

QUESTION AND ANSWER DEPARTMENT

Drying Prunes

Have prunes been dried in Canada? What system of evaporation is employde? Are evaporators made or put up in this country?—C. T., Welland Co., Ont.

We have not heard of prunes being dried successfully. It may have been done in British Columbia. Write to Mr. Thos. A. Sharpe, superintendent, Experimental Farm, Agassiz, B. C., for definite information on this point. Sun-drying can be depended upon only in countries that have long seasons of warm weather and where the air is dry and the nights are dewless. In some of our most favored fruit districts, however, it may be practised to supplement the work of the evaporator. If prunes could be dried in this country at all, it probably would have to be done by means of evaporation. There are many styles of evaporators on the market, from the small affairs capable of drying two or three bushels a day to the giant factory driers capable of turning out several hundred bushels a day. There are a few firms in Canada that manufacture or put up evaporators. Consult the advertising columns of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

Spiraea Van Houttei

How can Spiraea Van Houttei be propagated?—W. D. L., Q'Appelle Co., Sask.

This species of Spiraea may be propagated by means of seeds sown as soon as ripe or stratified until spring. It may be propagated, also, by cutting either mature or green wood. The former may be taken at this season and stored until spring. Green cuttings are made in summer and handled in cold frames.

Seedling Cannas

Do seedling cannas attain their normal height the first year?—C. R., Peel Co., Ont.

Much depends upon the size of the seedling cannas when planted out and their culture, whether they will attain full height the first year. As a rule, they scarcely attain the full height the first season.

Wintering Wallflowers

Are wallflowers hardy in Canada; if not, would a protection of leaves and straw be sufficient or must a frame be used?—C. R., Peel Co., Ont.

Wall flowers are not entirely hardy even in the warmest parts of Ontario and are rather difficult to keep over winter. It might be possible to save them with a covering of leaves and straw as mention-

ed, but a cold frame would be safer. Throw some dry leaves or long strawy litter over the plants before severe winter sets in, about the middle of November, and place boards over the frame so as to exclude moisture. I have wintered them in this way tolerably well. The plants can also be lifted, potted, and kept in a cool window or even in a light cellar during the winter, and planted out again in the spring, or can be left growing in the pots.—Wm. Hunt, O. A. C., Guelph.

Funkias

What is the best position for *Funkia grandiflora*? I bought these for *F. alba* but they are blue. The clumps are large but soon after coming out the leaves were eaten by some insect. I have them in a south bed which is sheltered from the mid-day sun.—T. L., York Co., Ont.

Funkias like a partially shaded position where they get very little sun, the north side of a fence or building being a good position for them. They like a light, loamy soil with some leaf soil mixed with it. When planted in a sunny place, the flowers wilt very quickly. The hot sun also burns the foliage. Sprinkling the foliage with white hellebore powder, or spraying with a weak solution of Paris green to a gallon of water, well mixed—has been effective in preventing attacks of the insect that eats the leaves.—Wm. Hunt, O. A. C., Guelph.

Fall Care of Asparagus

1. When should asparagus stalks be cut, why then and why cut at all? 2. Does the ripening of the seed draw much nourishment from the root? 3. What other operations are necessary in the fall?—W. A., Carleton Co., Ont.

1.—Asparagus plants should be cut as soon as they dry sufficiently to be broken down by a harrow or a rake. They should then be gathered and burned. There are various reasons for cutting them. Their removal in time will prevent the scattering of seeds. Furthermore, they have done their work and are not required longer. They must be removed in order to make it easier for harvesting the young sprouts the following spring.

2.—The early development of the seed is dependent indirectly upon the root for the nutriment required but the actual ripening is dependent more particularly upon the leaves and leaf stalks. As the seed is maturing, these latter portions of the plant give up a large part of the

elaborated food that had been stored within them and this passes into the seed. The making of food for asparagus leaves goes on throughout the active leaf period of the plant. The large percentage of this reserve store of material goes to the root for the growth of next year's shoots, and a small percentage is used up in the formation of the berries, which requires several months. All this time the leaves are doing a double duty simultaneously—namely, the making of the berries and the storage of the roots. It is probable that if there were no berries formed there would be a large amount of food stored in the root. There is no direct withdrawal of nourishment from the roots during the summer, for the formation of the berries.

3.—The surface of the bed should have a top-dressing of well-rotted stable manure, which should be worked into the soil this fall. Manure left on the surface until spring will prevent early growth. As asparagus is a spring vegetable, it is desirable to have the sprouts appear as early as possible.

Tomatoes Grown on Trellis

R. S. Hood, Galt, Ont.

The illustration shows some tomato plants that I had growing in my garden during the past summer. They are the Majestic variety. I planted them be-



Tomato Vines Eleven Feet High

side a wire netting trellis, and tied them to it as they grew, which they certainly did. They did not stop growing till Jack Frost took a crack at them on October 2nd. They were eleven feet high.

I took two of the plants to the agricultural show held in Galt, on October 1st and 2nd. They were quite a curiosity. The tomatoes were large, smooth and very solid. They were fine for slicing and yielded a bountiful crop.