

name. One of our readers has forwarded us one of these yams 13 inches long, weighing 1½ lbs." The Editor proposes to give a set, or tuber, to any person who will send him one subscriber. Then he admits an article by the grower of the above-named yam, who announces it "to be the most important esculent food for man which God and Nature, in their benign provision for our race, have planted upon our globe." Our Canada contemporary is hereby informed that the Dr. Prince, who introduced this yam into this country, is dead, but the Chinese yam died as a humbug long before the good Dr. P. shuffled off his mortal coil. We hope the Advocate will get a subscriber for every tuber it sends out; but we do not hope that the receiver of the tuber will go into raptures over his acquisition, after cultivating it, because there is nothing in its history in this country to base such hope upon.

Asparagus.

Lay off so that the bottom of the bed will have sufficient inclination to carry away water rapidly. Dig out a trench four feet wide and two feet deep. In the bottom cut a small triangular trench, six inches wide at top and six inches deep, which must lead to an open drain or ditch. Cover the last mentioned small trench with clapboards, sawed off in twelve-inch lengths. Lay on and tramp down leaves to prevent any loose earth from getting into the drain. Commence filling by returning six inches of the first soil moved in digging, then put in a strata of whole bones, then four inches of rich earth raked from the surface of the woods, then four inch strata of manure and woods' earth, alternately, until the trench is full, then fork the whole up so as to mix the earth and manure for the first ten inches in depth. Now set your plants so that the crowns will be level with the surface. Set four rows twelve inches apart every way. Drive posts along the borders of the bed, saw the heads off six inches above the surface, to which nail boards or planks six inches wide and fill in the box four inches more in depth of woods' earth and stable manure, in equal parts. After taking off a crop of early lettuce or radishes dress the bed with two pounds of salt to every foot in length of the bed. In each succeeding February remove the earth nearly to the crowns, and add a fresh dressing of earth, manure and salt. A bed thus formed will last and give abundant crops for twenty years.—*P. Phipps' Southern Planter.*

Early Vermont Potato.

The Early Vermont has more than sustained its previous reputation. Nearly all declare it from one to two weeks earlier than the Rose, and many even more. Its uniform and large size is recognized by every one. Its superior cooking and eating qualities are unanimously commended, as well as its compact growth in the hill and its freedom from disease; and with the thousands of cultivators who have grown it alongside of the Early Rose, there seems to be no doubt left that in quality, hardness, earliness, and yield, it far surpasses that celebrated variety.

STRONG ENDORSEMENT OF FODDER CORN.—X. A. Willard gives in the *Rural New Yorker* an account of the experience of A. B. La Mont, a Tompkins County, N. Y., dairy farmer. He has a farm of 190 acres. Last year 35 acres were in grain, 33 in meadow, the remainder in pasture and woodlands. He now has 40 cows, 9 young cattle, 5 sheep, and 4 horses. He grew five acres of fodder corn last year, ploughing up an old sod about May 25, harrowed it thoroughly and drilled 2½ bushels of Western corn per acre in rows six inches apart. About the last of August it was cut with a reaper, let lie a day or so, bound in bundles and set in large shocks. These are drawn to the barn as wanted in Winter. All his cattle have been kept on this fodder from the time they were taken from the pasture, about Nov. 1, and it would keep them until Jan. 10. They received no other food except one quart of shorts each daily, and sour milk. They kept up a good flow of milk and were in good condition.

PRUNING SHRUBS.—The *Gardener's Monthly* gives a list of such shrubs as flower on the wood of the preceding year; and another list of those which bear flowers on the present season's growth—the former to be sparingly pruned in winter, so as not to cut away the flower buds, and the latter bearing more severe pruning. Those bearing flowers on last year's growth are, Dwarf Almond, Snowy Mesquite, the Andromedes, Azaleas and Kalmias, Rhododendrons, Calycanthus, Corehoris, Leatherwood, Fothergilla, Cornelian Cherry, Philadelphia, Dentzia, Mezerion, Hydrangea, Itea, Jasmine, Privet, Bush Honeysuckles, and most of the early Spiraeas.

FRUIT GARDEN.

The Family Fruit Garden.

It is to be hoped the number of farm residences, (we can hardly call them rural homes), without a family fruit garden, are rapidly diminishing, and will grow beautifully less until a farmer shall no more think of dispensing with this important adjunct of the complete home than he would with a spring, or well of water for drinking and culinary purposes. A good fruit garden is not only a luxury of the highest order, but it is a necessity to the complete nourishment of a family. A family can exist on a diet of bread, and meat and potatoes, but to be nourished so as to fully develop the entire nature—affectional, intellectual, and animal, a range of diet must be employed, broad as the providence of nature.

A family fruit garden may be so laid out and planted as to be one of the greatest ornaments of the homestead. Unlike the front lawn, it should be made of straight lines, and parallelograms to facilitate its culture, but care may be exercised in selecting fine specimens of trees and pruning them into proper shape, and in keeping the vines, canes, and bushes of the smaller fruits pruned and trained in an attractive way. Trellises for grapes, and stakes for canes may be made neat and ornamental, or unsightly and repelling. In arranging the different species of fruits, the taller growing should be planted in the rear, and the shorter in front, so that the whole garden may be taken in at a glance. The walks and borders may be seeded down in grass, and kept short. The latter should be broad enough to admit of the horses turning upon them when cultivating the garden. To add to the effect, graceful evergreens, or attractive low-growing deciduous trees might be planted at the corners of plots, and a belt of evergreens along the northern side of the garden. In many other ways that will readily suggest themselves to the tasteful reader, the fruit garden may be made to minister to the aesthetic as well as to the sensuous nature of man.

The soil of the fruit garden should be good, deep, retentive, naturally or artificially drained, and worked up deep and fine before planting. A good manure for fruit, is a compost of swamp muck, ashes and lime. Rank vegetable manures should not be ploughed in so as to come in contact with the roots, in their crude state, but, if used at all, should be applied as a mulch, after the trees are planted.

In small places where all the fruit is to be contained in the fruit garden, dwarf apples, pears, and cherries may be admitted, but on a farm, apples and cherries should be remitted to the orchard. Peaches may be trained low, and kept shortened in, thus occupying but little space. A fruit garden, then, designed to grow all of the fruits required by the family would contain apples, peaches, pears, cherries, quinces, plums, apricots, grapes, currants, gooseberries, blackberries, raspberries, and strawberries—thirteen different species—enough to have one or more kinds of fresh fruit upon the table every day in the year.

A family fruit garden, filled with such fruits, thriving and productive, would be a blessing to the whole family, and, with the exception of the family sitting-room, the dearest place on earth to the children.

It is surprising that intelligent, prosperous farmers will live on from year to year with such luxuries within easy reach, and yet not put forth their hands to grasp them. We cannot help regarding it as a neglect of duty to their families, and a lack of appreciation of the bounties which a beneficent God has offered them.—*Rural Home.*

The Gooseberry.

The Gooseberry is propagated by cuttings, layers, or suckers. The former is the best method under ordinary circumstances, and is that generally adopted. These should be made from vigorous, well-ripened young wood, which may be cut in lengths about 1 foot, and being cut squarely across at the heel joint, the eyes must be removed from the lower 4 or 5 inches, to which depth the cutting will be inserted into the soil. Cuttings may be made any time during autumn or winter, and if planted in any spare corner will require no attention further than keeping them free of weeds during the first year, at the end of which they may be transplanted, as they get crowded, till large enough to be placed in their permanent position. In planting out, they should be placed at least 6 feet apart, which will be no more than sufficient to permit of freedom in gathering the fruit, &c.

In laying the foundation of a well-managed plant, the first object is to secure a clean stem of at least 6 inches in height, by rubbing off all the lower eyes, and the top having been removed, the eyes nearest

may be allowed to break away to the number of three or four. These in the winter pruning may be shortened back to about 6 or 8 inches, and from these again two, or at the most, three shoots may be allowed to break away for the second season. During succeeding seasons the same system may be followed. Careful regulation and restriction in numbers of the leading shoots is of great importance in preserving an equal balance, and gradually the side shoots may be shortened back to two or three eyes in the form of what is technically called *spurring*. These restricted growths gradually lose their tendency to run into gross growth, and consequently are more ready to develop fruit buds in greater abundance.

The shape which is most approved for training the gooseberry, is the concave, or saucer shape. For this purpose the centre is kept as free as possible, so that the light and air may have full play on all parts of the plant, thereby hardening the growth and improving the flavor of the fruit.

Small Fruits.

While the apple is regarded by most persons of the northern States as "the fruit of fruits," placing all others somewhere below it in value, it by no means follows that many other varieties of fruit are not of very great importance. No one could enjoy the luxury of a well-ripened Baldwin, Waggoner, or Northern Spy better than I do. To all meditative minds the apple, as a species of food to the human family, affords suggestions which loans to it a merit and gives to it a significance that quite transcends every estimate of it when estimated merely as food. No one should ever eat an apple without having renewed within him some thought of God and the benevolent Providence about him! And yet who has not gone out in enthusiasm in behalf of the grape, often gratifying the taste and satisfying the appetite upon the rich clusters of well-ripened Concord, Ionas, and Delawares? If the apple has a nature too lofty for the plane of equivalents, and which would be injured by comparing gold with it, we cannot think of the vine, when loaded with clusters perfect in symmetry and inspiring in taste, without regarding it as "a thing of beauty and a joy forever." I do not find fault with the Swedenborgian for insisting that the spiritual world must contain these in some spiritually perfected sense, of which our varieties are the types and shadows, in order to supply a want of the soul that is too intensified to be in any way associated with mere appetite.

It is a melancholy fact that there are hundreds of gardens spread all over the west made monotonous and gloomy by the absence of a single vine or rosebush; and thousands of men who have belched out streams of tobacco juice who never made an arbor for a single vine. What a pity that the education of man should remain so imperfect that these higher elements of the soul should always be neglected! It is a melancholy fact that only a few men compared to the masses understand the culture of fruit and flowers. Grangers, here is a glorious field opened up to you. Lecturers, what a blessed opportunity is offered here for the exercise of your gifts. While a small portion of our mission is to give thunder to corruption in high places and unmerciful monopolists, let us not put in so much precious time scolding and berating at the neglect of the higher and more sacred objects contemplated in this organization, namely, the educating up to higher planes of life and effort of the great masses of the laboring classes.

But I must not neglect any longer to speak of that sweet and precious little fruit we call the raspberry. It has so many virtues to commend it that I can scarcely even refer to them. There is one thing, however, connected with it which I want to emphasize. It is suited to the wants of everybody, and everybody ought to plant it. It will bless your children by giving them rosy cheeks and happy cheerful little hearts, if planted in sufficient quantities to satisfy their appetites, besides making the husbandman feel that he has done the right thing once. Be sure and plant. JOSEPH HARSH, in *Germanstown Telegraph*.

THE PEACH CROP—A VERY LARGE YIELD EXPECTED.—Wilmington, Del., Feb. 18.—A meeting of the Fruit Growers' Association was held at Dover, yesterday, and was largely attended. Full reports were verbally given of the condition of the peach-trees and the prospect for fruit. The general tenor of all of them favored the expectation of a very large yield, so far as can be foreseen. The germs in the buds have not been killed by the severe cold, but, upon dissection, are found healthy and promising. The expectation of all is that the crop must be very heavy, unless damage is done hereafter.