



Training Squashes.

SQUASHES do best on new land. All the summer varieties have a hard shell when matured. The crook necks, and the white and yellow summer scalloped are the usual varieties grown. Different varieties should be planted far apart, as they mix very easily. Two or three plants are enough for a hill. The best protection from bugs is the box, covered with gauze or glass. Squashes occupy a great deal of ground when suffered to run and have their own way. When a person has but little room, and wishes to economise, a trellis for them to run upon is recommended, and is said to operate very successfully. Stakes or small posts are set up, two feet apart each way, and the seed planted in the centre. When the vines begin to run, they are trained upon slats nailed to the posts, and by throwing boards across the slats the fruit is supported, and will ripen much earlier than when allowed to lie on the ground half covered with leaves.

Squashes trained in this way can be made to occupy but little space, and are said to bear as profusely as when the vines run over the ground. To those who have but little room the plan is well worth trying. For late varieties, the best are the Hubbard, Boston Marrow, Acorn, and Vegetable Marrow. The Valparaiso is a tolerably fair variety when the season is just right. Immense squashes, sometimes grown, are rather for the sight than the table. They are coarse meaty, and watery, compared with the little curly Hubbard, which is mealy, and as delicately flavoured as the sweet potato. As squashes are great runners, they do better with their ends clipped off. —*Utica Herald.*

LARGE CURRANTS.—H. J. Rhodes, Brighton, Iowa, writes that he raises the common currant as large as the cherry currant, by keeping the ground rich, and the bushes open so that light and air can have free access to them. He renews the wood every two years; the young plants grow until that time without much pruning; afterwards he cuts out all wood over two years old. —*Working Farmer.*

Dwarf Apples.

ANY variety of the apple may be dwarfed by grafting it on the Paradise or Doncan stock;—the former makes a smaller tree, but comes quickly into bearing; the latter is larger, and though longer in fruiting, will alternately afford the heaviest crops. While any variety of the apple may be thus treated, there are some kinds which are more suitable than others for dwarfing. Among the best sorts for dwarfing are the Red Astracan, Jersey Sweet, Baldwin, Dyer, Summer Rose, Benoni, and Bough. Our engraving represents a Dwarf Red Astracan apple tree, eight years old, growing on the grounds of those enterprising fruit growers, Messrs. Elwanger and Barry, Rochester, N. Y. As an ornamental object in a garden, what can be prettier than one of these apple bushes covered with blossoms, or laden with fruit? Dwarfing makes no difference as to the size of the apple product; it only affects the size of the tree, while the fruit is as large, and in some instances even larger, on the dwarf stock than on the standard.

The chief advantages of the dwarfing process are: 1. Economy of space. A tenth of an acre may be planted with forty or fifty trees without crowding. 2. Greater suitability of the trees for town

and city gardens. 3. Easy access to the fruit. 4. Early bearing. This is the chief recommendation of the dwarfing system.

PEARS FOR MASSACHUSETTS.—The Massachusetts Agricultural Club have unanimously agreed upon the following as the twelve best varieties of pears, taking all things into consideration, as quality, thriftiness of the tree, value of market, etc., viz.: First six, the Bartlett, Louise Bonne de Jersey, Urbaniste, Beurre de Anjou, Sheldon and Seckel; second six, the Onandaga (Sawm's Orange), Merriam, Doyenne d'Eté, Vicar of Winkfield, Paradise d'Automne and Fulton.

GARDEN SHELTER. The importance of garden shelter, is by no means enough considered. I do not indeed name my own method (hemlock hedging) as the best to be pursued; flanking buildings or high enclosures may give it more conveniently in many situations; a steep, sudden hill side may give it best of all; but it should never be forgotten that while we hem in the garden soil with what plants and trees we best love, we should always give their foliage the protection against storms which they covet, and which, in an almost equal degree, contributes to their luxuriance.

To the dwarf fruit as well as to the grape, this shelter is absolutely essential; if they are compelled to fortify against oppressive blasts, they may do it indeed, but they will in this way dissipate a large share of the vitality which would else go to fruit. Young cattle may bear the exposure of winter, but they will be pinched under it, and take on a meagre look of age, and expend a great stock of vital energy in the contest. —*My Farm at Edgewood.*

THE ONION.—Mr. J. S. Ives, of Salem, Mass., in a communication to the *Country Gentleman* states that he has known fields that produced last year \$1,600 worth of onions per acre, and which sold at that price in the Boston market. He raises good crops of well developed bulbs on lands formerly used for potatoes, corn, or mangel-wurtzel, but more dressing is required when onions follow other crops. For enriching the soil for the crop on light lands green cattle manure is preferred, placed on the field in small heaps in January and February, so as to pulverize by the action of frost, and spread at the time of ploughing. To succeed in onion culture, he remarks what we have frequently observed, and what has often come under our own experience, that "the best seed of the best variety, grown and ripened in the best manner" should be used. Many failures occur from the use of poor seed. Mr. Ives says that onions intended for seed should be kept at a temperature as near the freezing point as possible. The variety in cultivation in the vicinity of Salem, is the "Dunver's oval onion," which he says produces more in weight and measurement than the flat kinds.

GARLICKS AND ONIONS.—Those skilled in simples, Eastern as well as Western, praise garlic highly, declaring that it strengthens the body, prepares the constitution for fatigue, brightens the sight, and by increasing the digestive power obviates the evil effects produced from change of air and water. The old Egyptians highly esteemed this vegetable, which with onions and leeks enters into the list of articles so much regretted by the Hebrews, (Numbers xi 5; Koran, chap. 2.) The modern people of the Nile, like the Spaniards, delight in onions, which, as they contain between 25 and 30 per cent. of gluten are highly nutritious. In Arabia the Wahhabis bear a prejudice against onions, leeks, and garlic, because the prophet disliked the strong smell, and all strict Moslems refuse to eat them immediately before visiting the mosque or meeting for public prayer. —*Benton's Mecca.*

A SECRET IN PLANT GROWING.—A Cincinnati correspondent of the *Gardeners' Monthly* writes:—"An old friend of yours, by the name of HITCHCOCK, here, is the best plant grower that I have ever seen. He confines himself chiefly to Roses, Verbenas, Heliotropes, Mignonette, and Fuchsias, and a few other things; but it would delight you to see such fine healthy plants as he has got. It is worth going miles to see his green house,—and what do you think is his secret? Why he pots in rotten cow-dung, and nothing else. There is a secret for you! He gathers it up in the fall, and keeps it in a dry place. Before potting he puts it through a sieve; and when potting puts a little of the coarse in the bottom of the pot, (no crock or drainage of any kind,) and uses the fine round the sides. Every thing thrives in it, from a Begonia to a Scarlet Geranium. No peat! no loam! no leaf mould! He propagates in sand, and pots in cow-dung! That is his Alpha and Omega."

CURE FOR DOGS.—William B. Barnes, Davenport, Iowa, recommends a cure for blight in pear trees, which we should like to see universally adopted. We think if it did not cure the pear blight, it might rid the country of another blight ten times more destructive than all the diseases that ever crept into pear orchards. The remedy which, he says, proved effectual upon thirty years trial is to dig a hole down among the roots of the pear tree, and bury a dead dog therein. He mentions one old tree thus treated, which recovered and took on a vigorous growth, and bore a full crop every year after. We have no doubt of the truth of this statement, and hope the remedy will be applied to every pear tree in America. The sooner it is done, the more profitable it will prove to thousands of farmers who are prevented from keeping sheep in consequence of the worthless curs in the country, which may now be appropriated to some profitable purpose. —*N. Y. Tribune.*



and city gardens. 3. Easy access to the fruit. 4. Early bearing. This is the chief recommendation of the dwarfing system. Trees thus treated will begin to bear the third year, and at five or six years old will, if properly cultivated, afford a bushel or more to the tree. A small garden planted with summer and autumn varieties will supply a family with early apples while they are scarce and dear in the market, and thus give a valuable return for the space occupied by them. These miniature apple trees deserve to be more widely cultivated. They are somewhat more expensive than the common standard orchard trees, and this is doubtless one reason why they do not come into more general use.

BEST SOIL FOR GRAPES.—According to the Ohio Pomological Society, a better quality of grapes, with heavier must, can be produced on a strong clay soil, or one of loamy clay, with a limestone or slatey subsoil, than on sandy ground or alluvial deposits. If this be so, the soil through a considerable portion of the central counties of New York must be well adapted to grape culture. The Society also agreed, that, in all cases, under-drainage was necessary to success in grape growing. Grapes are becoming more and more extended in their cultivation throughout the State.