

ber to leave two buds on the scion. When the grafting is complete draw the earth nicely around the vine, leaving one bud uncovered, which will help to keep the scion moist till it will start to grow.

J. W. W., Jordan Station.

Yucca.

1146. SIR.—Is the *Yucca (filamentosa)* suitable for this climate? Is it planted in tubs or in the ground? Will it live in the ground all winter? Give what instructions you can for planting and culture of this plant of which I read in a former number of *Horticulturist*.

SUBSCRIBER, Orangeville.

Yucca filamentosa is considered to be quite hardy in almost any locality in Southern Ontario, and is suitable for planting outside under conditions that are favorable to plant culture generally. I have known fine specimens of these plants to have been killed out in very unfavorable winters, when there has been no snow to protect them; but this has occurred on badly drained clay soils, a condition that suits but very few plants, however hardy they may be.

A well drained, light loamy soil, is most suitable for these plants, although they oftentimes grow and flourish for years under less favorable conditions. A light covering of dry leaves and straw, or long manure, is advisable, but not absolutely necessary in

favorable seasons for winter protection; care must be taken not to cover the plants too heavily.

In spring, say early in April, uncover the plants gradually, removing all the wet heavy covering first, and replace the dry part of the covering again, so as not to fully expose the plant at once to the hot sun in day time, or frost at night; the balance of the covering can be removed as the weather permits.

The *Yucca filamentosa* can also be grown in large pots or tubs, and stood outside in the summer, removing them before severe frosts to the house or a dry cool cellar, that has a temperature just above freezing point. These plants require very little water during winter, only sufficient to keep the soil barely moist.

The *Yucca filamentosa* is a native of the southern part of N. America, and is a very desirable decorative plant at all seasons; but when in bloom, its showy flower spikes often three or four feet in height, makes it a conspicuous and pleasing object on the lawn or in the garden. It requires no special culture, other than those mentioned, except perhaps a few applications of liquid manure in the summer if grown in a pot or tub.

Hamilton.

WM. HUNT.

Open Letters.

The Care and Planting of Spruces.

SIR.—Why is it that we see so many lawns and gardens with such a number of dead spruce trees? Is it the cold winter? Surely not. Does it not seem to suggest bad planting, or the roots too long exposed to wind and sun before planting? The writer has planted many hundred spruces, and in all cases has had the greatest success. Several things seem essential, but first and foremost, after selecting the place for planting, either a hedge or single spruce, if heavy soil, prepare some well pulverized earth and dig a large hole, not necessarily deep, but broad; place the tree in it, having removed all mangled and bruised roots with a sharp knife, and sift among the roots the prepared soil, giving the tree a gentle shake to settle the earth. If the soil is apt to bake it is advisable not to tread the earth too firmly round the roots, as it sometimes hardens and recedes from the sides of the hole as the hot weather advances.

Fill up the hole level with the surrounding ground and mulch with a thick layer of straw, hay, or better still, when procurable, with lawn clippings; this prevents evaporation of the moisture in the summer months.

The fall seems the most favorable season for setting evergreens, as they have the advantage of being thoroughly established before the summer. It is much better, where the soil is sandy loam, to obtain trees from a nursery of similar soil. If one is going to plant a considerable number of spruce, I would advise the planter to drive to the nursery with a wagon, having filled the box with wet straw, and take the trees dug straight up from the nursery, placing them in the wagon and packing the damp straw round each. Then the roots do not suffer from being both wind and sun dried. Each root is covered with a resinous substance which, if once dried, prevents it from taking up both moisture and nourishment for the growth