

HARDY SHRUBS.

QUESTION.—Kindly name a few hardy ornamental shrubs for this section?

The PRESIDENT.—There was one sent out by the Association, *Hydrangea paniculata*, introduced from Japan, which Mr. Wright tells me is quite hardy. If it is hardy up the Ottawa river, that is one of the best tests that you could have. It is the best of all recent introductions. In well-grown specimens the flowers will measure from eight to ten inches across. They are very handsome, and the ladies admire them very much in our district. In *Spireas*, there are two or three varieties that are very desirable. The *Van Houtte* is covered with a perfect mass of white blossoms in season, so thickly that you scarcely see anything of the foliage. It lasts about two weeks. The bush, however, is ornamental. The *Spirea prunifolia* also blossoms early in the season and I believe has proved hardy almost everywhere. It is a very desirable shrub. Then there are the *Syringas* or *Philadelphus*, of which the *Coronaria* is perhaps the best. The *Wigelia rosea* is hardy here and not only blossoms early but abundantly, and can be got from almost any nursery. All that I have so far named are very easily obtained, and have proved valuable. Of the *Lilacs*, the *Persian Lilac* is perhaps the most desirable on account of the richness of its flowers and abundance of them. They almost cover the shrub. I think the *Snow-ball*, *Viburnum opulus* is very nice, and the Japanese *Snow-ball*, *Viburnum plicatum*, although, inclined to suffer a little, can be made hardy. Then the *Purple Berberry* produces a perfectly formed bush, and as the bush is covered with flowers hung in racemes in summer and in the autumn with pretty berries, it is handsome the year round.

EVERGREENS.

QUESTION.—“What is the best time to plant evergreens?”

Mr. BEADLE.—My experience is this:—If we plant evergreens in the autumn, they should be set out in August, or with us not later than first of September; while the ground is warm, so that new roots may be formed to support the trees during the winter. Having its leaves on all winter, there is an evaporation from the foliage, and unless the moisture can be supplied again from the earth, the tree will surely perish. If, however, it is planted early enough to permit it to throw out new roots, it will survive the winter without difficulty. Just one point on that. You will have to watch the season. You could have planted evergreens from the first of August this year. You can plant an evergreen after the spring wood has ripened up, provided you plant it early enough to throw out this new set of roots; but we often have drouth instead of the moist weather of this year, and then there would not be moisture enough to enable the plant to throw out these roots. You will not succeed in a dry time. I advise you, therefore, to plant evergreens in the spring of the year, towards the time when they start into growth. I have had better success in waiting until they began to push out growth, and the season had advanced far enough to warm the ground. When the buds begin to swell you will be safe in planting.

ORCHARD CULTIVATION.

Mr. DEACON (of Belgrave).—I purchased a farm some three years ago in June, and then the orchard on it seemed to be in splendid condition. I left, and did not return until September, when the trees looked more like dying than living. The leaves were curled up. I pruned the orchard next year, and I fancy I was a little severe, and only one or two trees had any fruit on. The next season some of the trees had quite a crop; such trees as the *Tolman Sweet* and *Red Astrachan*. This year I do not think there will be ten bags from the seventy trees. Last summer, in June, we ran a deep ditch down the side, and as winter was coming on we manured it; but otherwise, we used it as a pasture. The trees are middling high, and some will measure eight inches in diameter. The orchard may be fifteen years old.

Mr. DEMPSEY.—I have a small orchard that was wonderfully prolific. It has been about twenty years planted. We allowed it to go into sod, but it had been cultivated up to that time. Last year and this year there was scarcely any crop. I fancy if your