

these scorching days it is a peculiar satisfaction to use the weeding implements. There are now no Spring showers to make the weeds grow all the better for a transplanting. Once uproot them now, whether with the cultivator, hoe or rake, and they immediately perish. It is particularly important not to let them go to seed. The same journal recommends a heavy hoe two inches wide, six inches long, and sharp, as an excellent implement for dealing death to weeds. It will cut off a dock root three inches under ground, and it is fine to use it where the weeds are not too plenty. Apropos of dock-killing, it is a work that should be done in good time. If cut or pulled when in bloom, it will mature all or nearly all its seed. So of some other weeds. If not cut up till in blossom, they should be put in heaps and burnt as soon as they are dry enough to catch fire.

### THINNING FRUIT.

This is a process which is needful to keep trees in full bearing vigour year after year. An overabundant crop exhausts. It is not much trouble to thin out fruit, but people hesitate to do it because it seems like so much dead loss. But this is a mistake. It is better to have a moderate yield every year than an excessive crop one year in three. Not only does thinning out fruit promote regular productiveness in an orchard, but it secures larger and finer fruit. Fewer specimens, better in quality and bigger in size, are preferable to a great lot of inferior and undersized fruit. Severe thinning wonderfully improves some kinds of fruit that are naturally diminutive in size. The Seckel pear is an example in fruit. Knowing ones who have exhibition honours in view, well understand the value of this thinning out process in producing the first samples of fruit, and practise accordingly.

### PRESERVING FLOWER SPECIMENS.

To the Editor of the *ONTARIO FARMER* :—

SIR,—I am desirous of preserving specimens of flowers, but I am not acquainted with a good mode of doing so.

Perhaps you or some of your correspondents will be kind enough to state in your next issue the best and cheapest way of crystalizing or preserving them.

R. L.

June 22nd, 1869.

### GARDEN GLEANINGS.

Garden sass is cheap in Hamilton. Strawberry can be had for eight cents a quart; gooseberries, three cents; peas, twenty-five cents a peck, &c. We pity the gardeners who have to make a living at such prices.

Hamilton and Guelph have recently been indulging in strawberry festivals pretty freely. The "ambitious little city" had no less than three in a single evening. Guelph had one on three successive evenings.

It is said that thirty years ago, a fruit-grower in Duxbury, Mass., made use of a mixture of soft-soap, whale-oil and common liquid varnish in equal parts, as a preventive of the canker worm ascending fruit trees. The result was satisfactory.

Peter Henderson, in his *Practical Horticulture*, says that the simplest way to destroy ants is to leave fresh bones around their haunts. They will leave everything else to attack them. When thus accumulated, they can easily be destroyed by dipping in hot water.

Market-gardeners, who use the most effective manures without regard to cost, are small purchasers of guano and the bi-chemical fertilizers. They depend on compost made of vegetable refuse, thus creating a condition of soil similar to that of fresh cleaned and heavy-timbered land.

A Chicago "fashion reporter" says, of style in that village :—"A cabbage-leaf trimmed with three red peppers and a dried cherry sells for \$35. It is called a jockey; and one great advantage—can be eaten as a salad when the season changes. One composed of three sighs and a bit of pink-colored fog was considered cheap at \$55."

A writer in the *Wisconsin Farmer* says how to have a great deal of trouble to make currant or gooseberry cuttings or slips grow until he tells the following plan : He boiled some potatoes until they were nearly done, and then stuck on each slip and put it in the ground. The slip sprouted and grew well all summer, with one or two exceptions.

A correspondent of the *New England Farmer* says that for the purpose of trapping the roach bug he has planted among his four or five hundred grape vines, some twenty rose-bushes. These roses the bugs cluster, and both roses and bugs can be readily picked, early in the morning into a pail of water. In this way the grapes protected with little labor, and in a few years nearly all the rose-bugs may be exterminated.

A correspondent of the *American Institute Farmer's Club* says that for removing knots in plum trees, he takes a paint brush, dips it in spirits of turpentine and thoroughly saturates the knot, being careful not to touch the tree elsewhere in the diseased parts. The turpentine kills the excrescence and the trees put out healthy branches below it. He burns all branches of diseased trees removed in pruning.