

they grow. Most people fail with these beautiful plants by sowing too late. The Wallflower is a nice old-fashioned window flower, and cuttings of the double kinds should be struck at once. Cuttings of Geraniums and other things for this coming winter's blooming may be put in.

FRUIT GARDEN.

In the fruit garden, if trees set out last fall or spring do not show signs of growing freely, cutting back a portion of the branches will make a great difference in their favour. It is a great point with good fruit-growers to have all the branches in a tree of uniform vigor. This can be gained by pinching off the growing points of the stouter ones, leaving the weaker ones to gain strength by the check to the others. Where the branches are likely to be too thick, some may be taken out while green, instead of waiting till winter to do it, not forgetting, however, that a loss of foliage is, in some degree, an injury to the tree and, that as little of this should be done as is consistent with necessity. Some recommend trees to be pruned in summer, because wounds heal better then. It is true the wound does heal better, but the loss of so much foliage is an injury not compensated by the healing of the wound. However, where the trees are young, and the branches to be cut away but a small fraction of the foliage, the injury is little, and the summer trimming is thus a gain. Nursery trees are best served in this way. Strawberries, Raspberries and Blackberries are "summer pruned" chiefly by thinning the suckers and runners. Strawberries are often grown in beds, and the mass of runners suffered to grow together as they will. This is the best way for parties who have little time to give to their gardens. When grown in hills, or with the runners cut off, something is necessary to be placed between the rows or the plants, in order to keep the fruit from getting gritty after rain. When they are in beds, the fruit keeps cleaner without much difficulty. But with this plan, the runners should be thinned out at this season of the year, leaving them only about three or four inches apart. Of course, we weed these Strawberry-beds; a large part of the runners should be treated as weeds and taken out at the same time. Raspberries and Blackberries should be served the same way. All the suckers not wanted to bear next year, should be taken out as they appear. If the kind be valued, the young offsets taken up may be transplanted any time through the season, by well watering and nipping out the young tender tops. About the end of the month it is often the practice to clip off the growing ends of Blackberries and Raspberries. It is said to stiffen the canes, and it renders stakes to support them in a measure unnecessary.

As to varieties, the *Gardener's Monthly*

is occasionally regarded as slow, because it does not get off a sort of 4th of July oration with every new fruit that appears. The last meeting of the American Pomological Society was a very good endorsement of our course. In Strawberries, for instance, notwithstanding the immense number of new kinds, the old Albany Seedling was universally started, and only the very new ones, not much known, received high praise. Pyrotechnic displays are very well, but when it is in regard to new fruits, we prefer our readers rather to admire than to pay dearly for them. The very few new things that are likely to be of permanent value we try to keep our readers well informed about in the body of the work.

The time when Currants and Gooseberries mildew and drop their foliage is at hand. Some have found a mulch of salt hay to be good against these troubles, but, in fact, anything that cools the surface, and thus helps to keep the atmosphere moist about the plants, is good. A heavy mulch of old corn-stalks we have found to be excellent help to success in growing these fruits.

VEGETABLE GARDEN.

In many amateurs' gardens late Peas are valued. It is essential that they be planted in the coolest part of the ground. The Pea is a cool country plant, and when it has to grow in warm weather, it mildews. The Marrowfat class are usually employed for late crops. They need support. All Peas grow better and produce more when grown to stakes. Bush Beans may be also sown for late crops. A very deep rich soil is necessary to tender, crisp pods. The Lima Bean will now be growing rapidly. It is time well spent to tie them to the poles as they grow. The poles should not be too high—about eight feet is enough. They commence to bear freely only when the top of the pole is reached.

The Lettuce is another cool country plant. It can only be grown well in hot weather when in very rich and cool soil. Tomatoes trained to stakes give the sweetest fruit, and remain in bearing the longest; but many cultivators, who grow for size and quantity only, believe they have the best results when growing them on the level ground. Celery is the chief crop requiring attention. The great point is to get short thick-growing varieties, as the long kinds require so much more labour to blanch. The Boston market variety is, therefore, popular, and is really a very crisp and nutty-flavored variety. After so many trials with different ways of growing them, those who have their own gardens—amateurs, for whom we write—find that the old plan of sinking the plants in shallow pits is about the best. Trenches are dug about six inches deep, and three or four inches of manure then dug in, of which cow-manure is the

best. They can be watered better this way in dry weather, when in these trenches, and it is so much easier to fill the earth about them for blanching purposes than when growing on the level surface. Soap-suds, as well as salt in moderate doses, is usually a wonderful special fertilizer for the Celery plant.

Late Cabbage is often planted in gardens between rows of Potatoes, where it is an object to save space. Some fancy that the Cabbage is better preserved in this way from the Cabbage-fly, which, they say, prefers the Potato; but on this point we are not sure. We do not think the Cabbage does quiet as well as when it has the whole ground to itself; but of course a double crop could not be expected to be quite so fine.

AN ESSAY ON THE HOG.

PRESENTED AT THE SELMA SESSION OF THE AGRICULTURAL CONGRESS.

(Continued.)

The above description (so far as it goes) answers well for some of the better classes which are now being cultivated in the United States, to which we add: The improved Berkshire weighs variously from 300 to 450, at from 10 to 16 months old, according to food and style of breeding, and we have known full grown boars to weigh 1,000, gross; pigs from 5 to 6 months 200 to 250. These are no doubt extreme weights, but not at all uncommon in well bred and properly managed herds. The form of the best specimens, is a short head and neck with a medium, dished face, very wide between the eyes, well shaped, moderate size jole, ears leaning slightly forward, but by no means lopped; back broad and straight from head to tail; sides deep; flesh fine and heavy; bone hard and round; legs short and tapering; hams full and round, and color as above described.

The great hardihood of the Berkshire and general freedom from cutaneous and other diseases so prevalent among many other breeds, has now become proverbial in localities where they have received reasonable care and attention. They are noted in this country for being the most prolific; and being very docile and easily tamed, renders pig-raising much less hazardous and expensive than with many other breeds.

The Berkshire has long been noted for producing the finest bacon, and we think it has yet lost none of this long and well earned reputation. The flavor of an ordinary Berkshire ham could be relished, at any time by the most fastidious epicure.

The Berkshires made their second advent into the United States about the