

to a cool, partially shaded position out of doors during the hot summer months. The north side of a building or fence is a good position. The pots may be either plunged in, or stood on a bed of coal ashes. Water and syringe frequently, never allowing the roots to be quite dry. A few tobacco stems thrown around outside each pot will materially assist in keeping down red spider and thrip, the two insect pests to be dreaded by the Azalea grower most of all.

Roses for Amateurs.

1091. SIR,—Are budded or own root roses best for amateurs?

Answered by Webster Bros., Hamilton.

If by an amateur is meant one who can scarcely tell a rose from a cabbage, well decidedly, roses that can produce nothing but flowers of the variety he has purchased, or own root roses, are the best. However, we find the majority of the amateur rose growers are well versed in varieties, etc., and to this question it would not do to say plant own root roses, because you cannot tell the difference between the general Jacqueminot foliage and that of the Manetti, or that of the briar on which it is budded. Budded roses will give a quantity and quality of flowers, the first of the season after planting, that cannot be had from own root plants. Budded roses will not stand late planting as well as the own root stock. Plant them as soon as the ground can be nicely worked and set the union of the rose and the stock rose three to five inches below the surface, to give the good rose a chance of ultimately establishing itself on its own roots. The Manetti rose has seven leaflets, while most of the H. P. roses have five. The briar has very light colored wood

and small leaflets, which are very distinct. Neither of these stock roses should be mistaken for a worthy variety, by any one who is sufficiently interested in his roses to notice a difference of wood and foliage.

Public Meeting of Societies.

1092. SIR,—We find it a little hard to get the members to attend the public meetings of our Society. Could you suggest any way in which we could make them more interesting?

M. TULLY,
Sec. Midland Hort. Soc'y.

We think it a mistake to depend too much upon one big meeting for the life of a horticultural Society. Frequent smaller meetings, of a somewhat social character, will accomplish more, and need cost little trouble or expense.

Some of our Societies have monthly meetings—say, the 1st Monday evening in each month during the winter and early summer. These may be held in a small hall, or, on invitation, in houses; and in the proper seasons, a fair display of cut flowers or pot plants may be made on the dining-room table. These will form a centre for conversation until the time comes for reading a paper by a member of the Society, or a lecture by some gardener, which should be followed by questions or open discussion.

A little music will enliven the occasion.

The plant distribution in the spring should always take place in a public hall, at the close of a programme of music and addresses. Some call out the names of the members, who come forward and receive their basket of plants, and such a public gift night greatly helps the membership.

Ants.

1093. SIR,—I am at a loss to know what to do to destroy the ants that infest my plum orchard. They are building mounds all over, and a favorite place is around the