

CULTIVATION AND CARE OF THE BLACKBERRY.



FIG. 1566.—A clump of weeds in the corner by the house—motherwort and Virginia creeper. How pretty they are!

are also attractive. Bowers are always interesting to children; and actinidia

(to be had at nurseries) is best for this purpose.

Plants for decoration.—Against these heavy borders and in the angles about the building, many kinds of flowering plants can be grown. The flowers are much more easily cared for in such positions than they are in the middle of the lawn, and they also show off better. They have a background. Even a clump of weeds looks well when it is in the right place.

While the main planting should be made up of common trees and shrubs, a rare or strange plant may be introduced now and then from the nurseries, if there is any money with which to buy such things. Plant it in a conspicuous point just in front of the border, where it will show off well, be out of the way, and have some relation to the rest of the planting. Two or three purple-leaved or variegated-leaved bushes will add much spirit and nerve to the place; but many of them make the place look fussy and overdone.

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IN starting to grow this favorite berry we must first consider its location, as most varieties are too tender to stand much exposure to either severe frost or keen cold winds; and consequently a windbreak of some kind is desirable toward the success of the bushes, carrying them through the winter without freezing down. This windbreak should be on the west side. As it will not only shield them from the cold frosty air in winter, but will also protect the bushes from the high winds when they are heavily laden with fruit.

Another important point towards its success is the soil, as some soils would not be suitable, such as hard clay, or

wet ground. The Blackberry likes a warm sandy soil. They grow splendidly on a deep rich sandy loam, and will stand the dry weather better than on a light sandy soil, and perhaps grow rather larger berries.

But if it was possible to irrigate, I would choose the light sand as it is warmer, and getting plenty of moisture they would grow to perfection.

Now as to fertilizers for the soil. There is nothing better in my opinion than plenty of good unleached hardwood ashes, stable manure well rotted, and nitrate of soda. In first setting the roots, and management of them after, I differ from most growers, setting