

Orchard and Garden.—No. 3.

HINTS FOR MAY.—BY H. ORTL.

The cultivation of the orchard and garden, the ornamental planting of our grounds, and the general use of flowers, the circulation and success of books, periodicals, &c., relating to and treating of these various subjects, are striking proofs of the state of civilization which marks the progress of the age we live in; and a very gratifying proof it is, this love of fruit and flowers, of progress and refinement. To a great extent they are luxuries; "but man cannot live by bread alone," and ones that are very desirable and beneficial. The labor and care bestowed on them in their cultivation are amply rewarded by the luscious fruit, the beautiful flowers, the refreshing shade in the noonday heat, and the lovely effects on the landscape by the judicious planting of trees and shrubs.

To those who have orchards without a belt of trees for shelter and windbreaks we earnestly urge upon them the great necessity of planting one without any further delay. To a great extent the severity of our winters, the prevalence of windstorms, and the excessive drouths in summer, alike owe their rise and continuance to the diminution of our forests. To counteract these increasing evils the necessity of planting trees, evergreens and deciduous becomes apparent. The sides of lanes, the borders of the farm and on the highways might be planted with one or two rows—all that is necessary is merely to make a start. A couple of days for tree planting might well be spared from the farm operations. Trees, the younger the better, can be procured from the nurseries or the woods. Those from the nursery would have an advantage in being transplanted and carefully grown over those brought from the woods, and can be procured in quantities low enough to well warrant the expenditure. Every one who is a cultivator of the soil should set apart and fence in a good piece of land as a nursery. Here he could transplant articles from nurserymen, or wherever he may procure them, and, by careful cultivation, will have trees in perfect order to plant out, either for shelter, fruit or ornament, as each returning season gives the opportunity. However, whatever may be done in planting about the farm, make it a point to plant a belt of evergreens about your orchard, if you have one, and, if not, plant your shelter-belt and the orchard afterwards. We prefer to plant evergreens alone, that is, not to mix them with deciduous trees, who would, if planted amongst evergreens, soon choke them out on account of their more rapid growth, &c. The month of May we consider to be the best time of the whole year to transplant evergreens of all classes. Any of our native spruces, pines or cedars will make perfect screens and windbreaks, but, taking into consideration the adaptability of the Norway spruce to thrive in most soils, its extreme hardiness and vigor of growth makes it, in our opinion, the evergreen of the period, and the one that satisfies all requirements. It makes the finest of ornamental hedges, planted two or three feet apart, and a useful screen about ten feet apart. Plants eighteen inches to two feet are a good size to plant. The ground about them should be kept clean of weeds till they are well established. We see it is considered a good plan to put evergreens through the orchard, but we would be afraid, unless the trees were a good distance apart, that there would be a danger of overcrowding. It is a bad system to put grain in a newly-planted orchard. Root crops, beans or any low-growing plant would do very well, but generally a well-established orchard can make use of all the ground it is growing on. In planting any kind of trees, it is essential that your ground, if not naturally

dry, should be well drained. People, as a rule, plant too large trees; whereas they should plant them as small as they can procure them—these are easily handled, do not lose many roots, and recover the effects of transplanting readier than larger ones. When planting, dig the holes large enough to receive the roots without bending, fill in some surface soil, spreading the fibres out so as to prevent crowding together, and gently shake the tree; when the hole is three parts filled in, it should be well tramped, and in the spring, if the ground is very dry, a pail of water should be poured in the hole; then fill in, leaving the surface light and loose. Avoid planting deeper than the tree stood before it was removed. When planting dwarf trees, see that the stock they are worked on is under the ground and no more. Trees should be staked after planting, so as to prevent skaking, as this retards the growth and endangers the life of the tree. In exposed and very dry situations it will be necessary to mulch, after planting, with well-rotted manure, sawdust, tanbark or any medium that will retain moisture.

SELECTION OF VARIETIES.—In growing fruit for market purposes, a great many people make the mistake of planting too many varieties. To supply the kinds that thrive best in the different parts of our country, nurserymen have to keep up a long list of varieties; and many people getting their catalogues will often, in an order of fifty trees, order fifty varieties. This is perfect nonsense, for when all these come to bear it would take a man with a large experience to handle such an assortment of fruit profitably. And then there is no use for any kind of apple in an orchard under five trees of the sort, excepting some dessert kind for your own use. Confine yourself to three or four varieties that are well known, and which will live and thrive in your vicinity.

CHERRY CULTURE.—Owing to the ravages of the pear slug on the leaves, and the neglect of the owners of the trees, a great number of dead cherry trees may be observed throughout the country. This is a great pity and a loss, besides, when, with but very little trouble, the evil might have been averted. Hellebore, either sprinkled on in water or dry, would soon put a stop to their operations. Cherry trees require very little manure and less cultivation; in fact some cultivators of experience have found that as soon as they allowed the grass to grow around their trees that they commenced bearing heavily, and soon wore a healthy, vigorous appearance, while, where they cultivated them, the bark would burst, gum would ooze out, and present a miserable appearance, if not die altogether.

A GOOD RASPBERRY.—We desire to say a word in favor of the Franconia Raspberry: This variety, we find after a long test, to be one of if not the best raspberry grown for market or domestic purposes; canes harder, vigorous grower, fruit large, bright red, firm, seeds small, and altogether hard to beat.

RHUBARB.—This is one of the most useful plants in the early spring, and no well-appointed garden or otherwise should be without some of them to yield their juicy stalks for the manifold uses on the table. It is a very indispensable article, coming in when our stock of fruits and preserves are exhausted, and before any more are fit to pick. It can be transplanted at any time during summer, and, though it thrives well, no matter how neglected, still the proper division of the roots every four or five years, and liberal manuring, will keep up a constant supply of large and juicy stalks.

PLANTING FOR EFFECT IN WINTER.—In planting large ornamental grounds, a great deal may be done to enliven the scene in winter by the proper contrast-

ing of such trees as White Birch, Golden Willows, Red-barked Willows and Evergreens. Mountain Ash, covered with its scarlet berries, especially after a snow fall, presents a charming picture, besides being attractive to the birds.

This is the most important month of the year for the final planting of trees, shrubs and flowers, as the beauty or otherwise of the arrangement for the summer and autumn depends on the time and manner of planting.

LAWNS should have a light top-dressing of guano, or some other finely pulverized stimulant, to increase the growth of grass and prolong its greenness in the drouth of summer.

WEeping TREES.—No lawn or grounds is complete with an assortment of trees without one or more weeping trees, such as Weeping Elm, Ash or Willow. The Cut-leaved Weeping Birch requires special mention; embracing the several beauties of graceful habit, fine, delicate foliage, &c., makes it worthy of a prominent place in any collection of trees or for country decoration.

FLOWERING SHRUBS.—Every rural home or city one either, where they have space at all, should have a few shrubs; especially those that are hardy, distinct in color and possess an adaptability to thrive in any soil. We mention the following as useful either to plant singly or for grouping: Lilacs, Syringas, Snowballs, Wiegalias, Deutzias, Spireas, Berberry, purple and common, Purple Fringe and Pyrus Japonica.

HERBACEOUS PLANTS are perfectly hardy and do not receive that attention that their merit deserves. By a judicious selection of varieties, you may have a succession of flowers from May till October. Paeonias, Phloxes, Delphiniums, Hemorocallis, Lilies, Chelone, Barbara, Spireas and Hollyhocks are all strong-growing plants, mostly with large leaves and tall spikes of flowers, which makes them suitable for planting at backs of borders; or, mixed through shrubs and trees, present a charming appearance, while, for edges of walks or beds, such low-growing plants as Lily of the Valley, Achilleas, Phox Verna, Sedums, Campanulas, &c., will prove very useful. In mixed beds of flowers, the addition of a few Gladioli bulbs, with their showy spikes of flowers, will form a striking contrast.

We believe that the investment of a few dollars in the above-mentioned classes of plants, with some Geraniums, Verbenas, Petunias, Asters and Zinnias, will be productive of more happiness, especially to the woman folks, than anything we know of.

Tulips.—No. 2.

Written for the Farmer's Advocate by Dr. J. H. G.

Tulips are divided into early, double, violet by-blooms, rose by-blooms, bizarres, breeders or selfs, and parrots, which have all descended from the gesneria tulip and its hybrids and other ramifications and crosses.

The earliest of all these beautiful gems is the Duc Van Thol, which comes after the crocus and snowdrop. It is a small bloomer in proportion, seldom higher than from four to six inches, and a bed of them in early spring, is a joyful sight to all eyes. They are not dear, about six or eight cents each, and a few can be obtained, by every one so disposed, from any florist, in proper season. They are colored red, white, yellow, rose, and feathered and flamed, red and yellow. There is also a number of double varieties worthy of culture.

The next section is the early tulip; it follows the Van Thol, and is composed of about three hundred kinds, more or less distinct. In tulips, nothing is gained by promiscuous planting, but the beauty of the whole is much enhanced by having them in lines of separate colors in the beds,

and they are thus at by every man.

Most of these are 25 cents and the They are of all colors; pure red these again strip most delicate shades.

The double tulip as a rose. A bed ed lines, is a good experience in the a few of each color word "best" can be beautiful.

By bloom tulips They are common family, and in planting everybody and are each of and from 18 to They are by far have the greatest beauty. Every in perfection, and is to stretch and protect them from mere trifle, and of bloom. The all shades of red in all sorts of tints, from the softest to the most brilliant color, the admiration.

The next section ten bizzarre, ground, with red. They are very so expensive and more rapidly, bulbs in twenty the first year. good beds of 10 feet high. They are generally well worthy of keep long when

We now come These have on or a dark buff often met the stately growth garden, last year are generally well worthy of keep long when

The last group It is a fine antique. The petals at the edges, yellow and brown other or grow brilliant and gentler red. roots, in full bloom, mile of travel once seen.

This section from Holland now have a c tra rubra is, creaser, but The petals most dazzling are a hybrid tulipa gesneria and can be obtained in hundreds, miles.

The most cheap at the The following