

What Amateurs Can Do in March

THERE are many things that amateurs can do before the busy season actually begins. Order your seeds, trees, plants, fertilizers, tools and spraying outfit. A better garden can be had by planning now than later. By ordering early you will get your trees and plants as soon as the weather is safe for shipping. Look over the old tools; repair those that need it, and sharpen all.

In the localities where the snow leaves early, considerable work can be done on the lawn and in the garden. The lawn may be raked, fertilized and rolled; bare spots can be sodded. Walks and drives

WITH THE FRUITS

If you have some old fruit trees of worthless varieties, graft them with scions taken from trees of desirable varieties. They will bear in about three years.

Prune currants, gooseberries, raspberries and blackberries. Currants and gooseberries produce their fruit on wood that is at least two years old. When pruning remove only a portion of the old wood, and allow a similar number of new branches to take their places. If you did not do so last fall, remove the old wood from the raspberries and black-

berry same, send specimens with descriptive notes to THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

IN THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

A hotbed or cold frame is useful in the kitchen garden. The material for it soon should be in course of preparation. Fresh manure should be placed in a heap for ten days or so, and turned once during that time. A hotbed or cold frame is useful for starting early vegetables. Sometimes four to six weeks may be gained in hotbeds, and two to four weeks in cold frames. If you have neither of these, start some vegetables in boxes on the window-sill.

Home-grown rhubarb may be had early by placing a barrel or box, from which the top and bottom have been removed, over a clump of rhubarb in the garden. Cover the top at night and during cold days.

Beds of asparagus and rhubarb may be manured. If manure is not available, use nitrate of soda at the rate of one ounce to the square yard. Rake it in and repeat the dose three weeks later.

If you are burning wood in the house stove or furnace save the ashes for fertilizer. Keep the pile dry. Even coal ashes are useful. They supply practically no plant food, but improve the texture of the soil.

If the soil in the vegetable garden is heavy, it would be well to buy sand to lighten it. An application of lime or strawy manure also would aid in loosening a clay soil.

THE OUTDOOR FLOWER GARDEN

Do not remove the cover from bulb beds until danger of severe frost is over. Remove by degrees. It is best to leave the mulching near by, so that it can be replaced when severe weather threatens.

Plan to rearrange the hardy border and to fill the gaps. The effect of alternate thawing and freezing is very trying for plant life out-of-doors. If the ground is frozen, there is still time to give some protection. Cover with some strawy manure held in place by branches of trees. Remove the covering as soon as danger of severe frost is past.

FLOWERS INDOORS

Late in March repot the hardiest kinds of window plants, such as geraniums, ferns, and plants required for summer decoration. Water them thoroughly so that all the soil in the pot is moistened.

Flowering bulbs should have plenty of water when in flower. When the flowers have faded, the bulbs will be of little or no use for pot culture another year. They may be removed to the garden, however, and will make a useful addition to the border.

After freesias have finished flowering dry them off slowly. They should be



A Well-made and Well-kept Tennis Court

At residence of Mr. A. Alexander, Hamilton

can be graded and rolled; apply fresh gravel where needed. Remove from the lawn, garden and walks all the rubbish that was left over winter.

Repair all holes in tree trunks by removing the rotten wood, singeing the cut surfaces, and filling with cement.

Birds kill insects and add much to the charm and pleasure one can have in the garden. Make houses for them.

Remove all dead wood from trees, shrubs and vines; if overgrown, they may be thinned out. Most shrubs require very little pruning. Late-flowering shrubs may be pruned while dormant. Early flowering shrubs should not be pruned until they have bloomed, as they will produce their flowers on twigs that were formed last season. Hardy roses may be pruned towards the end of the month.

berries. Thin out the new canes, and cut them back to about three and a half feet.

Prune the fruit trees. Thin out the apple and cherry trees. The growth produced last season on peach, pear and plum trees should be headed back.

Prune the grape vines after the severe weather is over, and before vegetation begins, so that they will not bleed too profusely.

Much trouble with insects and fungous pests can be averted by action now. Destroy the egg masses of tent caterpillar, cocoons of fall webworm, and the winter stages of all injurious insects that you may happen to come across. If you happen to find an insect or fungous disease on your trees, no matter what the stage of its life cycle, and do not