

established, and then keep the soil fresh stirred, applying a sprinkling of guano round each plant.

A very good pickle is made from the pods or fruit of the maritima, which it produces in great abundance. Seed are sown in the open ground early in the month, and when good strong plants are grown they are transplanted to hills two feet apart each way.

A good sharp, light, and bright hoe in good hands in the garden is one of the best antidotes for weeds, which so often prove the bane of good crops, if used by one who goes with his eyes open.

The great secret of success in the garden, after a good location, is in plenty of good manure judiciously applied, constant working and good seed, though last named, is not the least, but should stand first.

In all garden operations we should have an eye to the future, and few things conduce greater to success than a good compost heap, which the thoughtful gardener will not fail to commence early, and add to it everything capable of being converted into plant food.

FRUIT GARDEN.

If, from any reason, planting should have been delayed, no time should be lost in planting out all sorts, as in many localities plants will have commenced their growth.

Plant out strawberry plants.—early planted generally make the best beds. Mulch old beds with cut straw, having first cleaned them of weeds, grass, &c., and raked in a good dressing of wood-ashes. In planting new beds it will be found that the more delicate varieties of fruit are not always the best for general culture, however desirable they may be for the table. Sow a sprinkling of guano over old established plants.

Set out raspberry beds, first having cut back the canes to four or five eyes. Select plants with an abundance of fibrous roots; set the roots four or five inches deep in the soil, planting at the same time stakes, if to be used, so as not to injure the roots in driving. The best variety depends on the location, soil, and care accorded them; what proves the best in one locality, and under the care of one, may prove the poorest in another soil and cared for by another.

Put up and tie to the trellises grape-vines, using care not to injure or break off the buds; use soft twine or bass matting for tying. Cuttings, if not already planted, should be done at once, but layering is a superior mode of propagating. Preparation for layering can be made as soon as the buds begin to start. Take a strong cane, which has been previously cut back to about five feet, open a trench six inches deep and the same width, lay the cane in the bottom, pegging it in place. When the shoots have started three or four inches, select the strongest, put stakes to them and cut the cane about half off with a slanting cut, fastening it open midway between the shoots, and fill in about two inches of soil, covering the cane; in about a week fill in as much more soil, and in a week or two after fill up level.

Transplant currant bushes before they start into leaf. It is said—with how much truth we do not know—that covering the ground around and under the bushes with an inch or two of coal-ashes will tend to prevent the ravages of the "currant worm." A trial would lead to no harm, but result in good even if it did not prevent their attack.

Finish up planting of dwarf fruit-trees soon as possible, giving them ample room to extend

their roots. Head back and prune to keep them dwarf, compact, and even balanced.

Great vigilance is necessary to keep insects in subjection: on many kinds of fruit trees, vines, &c., they commence an early depredation, or provide for an increased number by depositing their eggs, so that they should be looked for daily, and every means used for their destruction.

The fruit garden should be kept clean of weeds. The hoe properly used is a good encourager to the development of both fruit and vine, while it keeps out of sight all unsightly weeds.

ORCHARD AND NURSERY.

The pruning over, there remains to hunt out the caterpillars, destroy the nest-worms, fight the canker-worms, and do up the grafting, &c. The present month is as good a time for grafting pip fruit as any during the year, as the sap is in full flow. The art of grafting is not a difficult one, and there is no particular reason why any farmer may not qualify himself, and do his own. The main secret is to place the scion in the stock so that the bark of each will come in contact, and cover the cleft with wax, so as to exclude the air and wet. Use only such scions as are fresh and plump, with full fresh buds.

The little clusters of insect eggs glued to the branches and twigs overlooked, deposited last year, will be hatching out now that warm weather has come, and the worms will be forming their nests, scarcely perceptible at first, and defoliating the trees. Close attention will be needed to wipe them out while it may be done with the least trouble. Moths of various kinds will begin to fly evenings, and be providing for continuing their species by depositing their eggs where, when the young come out, they may gain their sustenance without travelling far. Great numbers of these moths may be destroyed by placing bottles of sweetened water about the orchard, or fixing burning lamps in pans of soap suds about the trees they frequent evenings; but there is danger of destroying insect friends as well as foes, for both will seek the light and destruction.

If the stocks of budded trees have not already been cut back, if the buds are plump and sound, cut back to three inches of the bud, the portion left furnishes a fine support to tie the new shoot to, if necessary, when it starts into growth.

All newly set trees will be benefitted by a mulching of some kind to protect their roots during a dry time, which frequently happens during the spring or early summer; saw-dust, spent tan, chip dirt, or litter of any sort, is good; but best of all a frequent stirring of the soil; this gives the most effectual mulch and prevents all drying out, while it is a great encourager to growth.

The careful orchardist will seldom find use for the saw and hatchet in pruning, for he will be on the look out, and when a shoot starts where it will be likely if allowed to grow, to mar the proportions of the tree, or interfere with other branches, the pocket knife is sufficient to remove all such.

Apply ashes to peach trees, and dig out the borer with a sharp-pointed knife. If affected with the yellows, dig them up and burn root and branch, or, if disposed to experiment, remove the soil about the trunk to expose the roots, and apply on the exposed roots half a peck to a peck of hot ashes, right from the hearth; no matter if there should be some

live coals of fire mixed with them, return the soil, and note the result.

Finish up planting and cleaning up in the nursery, and set the cultivator going to keep down the weeds, and encourage the growth of the young trees.

LAWN AND FLOWER GARDEN.

The better time to transplant evergreens is when they begin to make a growth, but it should be done with the least possible exposure of the roots; for, unlike deciduous trees, they seldom recover from exposure. Too much pains can not be taken in preserving the roots entire, keeping them moist and in re-setting.

Deciduous trees and shrubs should have been set by this time, but some kinds may yet be transplanted, if due care is used.

The lawn will need mowing as soon as the grass has made two or three inches growth, or sooner. Keeping the grass cut close tends to keep it thick and soft, giving it the look of a soft green mat.

In selecting plants, seeds for the lawn and flower garden, regard should be had to the purpose to be served. As much depends upon the selection and arrangement as upon the plants themselves, and frequently more. We want plants adapted to particular purposes, plants that will give us a constant brilliant show, plants to mass, plants for hedges, plants for their fragrance, for their foliage, plants for climbing to cover unsightly objects—buildings, covering fences, &c.—plants for early and late flowering; and when we get them, if they are not arranged so as to best serve the purpose desired, we are disappointed. If trailing plants, adapted for hanging baskets or pots, are put in the ground where show is desired, disappointment results.

Many are abandoning the culture of annuals from the trouble involved, and are substituting bedding plants, &c.; but there is yet great beauty and show that we can not get from other plants that may be had from the annuals, so we would advise a fair proportion of annuals, and, for most varieties, May is quite soon enough for sowing the seed; and here comes a very delicate task.

In order to be successful in having seed germinate and grow, we must understand the nature of the seed planted, its requirements, and follow to a certain extent natural laws in planting. If the seed is from a hardy plant, little trouble is usually experienced; if a half-hardy or tender plant, much more pains, and much good judgment is required in planting, and at the right time. Half-hardy or tender plants must not have their seed planted in cold or wet soil; tender plants should be started in the hot-bed or green-house; half-hardy should not be planted in the open air till the soil becomes warm, so that the seed may germinate and grow, and not rot, as it would in cold soil.

A failure frequently, perhaps the most so, results from planting flower seeds too deep or too early, before the soil comes into proper condition; it is either too wet and cold, or too dry. Nature requires warmth and a suitable degree of moisture, as well as air, in order that seed may germinate. If a seed is buried too deep, it will not germinate; if put in a wet soil it rots; a dry one, it fails, or if it germinates at all, it perishes before the young plantlet can get hold on the soil, or ascend into the sun and air. All seeds have stored up food to support the young plants to a certain extent; if this be expended before