

## Garden and Orchard.

## Seasonable Hints—May.

BY HORTUS.

When preparing ground for the reception of seeds, plants, etc., it is always good policy to let the soil get moderately dry before digging or plowing. Most people are impatient of delay, and barely wait for the frost to get out before they are at work. On sandy-loam soils this is all right enough, but clay ground if worked early will dry up into clods and be very unsatisfactory the whole season afterwards. We hardly think enough attention is given to the soil itself outside of questions of manure, suds, etc., and would advise planters to make haste slowly.

At this time most of the seedling and planting will be done, and there remains nothing on the planter's part but to give what care he can to best insure growth and good crops. But few yet recognize or know the value of ashes as a fertilizer. They are invaluable for sandy soils, and can be applied to the ground after the crop as a top-dressing. Particularly in the cultivation of fruit are they useful, returning to the soil in the most direct manner those ingredients that the roots of the plant or tree take from the soil for the formation of woody matter and the elaboration of large healthy foliage, with the consequent increased size of the fruit and greater brilliancy of its coloring, which tends to make it more marketable.

If not already done, have the ground between rows of raspberries and currants well forked over, and fork in at the same time a good coating of manure. Raspberries are gross feeders, and by giving plenty of manure the canes will be covered with large foliage and fine fruit; strong shoots will grow up for next season's fruit instead of the sickly ones hitherto grown.

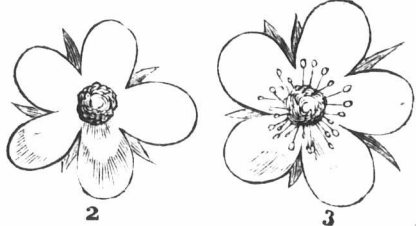
LAWNS should have a dressing of superphosphate applied liberally. Rolling frequently is necessary, particularly after rains.

Large ornamental trees require attention; dead branches and old stubs should be neatly sawn off, and the lower branches should be removed to let in the sunshine. It is not desirable or healthful to have too much shade.

CUTTINGS made in the winter should be planted, and be sure and plant deep enough—at least the whole length of the cutting. They succeed better in a nice sandy soil than if planted in stiff clay.

GRAPEVINES may be layered by making a trench six inches deep and pegging a cane down in it; leave it till the buds break and grow up to the top of the trench, when some fine soil should be filled in till the trench is level. In fig. 1 the layer is shown with young growth rooted. In the fall these are cut between the joints. They make the best of plants.

STRAWBERRY BEDS need putting into shape and new ones planted out. Mulching is necessary to have good crops and clean fruit. Nothing better



for the purpose than the refuse hops from the breweries, where they can be procured. Every person growing strawberries for market should acquaint himself with the best varieties. Pistillate

varieties, like Col. Cheney and many others, should be planted near such varieties as Downer's Prolific, Wilson's Albany, and those having staminate flowers. Fig. 2 shows the pistillate blossom and fig. 3 the staminate.

BLACKBERRIES are very profitable fruit to grow, but many have an objection to them from their natural style of growth, which makes it a very uncomfortable fruit to gather. To overcome this spreading, irregular habit, as in fig. 4, all that is



necessary is to give the canes when young a couple of trimmings, which will transform them into sturdy, neat plants, loaded with fruit, like fig. 5.

In the management of orchards the most essen-



MYRSIPHYLLUM ASPARAGOIDES. (Smilax.)

tial thing to their welfare is thorough drainage. You cannot drain too much, and the more you do of it the better the trees will thrive. Next to that is mulching; do not spare the manure to feed the roots—and don't forget the ashes. Every farmer and gardener should have a large sign on his place bearing the words

HIGHEST MARKET PRICE PAID FOR ASHES.

NOTICE.—The plants, seeds, and cuttings, given to parties for sending in new subscribers to the ADVOCATE, were all mailed by the 25th April. They were all sent in good condition, and we hope they will give satisfaction. If any one has not received their parcel they should notify us at once

## Growing Smilax for Profit.

BY CHAS. SCRIM, BUFFALO, N. Y.

In the years gone by the trade of the florist consisted principally in growing plants for house cultivation and for bedding outdoors in summer. Not much attention had been paid to growing flowers more than having the plants in as much bloom as possible, merely to make them more saleable. Now, however, in many places, so much is the demand for the flowers growing amongst the people, that florists find it more profitable to devote their greenhouses principally to the growing of flowers for bouquet-making than for simply growing plants to sell. Another and the most pleasing feature in the case, and one having the most reference to our subject, is the demand for loose cut flowers; that is, parties buy assorted blooms of Carnations, Roses, Bouvardias, etc., that they may make them up themselves into bouquets, wreaths, and other ornaments that their taste and desires may dictate.

The next thing of importance after the flowers is green foliage, which relieves and sets off the various colors, and of course is indispensable for trimming and decorating. The foliage of the Fern, particularly *Adiantum cumatum* and *Farleyensis*, rose-scented and oak-leaf Geraniums, and many plants, are called into use for this purpose; but of them all the Smilax is the most effectual and useful, and is therefore now grown specially to supply this demand. Yet how seldom is a good bed of this plant seen outside of the large cities! It cannot be that it is hard to grow, for give it the useful requisites—that is, light, heat and moisture—and these not in excess of any other kind of plants, and it will grow as easily and as freely as asparagus. Many florists run away with the idea that any dark corner of the greenhouse is good enough for it, and I have frequently seen it planted behind the pipes, throwing up sickly pale-green shoots covered with red spider. Inquiring why it was so grown I was told it did not pay to spare it better room. What plant will pay if not properly grown? Smilax thrives in a night temperature of 55° Fahrenheit, and will succeed in less, but much better at 60°. The extra heat makes it grow rapidly and causes a beautiful gloss on the leaves that adds to its value.

Prepare a bed in the centre of the house, having a path on each side, 15 or 18 inches deep. For soil use nice loam having the sod well rotted; give one barrowful of old cow-manure to three of the loam, thoroughly mix and place in the bed to a depth of 8 or 10 inches. In this place the young plants that have been raised from seed some months before; they are much better than older plants, as their shoots



will have foliage from the ground upwards. You can have a crop of nice strings of Smilax for the Christmas holidays.

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