

burned. If the shoots look weak and starved like on plants which have some of them very strong and vigorous, it is quite likely they have the larvæ of these borers in the weak ones. This can then be determined by examination.

#### VEGETABLE GARDEN.

In the open ground Peas and Potatoes receive the first attention. Then Beets and Carrots. Then Lettuce, Radish, Spinach, Onions, Leeks and Parsley. Beyond this, unless in more favored latitudes, little can be done till the last week in April. There is nothing gained in working soil, until it has become warm and dry.

Those who have no Spinach sown in the fall should do that right away; no amount of stable manure but will be a benefit to it, though guano, in even smallish doses, will kill it. Guano produces excellent Cabbage, mixed with the ground while it is being dug for that crop. Cabbage, by the way, may be put in as soon as the ground is ready; many plant Cabbage between Potato rows.

Onions are better put in early, but the ground ought to be dry, and trodden or beaten firm when the sets are planted; the ground ought not to have rank manure—wood-ashes and pure undunged loam will alone produce an excellent crop.

Where new Asparagus beds are to be made, now is the time; the ground should be rather moist than dry, and be trenched two feet deep, mixing in with it a good quantity of stable dung, and, if the ground be inclining to sand, add some salt; the beds should be marked out four feet wide, and the alleys about two feet. If pegs are driven down at the corners of the beds permanently, they will assist operations in future years. Having marked the positions of the beds and procured a stock of two year old plants, place them on the soil nine inches apart in rows one foot asunder, making three rows in each bed; then cover the whole with soil from the alleys and rich compost a couple of inches.

To have Turnips good in spring they must be sown very early; they are hardy, and must be put in as soon as the ground can be caught right.

Parsley delights in a rich gravelly loam, and should be sown very early.

Parsnips, another crop which should receive early attention, also delights in a deep gravelly soil, but detests rank manure.

Lettuce and Radishes continue to sow at intervals.

Herbs of all kinds are best attended to at this season—a good collection is a good thing.

The Carrot will thrive in soil similar to the Beet; lime is an excellent manure for it—we use the long Orange. Celery

may be sown about the end of the month, in beds of very light rich soil, and Tomatoes, Egg Plants and Peppers sown in pots or boxes, and forwarded. It is as bad to be too early with these as too late, as they become stunted.

#### GREENHOUSE.

This is the season when the most plants will require re-potting previous to their making their new season's growth. The difficulty always is to find the increased room the re-potting requires. Usually room is made by turning out the bedding plants into hot-bed frames, protecting them from frosts at night by mats. Much may be gained also by not increasing the size of pots, as pointed out by a correspondent; but merely changing the soil; where, however, plants are not shortened in previous to the repotting, care must be exercised in shaking out the soil, or serious results may follow. The ball of roots should be soaked in water, so that the particles of soil may fall away easily from the roots. The soil for potting, too, should be nearly quite dry, and then rammed into the pots about the roots very hard and tight. Immediately after potting, the plant should be well watered, and placed in a close and partially shaded atmosphere till the roots take hold of the new soil again. Where the roots are not much disturbed these precautions are unnecessary. In addition to dry soil for potting it should be fibrous, that is, it should have a good portion of old fine roots through it to give it a spongy texture. It is this which gives the top soil of a pasture such value in the eye of a good gardener for potting purposes, as the innumerable fine roots of the grass through it renders it particularly spongy or "fibrous" as the technical term is.

Look out for a good stock of bedding plants in time; by striking cuttings of such things as grow rapidly and speedily, and sowing seeds of such annuals as may be advanced to advantage.

Fuchsias may now be readily struck from the young growth of the old plants, which will make excellent blooming plants for the next blooming season.

Dahlias should now be brought forward. A good plan is to shorten the extremity of the roots, put them in six inch pots, and place in a warm greenhouse. In a few weeks they will sprout, when they should be shaken out, divided with a piece of root to each sprout, and separately potted in 4-inch pots.

Pansies are now coming into flower. They like an airy frame, where they will not be roasted at mid-day nor exposed to drying winds, and yet have a free circulation of air and plenty of light. Planted out in such a frame, and the old shoots cut away as soon as the plant has done flowering, the plants will keep healthy

over till the next season. Superior varieties can be raised from seed. Choose those with the roundest petals, best colors, and the first flowers that open, to raise seed from.

Camellias will require rather more water while growing than at other times. Just before they grow is a good season to graft. Cut down the stock, cleft graft in the crown, wax, and plunge in a bottom heat of 70°. A great many kinds may be had on one plant by the bottle system: A shoot about to grow is obtained, and attached to the stock as in inching, the end of the shoot being put in a small phial of water suspended beneath it. This plan does best, however, with the young wood in July.

Geraniums, Pelargoniums, Cinerarias, and Chinese Primroses, must be kept as near the glass and light as possible; they do little good in shady places. Keep off the green Aphid—for this on a small scale there is nothing like hot water; on a large scale tobacco-smoke, in several successive light doses, is still the best remedy.

Azaleas succeed well by grafting with the half ripe shoots of the present season's growth on plants raised either by seeds or cuttings. Old wood does not take readily.

Auriculas, Carnations, Pinks, and Polyanthus—the prettiest of florist's flowers, must be kept cool, just free from frost, with plenty of air, if the best results are desired.

Chrysanthemums should now be raised from cuttings for fall flowering. They make better blooming plants than off-sets.

New-Holland and Cape plants, such as Epacris, Acacia, Heaths, etc., are now the glory of the greenhouse; hot bursts of sun on them should be avoided, as it lays in them the seeds of "consumption," which frequently carries them off the following summer.—*Gardener's Monthly*.

#### PRESERVING FRUIT TREES FROM INSECTS.

[A gentleman in the city who has a constant eye to the interests of our farmers has sent us the three following extracts.—Ed. J. A.]

Quarter of a pound of white hellebore dissolved in a gallon of boiling water—when cold add ten gallons of water to the solution. Early in the spring wet the ground well about the roots with this mixture, with a common watering-pot. This is done to kill them at once. The sooner done in the spring the better.

The Hellebore I have tried, and found all and more than is said above of it.

C. C. T.