

wards, about the first of December, spread upon grass lands. It is quite a misnomer to call this process "snow-rotting!" Under no circumstances will the plants, if spread to rot during the winter following their growth, become ready for the brake without exhibiting on the fibre a greater or less number of dark blotches, contagiously communicated from the decomposing elements of the underlying wood. We must, therefore, impute the beauty of color and strength of fibre peculiar to this process, to a different agency than extreme cold or snow. It is known that nitrogen, with its strong predisposition to decay, is present in at least two compounds contained in the hemp plant,—its nicotina, which, when dissolved in the pool, poisons fish—and its volatile alkali, which causes the plant to emit so strong an odour. It is also known that when these are extracted by immersing the plants in water, the cambiose matter uniting the fibres of the bark, is decomposed before the slightest decay takes place in the woody part of the plant—the woody part, being white, tough and elastic, like a willow-rod, (a property in the stalk which renders the breaking a labor so arduous), whilst in the dew-rotting process, before this detachment of the fibres is effected, some of the elements composing the fluids of circulation have been changed in their combination, and thus seem to have formed an acid, which has, in a greater or less degree, blotched the woody part with dark spots, every one of which will stain the lint. White rotting avoids this blotching of the wood and bark, mainly, I think, by ridding the plant of most of its elements predisposed to decay, through the agency of heat, just as the same ends are accomplished by water when the plants are immersed. That heat has the power to expel these elements, or to render them harmless by causing new combinations, will appear from considering a fact familiar to all experienced hemp-growers, which is this: it often happens that a bundle of hemp spread down the autumn after the plants were grown, will be taken up in January, with the top portion of the plants, which occupied the centre of the stack when in bulk, of a bright buff color, whilst the lower portions of the plants in the same bundle are dark colored and ready for the break. Now, if these bright portions be cut off from the other parts of the bundle, and exposed again to the rains and frost, in time a rot is effected, and an article closely resembling water-rotted hemp is produced. In this case there is not the remotest doubt that the character of the bright portions of such bundles has been changed by the great heat generated in the stack, by bulking the bundles while the leaves were yet too damp. So it is with hemp, I think, kept in bulk more than one year.

Time sets free a large portion of what is volatile, and the heat generated, whilst the mass is going through a sweat, and sublimates or changes much of what remains. Certain it is, that the market value of this article is greatly above that of dew-rotted hemp, and it remains to be determined whether a management could not be devised increasing still more this value. This process is attended in practice with but one serious objection, which is, that the additional time required to detach the fibres from the wood, in consequence of the indestructibility resulting from its changed character, often brings round the spring of the year before it is ready for the break; in which event it becomes necessary to stack over and brake the following winter—for not only would breaking at that season interfere with the growing crop, but it is, itself, without a dry house, almost a work of impossibility. When the mean temperature of the day rises above the mean annual temperature of the earth, the dew falls freely, so that every day is like a rainy day in winter—unfit for breaking hemp.

L. YOUNG,
Louisville, Ky.

Communicated to this Journal by H. Yeomans, Esq.,
Halifax.

HINTS FOR JUNE.

FLOWER GARDEN AND PLEASURE GROUND.

Towards the end of June propagation by budding commences. This is very commonly employed with the rose; but ornamental trees and shrubs may be increased in the same way. Closely allied species must be chosen to work together.

Evergreen hedges will require attention as they grow. Where the height desired has been attained, the top and strong growth should be cut back while they are still watery. The side shoots need not be touched till past midsummer. All wise people now employ the conical shape for hedges. In cutting back the top growth at this season, the conical form can still be preserved.

Cut off the flowers of roses as they fade,—the second crop will be much better for the attention. Seeds of all flowering plants should be also taken off; all this assists the duration of the blooming season.

Bulbous roots, when done flowering, and the leaves have faded, should be taken up and dried,—mixed with chaff or other loose material, placed in paper bags and stowed away in a dry place till Fall.

Dahlias should not flower early. Keep them growing till Fall, when they will flower finely.

Propagation by layering may be performed any time when strong vigorous growing shoots can be had. Any plant can be propagated by layers. Many can be readily propagated no other way. Cut

a notch on the upper side of the shoot, not below, as all other looks recommend, and bend down into, and cover with rich soil. In a few weeks they root and can be removed from their parents. Stakes for plants should be charred at the ends before using, when they will last for years.

Flower-beds should be hoed and raked, as soon as the ground dries after a rain. Loose surface soil prevents the understratum drying out. Peg down bedding plants where practicable. Split twigs make the best pegs. In dry weather do not water flower-beds often; but do it thoroughly when it is done. See that the water does not run off, but into and through the soil.

Mow lawns often, if you would have them green and velvety. Keep the scythe sharp; usually mowers do not use the grindstone often enough. Common farm scythes are not fit for lawn use; rivetted, and short scythes are the kind to get. If a lawn is mowed often, the grass need not be clean,—the sappy blades soon wither, and make a manure for the roots. The longest should be raked off, or the lawn will have a littery appearance.

Peg down Roses where a heavy mass of flowers is desired. The side shoots push more freely for this treatment.

The Rose bugs are apt to be very annoying at some seasons. The best remedy is to shake them off into a pail of water. The Rose slug is often very injurious to the leaves—completely skeletonizing them. All kind of rapid remedies have been proposed—whale oil soap, petroleum, &c., but the best thing of all is to set a boy to crush them by finger and thumb. It is astonishing how rapidly they are destroyed by this process. This is true of most of the larger insects. Hand picking or crushing is by far the best remedy.

No trees, Evergreens especially, should be suffered to have grass grow about them for a year or so after planting. It becomes "rank" in the deeply loosened soil, abstracts moisture, and otherwise seriously interferes with the tree. When the tree gets a fair start, grass does less injury, and when it becomes a tough sod, and the tree by its shade, or say by frequent mowing keeps the grass short, the grass roots do not penetrate deep, and the soil is of benefit, by keeping the surface spongy, and the substratum cool.

Many herbaceous plants, such as Phloxes, Hollyhocks and similar things, that are scarce and valued, may be propagated now very easily, by taking portions of their flower-stems before the flowers open, and inserting them as cuttings in a half shaded, cool, and not dry situation. Layering of many things, shrubs, half-shrubby perennials, etc., should be done before the young wood becomes too hard,