

## HOME AND FARM.

This department of THE CRITIC is devoted exclusively to the interests of the Farmers in the Maritime Provinces. Contributions upon Agricultural topics, or that in any way relate to Farm life, are cordially invited. Newsy notes of Farmers' gatherings or Grange meetings will be promptly inserted. Farmers' wives and daughters should make this department in THE CRITIC a medium for the exchange of ideas on such matters as more directly affect them.

**WHEN FALL PLANTING IS BEST.**—*Eds. Country Gentleman*—The question of fall planting of trees periodically occupies the columns of the leading agricultural and horticultural journals, and during the early fall months no question is oftener asked by purchasers of trees than, "Do you recommend fall planting?" The answers, "no" and "yes," may both be applicable if the situation and condition of the soil where the trees are to be planted are known.

On soils imperfectly drained, in which an over-abundance of water remains from the time our autumn rains fall until the first of May, then I would say "no" leave your planting alone until spring. To the tree ever so carefully lifted, there are a good many mutilated roots, these broken roots, if the soil in which they are placed is in good condition, will callus and be in a suitable state for making a new growth on the first approach of warmth in the soil in spring. If, however, too much moisture is present in the soil, instead of forming a callus, it blackens and decays back to the main root.

The same holds true in the transplanting or repotting of greenhouse plants. Take roses, for instance. Remove a good, thrifty plant from a small to a larger pot, then keep the soil soaked with water, and the rootlets will soon decay, while if, after receiving a good watering after the operation of potting has been finished, the soil is kept damp without any approach to saturation, the broken ends of the roots will soon heal over and emit strong, healthy, fleshy new roots. Under certain conditions a tree can be transplanted at any season of the year.

In the early part of last August, in building some new greenhouses, a fine, strong, healthy tree of cut-leaved maple was in the way and had to be removed. I accordingly cut back the immature shoots, and cut off, not pulled, the most of the remaining foliage, then carefully preserved all the roots possible, and replanted in another place, watered well, and the tree is now in excellent condition. It has formed new roots, and put out a few short shoots, just sufficient to help mature the roots.

My reason for cutting off, instead of pulling off, the leaves was to prevent all danger of the stripping process adopted by many nurserymen in order that they may ship trees and shrubs early in the fall, many wounds are made, especially if the leaves are in a healthy, vigorous condition; these wounds often doing an irreparable injury to the tree. If the leaves are matured I would have no objection to stripping off the leaves, but if in a growing state I consider it a considerable injury to take them off.

On all well drained soils, either natural or artificial, and where the trees to be planted are well matured, I prefer fall planting; the trees get settled in their position, and are ready to commence root-growth before spring-planted trees are moved, and if a dry time occurs during May or June they stand it better than the spring planted ones, especially the late-planted ones.

One point I would impress upon tree-planters—to pack the soil closely around the roots—if shoveled in on top of the roots and the feet used to pack the soil, a great many empty spaces are left around the root, which prevent the production of new ones, and leave the old in a condition to easily dry up. I generally use in filling up these empty spaces a short, round stick about an inch or so in diameter; put the soil in in small quantities, and pack firmly under, above and all around every root, leaving no possibility for any air spaces, nor any root in a condition to die from lack of moisture.—*M. Milton in N. Y. Cultivator and Country Gentleman*

**THE HEMLOCK SPRUCE—ABIES CANADENSIS**—The *London Garden* says that among the conifers, the hemlock spruce stands out as conspicuously from the rest in point of graceful growth as the weeping willow does among deciduous trees, and that it is not too much to say that the hemlock is the most beautiful of all the spruces. But it must be seen in health and vigor, and not be placed in a wind-exposed place, or in a wet, undrained soil. Some persons who have seen it in this country growing in dense woods only, and more or less distorted for want of space, are not aware of the graceful form the trees will assume if allowed room for the branches to expand in all directions, with their partly drooping shape, and the rich green of the foliage at all seasons of the year. One of its highest merits is its freedom from the stiffness and formality of many other conifers.

**RULES FOR KILLING WEEDS.**—Weeds are of three kinds, namely—1. Annuals, which depend entirely on seeds for increase and growth; 2. Biennials, which bear seed the second year and then die; 3. Perennials, which continue indefinitely, and increase by seeds and by spreading and running roots. To clear the land of annuals and biennials, the seed must not be allowed to ripen, and the soil must be stirred over and over till all the hidden seeds are started and the plants are destroyed. Among annual and biennial weeds are rag-weed, pig-weed, chess or cheat, wild mustard and many more. Among perennials are ox eye daisy, plantain, johnswort, and others which do not spread by creeping roots, and Canada thistle, quack-grass, milk-weed, and others, which have creeping roots and spread by them indefinitely. The easiest way to kill these and all perennials weeds is to smother them, either by continued clean cultivation, by summer-fallow, or by choking them by means of luxuriant shading crops.

**AGE OF APPLE TREES.**—Western orchardists have remarked that apple trees do not last more than twenty or thirty years in the Western States. Charles Tenbner stated, in an address before the Missouri Horticultural Society,

that there were several causes for this brief period of their existence, among which were poor soil, want of drainage, overbearing, growing in stiff sod, no manure, and want of moisture in severe droughts. Accidental causes were stated to be horors, mice, rabbits, cattle, sheep, heavy pruning, &c. There is no question that trees, both East and West, would live longer with proper manuring. We have seen old trees standing in gardens, where they received more or less annual cultivation and fertilizing, which were still bearing fine crops at sixty years of age, while neglected orchards in the neighborhood of the same had half the branches dead, and they had nearly ceased to bear. In one instance a tree of the Fall Orange was supposed by the owner to be nearly dead at sixty years, a large portion of the top consisting of dead limbs. But a new owner pruned out the dead portions, and liberally top dressed the ground for a rod on each side. New life was imparted, and it gave sixteen bushels of fine fruit in a single year.—*N. Y. Country Gentleman.*

One of the most valuable agricultural exchanges we have the privilege of receiving is the *Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine*, (360 Richmond St., London, Ont.) Besides practical agriculturism, it embraces articles fraught with the highest, and, at the same time, the most practical, considerations of morality. It has also the advantage of good illustrations, which we cannot reproduce. Many valuable quotations are unavailable to us on account of this inability, the articles illustrated necessarily losing their force of demonstration when deprived of the aid of ocular presentation. Space, (or the want of it,) precludes our noticing at present several most suggestive articles in the September number, but more than one of them are of a nature to invite a more lengthened notice, which we hope shortly to be able to give to them.

Keep your tools free from rust and dust; clean them every night after work, before putting them away. During the time they are not in use a good oiling will prevent rust from forming on them. Implements well taken care of last much longer than those that are left wherever last used, and it is much easier and more satisfactory to work with clean, bright, well-kept tools and implements.—*Farmer's Advocate.*

## OUR COSY CORNER.

Poplum effects, modified by advanced tastes, are seen upon some of the latest Paris dresses.

Correspondence cards are used as matters of convenience, although they are much less fashionable than heretofore. The newest have a slightly rough, parchment finish, or a linen finish like the linen paper. Another style has ragged edges, and the envelopes match.

A critical philosopher once stated that he could tell the taste and habits of a lady, if he could know exactly the stationery she had purchased and used for two years previous to the date of his opinion. Be that as it may, there is a great deal of character in the material a lady uses when she desires to express her thoughts in writing to her friends.

Many devices are used to ornament the heading of the sheet of paper. The name and address, the monogram, the name of the country house in the season, the lodge or gate to the grounds, a crest or other heraldic emblem may be used. Some of these designs are highly ornamental, and when done by artists in their profession are especially attractive.

Plain, elegant stationery is decidedly the most appropriate for the use of a gentlewoman, indeed, is one of the most conspicuous marks of refinement. The eccentricities of fashion make very little if any difference in her selections, and all "high novelties" in the way of glaring color or design are carefully avoided. Exceptions to this rule are, however, made in the case of young ladies, for whom there is always something novel and pretty provided.

Marcus Ward's linen paper is always suitable and lady-like, and is used by many persons, both ladies and gentlemen, to the exclusion of all other styles and qualities. There are novelties in elegant, plain surfaced paper with water-lines in various fanciful shapes, the most desirable being a series of lance-shaped bars set so as to form squares, and the waterlined cross-bar is again in favor. Especially attractive also is the paper with a surface resembling linen cloth. It is furnished in light and heavy weights.

One of the most delicate and trying of the details of correspondence is the use of sealing-wax, which has been revived to a very general extent. Care must be taken that the wax is not too hot, or it will blister and lose its adhesive qualities, or burn holes in the paper. Hold it just near enough to the taper to allow it to become quite soft, and when it seems ready to drop, touch the end of the stick of wax to the paper and turn it quickly, leaving a quantity just sufficient to cover the surface of the seal slightly heated, indeed this is absolutely necessary if the wax is allowed to become cool. Only practice can give the dextrous handling necessary to this process.

There are various shades and colors used in sealing-wax, and among young ladies each shade is said to have a certain significance. White is used for weddings; black, drab and purple are mourning; lavender is condolence; dinner invitations are sealed with chocolate color; blue denotes constancy, green expresses hatred; vermilion signifies business, ruby or cardinal denotes the most ardent love; light ruby or rose is affectionate remembrance; pale green is innocence; yellow indicates jealousy; yellow green signifies disappointment and grief; dark brown, melancholy and reserve. Young ladies often adhere strictly to these significations, and much amusement is afforded thereby.