

## Lilies.

Everybody loves lilies, and the art of growing them is a simple matter. The ground should be spaded very deeply and an abundance of well-rotted manure worked in, but on no account use fresh manure on lily beds. If the soil is heavy or clayey, the addition of sharp sand will make it light and porous. Use plenty of sand and mix it thoroughly into the soil. If it is desired to grow lilies in beds, let these be about three feet wide and as long as you please. Put the bulbs in deep—not less than six inches—and a mulch of straw over them should be kept up the first year. Lilies form two sets of roots; the first start from the base of the bulbs shortly after planting, and remain as long as there is life in the bulbs. When the flower stem is formed another set of roots grow on top of the bulbs, whereby the species is increased, for among them the young bulbs are found. It will be seen from this why all lilies should be deeply planted. To bloom next summer, they should be planted in the fall. So much for the cultivation of them.

The collection of lilies to be obtained from any reliable florist in this country is so large and reasonable in cost that no garden would seem complete without a number of them.

L. Auratum, a magnificent variety introduced several years ago from Japan, is truly the king of lilies. Flowers often ten to twelve inches in diameter, composed of six very delicate white ivory parts, each being thickly studded with spots of crimson and having a golden band through its centre. As the bulbs advance in age, so the flowers are larger and more abundantly produced, but we find still larger flowers can be had by removing a portion of them from the flower stem. These lilies are grown in this country with perfect success. They are hardy and not very expensive.

Then we have the Lancelotum lilies, also from Japan. They are quite hardy, very fragrant and great bloomers, most bulbs producing as many as a dozen flowers, and larger bulbs in proportion. Of these lilies, we are acquainted with two varieties—one is pure white, and is rare and expensive; the other bears flowers, white ground, richly dotted with red spots, glistening like rubies. The last variety is very cheap.

L. Longiflorum is a very healthy variety, much used by florists for forcing for cut flowers in winter. Its flowers are partly white, trumpet-shaped and four or five inches in length. It is a dwarf-growing plant, and succeeds admirably either in the house or garden.

In our common white lilies, we have one botanically known as L. Candidum. We think all our friends will thank us for advising them to grow this and the trumpet flowered varieties in their homes during the winter.

Among other lilies worthy of a place in every garden, we name Philadelphia, bright red, with black spots; Superbum, our native lily, and the Tiger lilies.

Humboldt is a yellowish lily, with dark brown spots. Washingtonianum is a dark lily; flowers erect, pure white, with scarlet spots. The flowers change with age from white to pink, and produce in great numbers and are very fragrant.—[Rural World.]

Mr. James Syer, of Barson township, Wentworth, Can., set out 1,000 young peach trees. He has disposed of this season's crop, about 1,500 bushels, at one dollar and forty cents a bushel, for shipment to Montreal.

A Wisconsin farmer, twenty-three years ago, planted a piece of waste land, unfit for cultivation, with black walnut trees. The trees are now from sixteen to twenty inches through, and have been sold for \$27,000.

The Citizens' Committee are assured of the financial success of the exhibition in this city, and believe they will have a surplus of over \$5,000. All classes of citizens have greatly benefited by the large number of visitors attracted to the city during the great show.—[Montreal Witness.]

An English contemporary states the fact of the walks of a kitchen garden at a large establishment being lined with oak and that "it forms a dense, impenetrable shrub in the winter, and presents a neat, refreshing appearance during the summer months." Such an edging may be formed with but little labor or expense, as it is only necessary to sow the acorns at the proper time, and to stop the young plants when high enough.

## CORRESPONDENCE



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## Propagating Plants.

SIR,—Will you kindly answer through the columns of your valuable paper the following questions, namely:—

1st.—Is this a good time to make cuttings of currants and gooseberries, willows, poplars, &c.?

2nd.—If so, of what length should the cutting be made; off one-year or two-year-old wood; how deep should it be planted, and what care is required when planted?

3rd.—What is the most expeditious method of propagating raspberries of the suckering class, such as Franconia, Brinckle's Orange?

4th.—What is the best pear to plant for profit, taking everything into consideration?

J. S., Doncaster.

[1st.—It is the very best time to make and plant cuttings; what fine weather intervenes between this and frost should be utilized in making and planting.

2nd.—Cuttings should be made ten inches to a foot in length, using strong one-year wood; weakly shoots and old wood are of no use whatever. They should be planted the full length of cutting, barely leaving tip exposed, as the settling of soil will uncover this. Plant currant cuttings 4 inches apart; poplar and willow a foot apart. A continuous trench, a spade deep and in width, one side to be sloping; against this neatly place cuttings; fill in fine soil and tramp firmly. After care, and first care, consists in having soil well drained and good mulching placed on top of cutting patch.

3rd.—To propagate raspberries of this class rapidly, take up the bed plants and trim off the roots; these roots cut up in pieces of two or three inches in length; sow thinly in row opened the width of hoe and two inches deep; cover about an inch of soil and mulch; remove mulch in spring when weather is settled, and young shoots of raspberries will be as thick as grass, and fit for removal and sale in fall. When cutting up roots, be sure and save all the thread-like fibres; they are as valuable for planting as the larger roots.

4th.—We take pleasure in answering this question. We have watched the cultivation of the pear and the introduction of new varieties carefully, and after all we have asked, and what experienced cultivators tell us, take it for all in all, cold localities and warm, the Bartlett pear is the most valuable and profitable variety. It comes early into bearing and the fruit commands the very highest price; the fruit can be pulled any time after half grown and will ripen good enough for use. We would rather plant Bartlett alone in an orchard, with fairer prospects of success, than take six varieties of the best sorts.]

A very reliable correspondent, writing to us from Washington, D. C., says:—"The National Fair this year was only national in name. There were no exhibits worth noticing, all coming from small places near Washington, and were few in number and of little merit. It was simply a horse race, and pool for gambling. It is bound to die in its infancy, unless new managers are appointed."

SIR,—Our cows in winter have a habit of eating boards, tearing the shingles off low buildings, gnawing at their stalls, and don't eat their hay as they should. Can you tell us any cure for such?

H. G., Cole Harbor.

[It is necessary that all animals be supplied with a variety of food, that their health may be maintained and the various parts of the body built up, and the constant waste remedied. For the bones there is needed a different material from that which forms the blood and flesh. The bone is mainly formed of phosphate of lime, and if the food of animals be deficient in this element, the natural craving of instinct causes them to seek some substitute; hence they gnaw bones, leather, wood, &c. When cattle are in the habit of gnawing such things, a little bone-meal given to them in their food is the best cure. The land on which your cattle graze needs lime to supply in the pasture the elements necessary for the health and thriving of the animals fed on it. For immediate remedy, our V. S. gives the following:—

Give one pound of Epsom salts, one tablespoonful ginger, dissolved in quart of water; give as drench; afterwards give tablespoonful carbonate soda in feed, night and morning; or in place of the carbonate soda, you might give drachm doses of carbonate ammonia night and morning in feed.]

SIR,—The more one reads your paper the more he will appreciate it. In your remarks in the last number about very few of the French farmers ever taking a paper of any kind, to my knowledge it is that way in this vicinity; but where there are English speaking people mixed among them they farm well, and in some cases farm better than their English neighbors. For instance, one of my neighbors, on 120 arpents of land, pays \$1000 per year rent, and had this year 1200 barrels of onions, at \$2, \$2,400; 800 barrels of apples, at \$2.25, \$1,800; 500 melon frames for melons, \$800. He had also 30 arpents of potatoes, 10 of cabbage and lots of other vegetables to dispose of, for which he did not keep an exact account of the sales. We have the manure for the drawing and labor is cheap. Most of the French, as a rule, take very little interest in exhibitions. My opinion is that it is want of education among them that keeps them in the back-ground at our shows. They would need a French publication of the ADVOCATE to bring them forward.

A. M. G., St. Henri de Montreal.

SIR,—I have received a great benefit from the engraving and description of the home-made apple drier; but do not yet understand the use of sulphur.

J. M., Braemar P. O.

[We have never seen sulphur used in apple drying, but presume it is by the same method as practiced in hop drying, which is to burn a quantity in an open fire on the floor of the dry-house, allowing the fumes and smoke to pass among the hops.]

SIR,—I have considerable land, which has a swamp, but I have cleared the most of it. It is drained by open ditches, which keep it dry in ordinary seasons, but in wet seasons the soil fills with water. The soil is mucky to a depth varying from one to two feet, with a blue clay bottom. I have cultivated some of it, but I am still at a loss to know how to cultivate it properly. If you can give such information as will lead to a proper as well as profitable cultivation of such soil, you will confer a great favor, for there is a good deal of such land in this township; but if you have neither time nor space to give an article on the proper management of such land, will you kindly answer the following questions:—

1. Is it necessary that such land should be thoroughly drained before cultivated?
2. Would drainage lessen the danger of frost?
3. What crops would be the most profitable on such soil?
4. What crops would be most suitable in case more than one kind is grown?
5. What is the value of the blue clay soil compared with ordinary clay soil?

A. B., Mount Elgin, Ont.

[1. Draining is absolutely necessary. 2. Drainage would lessen the danger of frosts. 3. Grass. 4. Mangolds, oats, rye and millet. 5. Blue clay is worthless for tillage. The soil in your swamp is the only part of value.]