

trees, common Poplars or White Maples, with now and then a Horse Chestnut, Linden, or a Sugar Maple; and in the way of shrubs, seldom more than a half-dozen, and these chiefly from *Pyrus japonica*, *Spiræa Reevesii* or *prunifolia*, *Weigelia rosea*, *Deutzia gracilis*, a Lilac or a Mock Orange. Seldom more than these. Yet a friend who is about starting an arboretum of hardy things in Michigan, recently told us that he expected to get about fifteen hundred species and well marked varieties for his collection. It would not matter so much if these popular things were the best, but they are by no means so. The popularity of a plant depends on factitious circumstances.

Large dealers who have an extensive assortment seldom single out any one thing for concentrated praise; but a small dealer—one with limited capital—takes one thing, and with all his force advertises and talks it up. A recent instance is that of *Paulownia imperialis*, which has been in the American trade for twenty years. It has never been very highly esteemed, though the tree does grow fast, the leaves large, and the flowers highly fragrant. But last year a Western man took hold of it, and nothing else, and, by a skilful display of these genuine facts, pushed off thousands for dollars, which before were a drug in most nurseries at as many cents. This is the way things get popular; and there are an immense number of old but beautiful things only waiting for some one to take hold of them and enhance their value by this kind of pushing treatment. One of these is the dwarf Horse Chestnut, of which we presented to our readers last year a handsome colored plate. Another is the Josikee Lilac, which we have also illustrated. The great beauty of this, unfortunately, only becomes apparent with age. At four or five years old, it produces only a few spikes; but these accumulate with age, until at ten or twelve it produces hundreds of its large violet-purple panicles. The leaves of this species are more like the White Fringe than the common species. A large bush in an isolated spot always commands attention. The Tamarix, White Wiegelia, Persian Lilac, Sweet Mock Orange and White *Pyrus japonica* are also among the class of plants not so well known as they deserve to be.

The time is coming when transplanted trees of the past fall and spring will suffer more than during any other part of the season. If they show a vigorous growth of young wood, no danger need be apprehended, as it indicates that the roots are active, and can supply all the moisture the foliage calls for; but if no growth has been made, no roots have been formed, and the leaves are living for the most part on the sap in the wood and bark, and not drying weather will tell with injurious effect on such trees. This is generally

first shown by the peeling off of the bark on the south-western side of the tree.—the most drying aspect; and where such exhaustion appears probable, much relief may be afforded by cutting back some of the branches, syringing with water occasionally, shading the trees where practicable, or wrapping the trunk in hay bands or shading the south-west with boughs or boards.

Plants set against walls and piazzas frequently suffer from want of water at this season, when even the ground near them is quite wet. Draw away the soil from each plant so as to form a basin; fill it with a bucketful of water, allowing it time to soak gradually away, and when the surface has dried a little, draw in loosely the soil over it, and it will do without water for some weeks. This applies to all plants wanting water through the season. If water is merely poured on the surface, it is made more compact by the weight of water, and the harder the soil becomes the easier it dries; and the result is, the more water you give the more is wanted.

Keep the pruning-knife busy through the trees and shrubs, with the object of securing good form. Judgment will soon teach one which shoots would spoil the shape if not taken out. The pruning-knife will often save a tree when even the water-pot would fail.

In the most kinds of soil the keeping the surface loose by hoeing and raking in dry weather will be an excellent method of keeping the main body cool and moist—admitting the air, which is a good non-conductor. In soils, however, which are deficient in loam, and in which sand prevails to a great extent, frequent stirrings have a drying tendency, and a mulching of short grass, or decaying vegetable matter of any kind, will be found very useful around transplanted trees, shrubs and other things. It must, however, be borne in mind that loosening the surface soil is not always pulverizing. After loosening the soil, some way should be found to press it firm again. It is the pressure which pulverizes, not the loosening.

Friends, writing from the West, often say, "We wish you would find something like your box edging of the East, which is not hardy here;" but hardiness does not depend on temperature, as we have often shown. If the proper conditions are complied with, we believe the *Pax* will withstand any temperature, even to that of the North Pole. These conditions are rich soil, and shade from the sun in winter. The tree varieties of box are beautiful things for garden adornment. The Red Spider is a great enemy to them. We are not sure that the insect which goes by this name on our out-door plants is the same as our in-door one; but it is so near and so like in its destructive powers, that it makes no difference in a practical way.

A Box tree thoroughly infested is hard to clear of them. The best way is to cut off all green leaves early in the spring, then wash the plant with oily water in which sulphur has been mixed, and let it throw out a new set of leaves. Even then the plant will have to be watched for a year or two, and any straggling colonies destroyed before they increase much. These hints will apply to all evergreens which are liable to Red Spider. Its presence is easily known by the small yellow specks on the green leaves.

But these small insects may be kept down often by a garden engine. An occasional forcing of water over valuable specimens will generally clear out insects of any kind. A good portable engine should be an essential in every well-ordered garden tool-house.

We should like to call attention to a note we gave last year, that some beautiful objects for lawn decoration can be made of Wisterias, by training them as standards. A young plant is selected and trained to a stake six feet high. When the plant reaches this it is headed off. The second year the stake may be taken away, and the young plant will support itself. It will never make running branches after this, as it takes all its nutritive powers to overcome gravitation and sustain itself erect. A beautiful umbrella-like head is formed, and its hundreds of drooping flowers in spring thus show off to beautiful advantage. Another point of interest to a nurseryman in this is, that with this check to growth the reproductive powers are called into play, and the plants then usually produce seed abundantly. There is hope for numerous improved varieties as soon as these facts become generally known. This is a very good season to train plants up for this purpose.

Many of the earlier sown annuals will be seeding now, and those flowers which opened first will make the best seed to save. Where seed is not desired, it is best to cut away all as it forms. The annuals will continue to bloom much longer for this care. In getting seed of Double Hollyhock, much difficulty is often experienced. The petals prevent the pollen from falling on the pistil. It is best, therefore, to fertilize them by hand. They then produce as much seed as the single ones. Another advantage of this artificial hybridization is, that we can get any color we please from seed. If, for instance, we want to reproduce the kind perfect, fertilize with its own pollen; but if we would raise new varieties, use pollen from a plant of different color from the one we employ for seed.

Those who wish a good supply of window flowers next winter, should commence preparations. The Chinese Primrose, *Cineraria*, *Mignonette*, *Alyssum* and other desirable plants should be sown in pots, and kept in a cool frame until