

planted after the leaves have pushed, and up to June; but the new leaves must be taken off, and the young shoots shortened. In a few weeks they will push out a new crop of leaves. According to "natural laws" as laid down in the books, it would injure the trees very much; but after a ten years' observation of the facts, we do not find it hurts the vitality of the trees very much, while few ever die so treated. Evergreens seem to do better in May than in any other spring month. Of the new evergreens, *Thuja borealis*, *Cupressus Lawsoniana*, *Libocedrus decurrens*, *Thuja ericoides*, are really good additions to our list.

Trellises and stakes for climbing plants and vines should be put in at or before setting out the plants. These plants always seem to grow with more freedom and vigor when they can find something at once to cling to. Climbing vines add greatly to the interest of a garden. They can be trained into all sorts of forms and shapes; and many of them, for gracefulness of form or beauty of their flowers, cannot be excelled by any other tribe of plants.

FRUIT GARDEN.

If large fruit is wanted thinning assists. Strawberries are increased in size by watering in a dry time. Fruit trees should be allowed to bear only according to their strength. If a transplanted tree grows freely it may bear a few fruits,—but bear in mind growth and great fruitfulness are antagonistic processes.

Handsome forms are as desirable in fruit as in ornamental trees. No winter pruning will do this exclusively. It may furnish the skeleton,—but it is summer pinching which clothes the bones with beauty. A strong shoot soon draws all its nutriment to itself. Never allow one shoot to grow that wants to be bigger than others. Equality must be insisted on. Pinch out always, as soon as they appear, such as would push too strongly ahead,—and keep doing so till the new bud seems no stronger than the others. Thus the food gets equally distributed.

When the strawberry crop is about to ripen, mulch with clean straw, to prevent rain from soiling the fruit. Short grass from the lawn is often used; but it mildews as it decays, and detracts from the flavor of the fruit. Hot suns increase flavor, and strawberry tiles were once in fashion to put round the hills, which, by absorbing heat, added greatly to the fruit's rich quality. All that we have said of Strawberries supposes them to be fruited on the hill system, with the runners kept off. Those who desire the best results, will grow them no other way; but many grow them very successfully in beds, believing that though they may not have as many large fruits, they have a greater weight in proportion to the labor bestowed.

When water can be commanded, there is nothing so profitable as to well soak the soil about small fruits; first about the time that they have set their fruit. Much of the value of this operation, however, will depend on the nature of the soil. The advantages are least in a tenacious, and greatest in porous soil. It is said that an animal derives most benefit from food when it is hungry before it begins to eat; it is certainly so with plants. Water applied to soil already wet is an injury; and water never has so telling an advantage on vegetation as when every leaf is about to wither up for the want of it. A plant that never seems to want water is in a very doubtful condition in regard to its health.

Blackberries and raspberries, set out in spring, may kill themselves by overbearing. It is pardonable to wish for some fruit the first year. If a tree seems to be growing freely, some fruit may be left. Cut out black-not, or any symptoms of disease that may appear, and as they appear.

VEGETABLE GARDEN.

In the cultivation of garden crops, the hoe and rake should be continually at work. Weeds should be taken in hand before they are barely out of the seed-leaf, and one-half the usual labor of vegetable gardening will be avoided. Hoeing or earthing up of most garden crops is of immense advantage in nearly every case. One would suppose that in our hot climate flat culture would be much more beneficial; but a fair trial, say on every other row of a bed of cabbage, will show a great difference in favor of the earthed-up plants. It would be easy to explain the reason of this, but in this column we try to confine ourselves to "hints," and leave reasons to our other departments.

Cabbage, Cauliflower, and Brocoli, are now set out for fall crops, and Endive sown for winter Salad. Lettuce also for summer and fall use. This, however, must be sown in very rich soil, and in a partially shaded situation, or it will go to seed. Peas, Beans, and other crops, should be sown every two weeks. They do much better than when a large crop is sown at one time, and then have too many on at one time to waste.

Melons, cucumbers, corn, okra, squash, beans, sweet potatoes, lima beans, pepper, egg-plants, tomatoes, and other tender vegetables that do not do well till the sun gets high, and the ground warms, should go into the soil without delay. Mr. Perriman, of Michigan, uses no poles, but cuts off the runners as they appear, and the plant bears abundantly as a bush. Tomatoes do well tied to poles.

Bean poles should be set before the beans are planted; and near cities where they are comparatively high priced, their

ends should be charred. This will make them last some years.

In sowing seeds it is well to remember that though the soil should be deep and finely pulverized, a loose condition is unfavorable to good growth. After the seeds are sown, a heavy rolling would be a great advantage. The farmer knows this, and we have often wondered that the practice never extended to garden work.

THE ORCHARD GRASS.

From Lawson's Agriculturist's Manual.

The Rough Cocksfoot is a well known grass, growing abundantly (in Britain) in all waste places where not very barely cropped by the cattle. It is a valuable grass in cultivation on account of the great quantity of produce which it yields, and the rapidity with which its leaves grow after being cut. Its habit of growth is tufty, and rather unsightly, with broad foliage of a slightly glaucous-green color, which renders it unfit for ornamental parks and pleasure grounds. Sheep are remarkably fond of it, but they should not be put to graze early in spring, for if allowed to stand too long, it gets hard and coarse. When subjected to perpetual pasturage the Cocksfoot does not seem to last above five or six years, but gives place to the smaller and finer leaved sorts. This may be accounted for by its spreading very little in the ground, and being in general closely eaten down by cattle, particularly sheep. It is well adapted for growing in shady moist places, under trees, &c. In America it is getting into extensive cultivation under the name of Orchard Grass.

From Smith's English Flora.

In shady places, orchards, &c., this is a harsh, coarse grass, not very acceptable to cattle; but when cultivated on dry open land its quality becomes excellent, and the crop of tufted radical leaves abundant.

From Flint's Grasses and Forage Plants.

Orchard Grass grows in dense tufts. Its stem is erect about three feet high. I have found specimens in good soil, over five feet high. Leaves linear, flat, dark green, rough on both surfaces, which, with the fancied resemblance of its tufts to the foot of a barnyard fowl, have given it the common name in England of Rough Cocksfoot. Root perennial. Flowers in June and July. Not uncommon in fields and pastures.

This is one of the most valuable and widely known of all the pasture grasses. It is common to every country in Europe, to the north of Africa, and to Asia as well as to America. Its culture was introduced into England from Virginia, where it had been cultivated some years previously, in 1764. It forms one of the