

Trees and Shrubs.

FORESTRY ASSOCIATION WORK.

Modern forestry is not a barrier to the harvesting of the timber crop. Its cry is not "woodman, spare that tree." It provides for the cutting and economical utilization of mature timber, but it furthermore provides that the crop shall be so cut that the young growth shall not be injured, and that a sufficient number of old seed-bearing trees shall be left in suitable locations to insure a reproduction of the most valuable species. Forestry holds that lands which are more valuable for tillage should be cleared of trees as fast as the ground can be made to pay under agriculture, and on the other hand it holds that land which is valueless for tillage or pastureage should be made to grow timber or cord wood.

The Massachusetts forestry association was organized to give practical assistance for the improvement of woodlands and adornment of streets and country roadsides. The forestry association does not necessarily desire to see the woodland area increased, but it does want to see the character of the existing woodlands improved. From '85 to '95 the value of Massachusetts woodlands depreciated \$1,300,000, while their area increased 71,000 a. The forestry association hopes to see a goodly portion of the so-called unimproved lands, which amount to some 25 per cent of the total area, made productive by the planting of suitable trees.

The total direct and immediate loss by woodland fires in 45 cities and towns in 1899 amounted to fully \$87,000. By far the best piece of legal machinery for guarding against forest fires is found in Chapter 254, acts of 1897. This act must be adopted by a town before it becomes operative. The law provides that no fire can be set in the open air between April 1 and Oct 1 without a permit from the fire warden or a deputy. The towns which have adopted this law are delighted with its effect, and assert that it has not yet worked any hardship worthy of note.

The loss of \$87,000 by forest fires in one year is not all. While light fires, running in the dead and fallen leaves, do little injury to old oaks and other thick, rough-barked trees, such fires do kill quantities of valuable white pine seedlings every year. It does not require a very hot fire to kill oaks, maples, birch and beech which are under 15 yrs old, to scar the bark and seriously injure much older trees, and even to kill mature pine. While a light fire may not kill deciduous seedlings and young sprouts, it is certain to set them back 1 or 2 yrs in growth.

The lecture committee worked all through the spring, summer and autumn of 1899 with notebook and camera, securing data from various sections of the state on good and bad forestry and the condition of the roadside growth. A lecture was then prepared and some 250 lantern slides made from the photographs, and this instructive material has been presented during the past winter in several cities and towns. A grange, society or individual applying for the lecture furnishes the hall and pays a fixed fee of \$50. This fee is rebated in whole or in part by the association if within 30 days any annual members up to 25 in number are secured for the organization. If only one member is secured the rebate is \$2. If 25 are secured, the entire \$50 is returned. The association has expended \$1200 on the preparation of this lecture and new photographs are being added continually.

A good deal of work is also being done in the interest of roadside trees. The new tree warden law, which has just gone into effect this year, was introduced into the legislature by the association, and the organization is now endeavoring in every possible way to assist the wardens in the discharge of their duties. A little manual on a warden's duties, with suggestions for planting and pruning, and on the handling of insect enemies, has been prepared and will be immediately sent gratis to all wardens.—[Sec'y Allen Chamberlain.

NATURE'S RARE GIFT.

No country possesses so many beautiful woody plants as the United States. They are generally found growing where they thrive best, and any desirable kinds found growing by the roadside that can be made to produce a

proper form of growth should be preserved and improved. The laws passed by some states for the protection of shade trees, where town or city authorities may mark such trees and shrubs as it is desirable to have preserved, and making it a criminal offense to destroy those thus marked, are steps in the right direction and should be adopted in every state.

There is nothing which adds so much to the comfort of the traveling public as well-shaded trees, and a comparatively short time is required for our most rapid-growing trees to reach the size to afford considerable shade. Whether we live to enjoy or see others enjoy their beauty and shade or not, we are certain that if properly planted in suitable soil more than one generation will be benefited by them. If every land owner would trim up and care for a few trees found growing by his roadside, or plant a few each year where none are now growing, it would be but a short time before our country would be noted for the beauty of its roadways, as well as for the general comfort and beauty of the homes of its common people. Along almost every country road may be found young trees that have sprung up from seed planted by nature in the shelter of the stone wall or fence and hedgerows. These trees are generally well rooted and if allowed to grow and are given proper care as to pruning and protection while young they will make better formed, more hardy and long-lived trees than those grown in nurseries.—[Prof S. T. Maynard.

Pruning Flowering Shrubs—During the growing season many early flowering shrubs had better be let alone, as trimming would destroy the natural grace and beauty of the plant. Spiraea thunbergii and Herberis thunbergii are so graceful in their nature that I should not want to interfere with their growth. On the other hand, rank-growing plants like the syringa, lilac, upright deutzias, strong-growing spireas and the like I should check their upward tendency in a measure by pinching or clipping the current year's growth so as to make them thicken up some and not allow them to grow in an unsightly manner. I prefer a judicious trimming each spring before buds start, and in doing this I decidedly object to shearing the heads of the plants so as to resemble a barber's job on a young lad. Cut some of the older branches near the roots, others part way up and others at the top; in this way you have a plant well-leaved out all over it instead of at the top.—[James Draper, Worcester Co, Mass.

When to Cut Post Timber—E. H. B. Johnson Co. Ia: There is great difference of opinion as to the best time for cutting timber in regard to its durability. Much depends upon the treatment timber receives after it is cut. In late fall and winter, when the trees are in a dormant state, the wood contains less liquids than in spring and summer, and will therefore dry out sooner. On the other hand in the case of posts and other small timber from which the bark is to be removed, this work can be done better when the sap is in a more liquid state. We have cut posts at various seasons of the year, without being able to find any appreciable difference in their durability, provided always that they were well seasoned before setting. The quicker the outside layers of the timber are deprived of their moisture the better the wood will keep. Therefore it is very important that the bark should be removed, at least from the part of the post which is in the ground. The most durable post timber is yellow locust. Where this is not obtainable white oak, chestnut, hickory, etc., may be used.

New Potatoes are becoming plentiful in all markets and when attractive sell well. Choice old stock is in fair favor at about recent prices.

The John H. Smyth Co of Chicago, write us that they do not employ agents in the state, neither do they employ agents anywhere. They do not sell merchandise from wagons in exchange for butter and eggs, but operate entirely upon a catalog cash basis. They offer to pay a suitable reward to anyone aiding them in procuring and convicting those who are showing a copy of their catalog, selling goods from wagons, representing themselves as their authorized agents.

Plants and Flowers.

ABOUT ROSE PESTS.

Roses are not difficult to grow and they have few insect enemies. A single bush, especially if it be the Madame Plantier, that prince of white hardy roses, will annoy its possessor quite as much as a dozen varieties standing together.

Very soon after leaves begin to grow, the center and base of certain leaves will show spots of white. Turning up the leaf, the little white aphids will be seen and if not destroyed at once the beauty and vigor of the bush soon will be. His position indicates that all preventative and remedies must be applied from below. Hence a syringe with a crooked spray nozzle is presented as the most effective known mechanical instrument. A dash of cold water applied with force will dislodge this pest; but for many insects which attack roses and other hardy plants, we keep on hand a decoction of whale oil soap and tobacco, which, in a garden of small dimensions, may be applied with a whisk broom or other convenient method that the ingenuity of the gardener may invent. A yet more simple method of preventing these troublesome little aphids and other flees, is dry dust, and the amateur who uses it will be surprised at its effectiveness, especially if the leaves are wet when applied.

For that clumsy, dun-colored beetle called rose bug, there is no sure remedy, but hand picking, which must be done in the cool of the morning, and the successful rose grower will see to it that no bug escapes. Why roses fail is a mystery. One authority, which I have not seen disputed, affirms that the rose bug, after he has done all the mischief of which he is capable to the foliage and blooms of both roses and grapes, descends into the earth and gnaws the roots to pieces.

Mildew on the leaves of roses may be prevented entirely or in great measure by the immediate application of flour of sulphur. A powdered tobacco and sulphur can be bought in the market and dusted over the foliage of roses when wet. The best roses I ever grew were sprinkled liberally with this powder and the ground was also covered with it. I regard it as well worth its cost, acting as a fertilizer and ward of the rose family.—[J. W. Adams, Hampden Co, Mass.

Liquid Fertilizer during this growing season will be very helpful to most flowering plants. Place poultry, sheep or

cow manure in any old vessel, fill with water, let stand a couple of days and then apply around the plants. For a 12-qt pail, use in the proportion of 2 qts manure to 10 of water.

The Aster Bug will soon be with us. As soon as plants begin to bud, dust them lightly with slug shbt. Whenever the insecticide is washed off, repeat the dusting.—[W. F. Gale, Hampton Co, Mass.

The Spirit with which we enter into horticultural work is a sure index as to just how much pleasure we get out of it. Every garden requires an enormous amount of care, to be at its best, during July and Aug. Cultivation must be constant, watering frequent and the use of insecticides and fungicides of weekly occurrence. It is a great pleasure to go into a well-kept garden of either flowers, vegetables, fruit or a combination of all and in such a garden no one enjoys it more, as a rule, than the one keeping it in order. The large garden, properly laid out, can be easily kept clean by means of hand or horse cultivators or other tools adjustable to a modern garden machine. The proper laying out of a garden makes a great difference in the amount of work required upon it. Where plants or shrubs are set entirely regardless of conveniences in cultivation, watering, fertilizing and harvesting, the work is more than doubled.

The Hybrid Pink strawberry-blackberry is one of the greatest of all fruit novelties. A new berry of surpassing merit that flourishes well in the driest as well as the coldest and most forbidding localities. The fruit is of large size, of the most delicate glowing pink and very deliciously flavored. This berry is equal to the best strawberry to serve with sugar and cream; in fact, it may be termed a blackberry with a most spicy, aromatic flavor of some wild wood strawberry. This is a fine market berry, as it travels well and does not lose its brilliant crimson tint after being picked any length of time. The leaves are a glossy, dark green and the vine is an evergreen.—[S. L. Watkins, El Dorado Co, Cal.

The Sample Strawberry is one of the finest looking varieties yet disseminated. The plant is exceptionally large and vigorous in every way, leaves, stems, flower buds and runners. Berries are of large size, prolific and richly colored.

A NUMBER OF SPECIAL OFFERS.

We give herewith a brief description of some of our best and most attractive premiums. A full description of these premiums, which are exceptionally good value and which we offer upon remarkably liberal terms, as stated below, will be found in our Illustrated Premium List.

Three Great Books. Atlas of the World, containing 24 colored maps. Comprehensive Dictionary, 50,000 words, and Gemmae at Saratoga, the funniest book of the century. With Farm and Home, one year. \$3.00

Chambers' Encyclopedia. A standard reference book, containing 700 pages, 100 illustrations, 2,500 articles. With Farm and Home, one year. \$3.00

Unexpected Trouble. An exact reproduction in color of a wonderful 25,000 oil painting. With Farm and Home, one year. \$3.00

Cyclopedia of Useful Information. A most valuable work of 8 volumes, with 700 pages and 500 illustrations. With Farm and Home, one year. \$3.00

Six Initial Toppings. Oil and engraved with any initial. With Farm and Home, one year. \$3.00

Wood's Natural History. contains 600 pages, treating on over 1,200 topics, and 600 illustrations, 170 in color. With Farm and Home, one year. \$3.00

Profits in Poultry. contains 242 pages and 144 illustrations, including colored plates. With Farm and Home, one year. \$3.00

Gleason's Horse Book. contains 416 pages and 173 illustrations and formerly sold for \$2.00. With Farm and Home one year. \$3.00

Geat's Pocket Kalle. contains two blades and fully guaranteed. With Farm and Home, one year. \$3.00

Olympic Watch. an accurate and reliable watch, and one you can depend upon as safely as money and on his ship. With Farm and Home, one year. \$3.00

WE WILL SEND FREE The Three Great Books, Profits in Poultry, or Unexpected Trouble as a Premium to any person sending us one new subscriber to Farm and Home or any one of the remaining premiums except the Olympic watch for two new subscribers at the club rate of 55 cents per year, the watch being given for four new subscribers. Postage paid by us in each case.

FARM AND HOME, Springfield, Mass., or Chicago, Ill.