natural fertility of the soil is sufficient.
4. Mulching shallow soils under the trees, with shallow culture for such soils to protect the roots from drought in the one case, and their destruction by the plow and spade in the other; as, in such soils, the roots lie near the surface and also require more space to travel in search of food.
5. Deeper plowing and stirring where the soil is rich and deep, with no mulching beneath the trees.
6. Train according to the habit of the tree without material disturbance of large limbs.
7. The advantages derived from scraping apple trees are very great. This operation should not be neglected in winter or spring; the improved appearance and condition of the trees will reward the labor; and it is probable that many insects will be destroyed—at least their harboring places will. A drawing knife is a good implement for this work—use the back of a knife. After scraping use a strong wash of soap-suds. For very young trees use only the soap-suds, and not too strong.
8. The best implement to use immediately under the trees is the garden or spading fork. It breaks the soil well and does but little injury to the roots.

VIOLET.

Having been asked to reply through your columns which is the best violet and our manner of growing the same, I respond as follows:—

We have grown them profitable for the past fifteen years for their bloom. We plant in cold frames of well prepared soil about the end of September, say two thousand plants; these commence flowering two weeks after removal; from the 1st of November to the 1st of February we pluck from fifteen hundred to two thousand daily. After this the soil becomes stronger, and they flower more abundantly, until the first of April, when they cease. The sashes are then removed to allow the plants to grow and harden before we separate them; about the first of May we take the old plants up and divide them, making say ten to fifteen out of each, or as many as we can get with good crowns and roots—tops and roots cut back like strawberries, and then planted in open field in good rich soil.

Start your plants early in spring, so that they may be well established before the summer drought commences. Artificial heat is not required to bloom the violet; bank your frames well with leaves or manure, cover early in the afternoon in severe weather with mats, salt hay, etc. Here is why so many fail in growing them; they do not keep them warm enough at night. —*R. J. H. in Horticulturist*.

CONSUMPTION OF TIMBER.

The United States Commissioner of Agriculture says:—

"If for twenty years to come the demand for lumber shall advance in the same ratio to the population as in the past twenty, more than \$200,000,000 worth of American sawed lumber will be needed each year, denuding more than ten million acres of land. About 7,000 are cleared each week-day in this country. Of the annual crop \$72,000,000 worth goes to fuel and twice as much to fencing. The locomotives in this country consume about 7,000,000 cords a year or 5.0 acres per day. This is a startling revelation, but there is no doubt that it is substantially true, and the day is not far distant when every acre of timber land will be immensely valuable. Coal will soon be used for fuel by all our locomotives and also by families. But if we would keep up supplies of timber, even for building purposes, we shall need to plant trees to take the places of those now being destroyed. Why not organize tree planting commissions, whose duty it shall be to promote this most useful interest.

WOOLEN RAG MANURE was used by a Frenchman in Canada, when planting out his fruit trees on poor land, each tree receiving 20 to 24 pounds of it at the time of planting. This manure is very rich in azote, and is said to have produced wonderful results.

HOW TO RESTORE TREES KILLED BY FROST.

The following we clip from the report of the recent meeting of the Michigan fruit growers at Battle Creek:

In view of the fact that thousands of fruit trees, especially the peach, have been injured by severe cold of the present winter, and that many have been killed outright, it will be seen that anything that might indicate a practicable relief from the loss that will fall upon this branch of industry will be hailed with satisfaction. On this subject, which was taken up by the Society, the views of Mr. Hartford, of Indiana, were called out. He said in the cold winter of 1866, he had an orchard of thirty young trees absolutely killed to the snow line, and of course a total loss as far as appearance indicated or experience could suggest.

Knowing however, that the trees had been vigorous, and that their roots must possess considerable power of reproduction, he proceeded to cut off the top of every tree that had been killed, and left nothing but unsightly stumps throughout the orchard.

The spring came on; advanced somewhat; he watched his stumps with anxiety; found that numerous buds started out from these stumps, put forth their shoots and made a remarkable growth, and in two years he had a good and healthy orchard as that which had been cut off by the frost. Since that time he had frequently occasion to treat other trees in a similar manner, sometimes cutting off injured branches only, and had almost uniformly had good results. But it is necessary to cut off the injured branches of frozen tops as early as possible after the snow is gone, and always before the sap has begun to ascend the tree.

Other gentlemen expressed their opinions upon this very important point. To the argument that this practice would cut off the present season's product, was answered that in orchards whose trees are badly injured, the crop of this year is out of the question; of them the orchard may be saved by a timely application of the surgical knife, and in two or three years be in as good condition as before frozen. A true economy cannot fail to indicate the course to be pursued.

EVERGREEN TREES IN ORCHARDS.

You are aware, Messrs. Editors, that I have a long time objected to belt planting as a protection to orchards or fruit culture, and that I have advocated the planting of evergreens here and there in and among the orchard. Now I have no desire to place myself in antagonism with or against any advocate of the system, but I do know that the influence of an evergreen extends to just about double the distance of its height, and that when placed alone there is an ameliorating influence obtained in temperature, both summer and winter, and I also know that a thick bank of evergreens, while it has a sheltering influence for a certain distance, has also an influence tending to moisture and miasmatic disease of tree and foliage within a near radius, and especially when the southern line of heat comes most strongly upon it. I could make quotations to prove my position last named, but I have no desire for controversy, and only seek to induce planting of evergreens in and among orchards indiscriminately. Because when a fruit grower has done it, he waited ten years to see its results, I know he will thank me for the suggestion of a good and reliable protection in the matter of orcharding. F. R. E.

OUR FORESTS.

There is no doubt that the natural growth of forests will disappear, and that, more rapidly than many imagine. There is an enormous annual increasing consumption, and there is also an enormous waste. We have our doubts of the wisdom of the present Commissioner of Crown Lands selling so cheaply enormous acres of our timbered lands, as timber is increasing in value year by year, and the increase will certainly be kept up. The U. S. Commissioner makes the startling revelation that "if for twenty years the demand for lumber will increase in the same ratio to the population as in the last twenty, more than \$200,000,000 worth of American sawed timber will be needed each year, denuding more than 10,000,000 acres of land. About 6,000 are cleared each week-day, and of the annual crop \$175,000,000 worth goes for fuel, and twice as much for fencing. The locomotive consumes 7,000,000,000 cords, or 500 acres a day." The day is not far distant when coal will be the chief fuel of locomotives, and a so by families, but we must still have lumber. In the United States, tree planting associations are being formed, and it will not be long before they will be needed in Canada. —*St. Catharine's Daily News*.

TO KEEP CUT FLOWERS FRESH.

A few iron nails placed in a vase with flowers will keep the water sweet, and the flowers fresh. This arises from the sulphur eliminated from the plants, combining with the iron.