

prove that animals at pasture were better off without any shade, but we think such arguments convince few persons.

Give to all animals a plentiful supply of water—good water, if attainable. There are farmers who, during each season of drought, drive their stock one, two or even three miles daily to give them water. Wells or cisterns would certainly prove profitable investments in these cases.

When either driving horses on the road, or working them in any way, be careful that they are not overheated.—This may readily be done, and fatal results often follow. Flies are very annoying to horses, and the use of nets, or some preparation that will keep away the flies, is well repaid.

Drive milk cows carefully to and from the pastures. They are often injured by being driven rapidly by boys or dogs.—Give them a change of pastures if possible, and when the grass gets dried or parched, give them a fresh supply of green feed from the corn, sorghum, or millet, sown for the purpose.

If you wish your poultry to return you a good profit, feed them well—this is a law of animal economy. That unless there is a good supply of wholesome food you can not expect much in return. A hen cannot manufacture eggs out of sunshine and atmospheric air, however much these may conduce to her health and ability to produce the desired article. If hens are confined, give them as much space as possible, throwing them fresh sods daily, as at this season grass will be a good part of their living. Provide clean gravel and lime, and a good dusting box. Wheat screenings is the best article of food for raising a brood of chickens that we ever tried. Corn will go nearly twice as far if steamed or otherwise cooked. To gratify the secretiveness of hens, make nests where they cannot be seen by other fowls when they are laying or sitting. If nests are too deep the eggs will rest on each other, which should not occur.

Provide some *rock salt* for sheep, and place the lumps where they can have daily access to them. When salted only occasionally, they consume too much at once for their health. Protect from cold storms for some weeks after shearing; indeed, this advice may be extended to the whole year to great advantage. Apply a little pine tar to their noses to repel the fly; this should be repeated frequently. Designate the age and character of each sheep by significant marks on the shoulders or rumps. A figure (1, 2 or 3, &c.) on the shoulder, may designate a ewe and her age, and on the rump, a wether and its age.

Pigs designed for pork next fall should be separated from the sows so soon as they will eat readily. Keep them in moderately close quarters; as, when run-

ning about in large enclosures, they will expend too much material without adding proportionately to their growth. There is nothing better than milk; next, corn well cooked. The oat is not a profitable feed for swine.

FLOWER GARDEN AND PLEASURE GROUND.

The Rhododendrons, Spruces, and some other things, which looked rather miserable on the advent of spring, have been found to be more frightened than hurt. A friend, who commenced to cut his Rhododendrons down, supposing they were killed, was interrupted in his charitable labors, and never found time to renew them. The balance unpruned are now beautifully in bloom, although nearly leafless. Such a remarkable awakening to life we never saw and had no conception of. It is refreshing, however, to feel that our climate is not, after all, as bad as we thought. Yet it is well to bear the fact in mind, in planning out beds for rare things, to keep them as much as possible from cutting winter winds.

The wet spring has sadly interfered with flower garden operations. Most of the planting has had to be done in wet soil. It is difficult to get earth well about the roots when wet. When the dry weather comes, many plants will die. The best way to save a weakened tree is, to prune away a little—and as soon as the ground gets dry, the earth about the trees should be loosened up a little, and then pounded down hard with a paving rammer. This should also be done with flower beds. Hard surfaces soon dry, and the plants in them rapidly dwindle away.

It is a matter of surprise that hardy climbing vines are not more used in lawn decoration than they are. Their general use is confined to walls and screens. They are pretty objects trained as pyramids through our grounds. Rejected evergreens make good trellises. Larch trees afford the very best. A trellis maker could not turn out a better one. Of course the lower branches should be left a little longer than those above them.

Amongst the best of vines, are *Clematis azurea*, *C. viticella*, *C. flammula*, *C. Virginiana*, *C. vitalba*, *Akebia quinata*, *Bignonia capreolata*, *Caprifolium brachypoda*, *C. Halliana*, *C. flexuosum*, *C. flavum*, *C. sempervirens* (scarlet coral), *C. Magnavilla*, *Celastrus scandens*, *Periploca græca*, *Wistaria frutescens* and *W. magnifica*.

Wistaria sinensis is too strong for anything but a strong trellis. For growing over trees it is admirable. Over some old Hemlock trees, in Germantown, it roams from fifty to sixty feet high, making a magnificent spectacle when in blossom. In making trellises, it is necessary to fix two cross-pieces near the ground,

or, of course, the weight of vines will drag the stakes out of perpendicular.

Recently we recommended our lady readers to thin out their annual flowers. A few plants grown well do better than many stalks coming up in one place. Perennials are also improved by this practice. Especially the *Chrysanthemum* should be examined, and if the shoots thrown up are thickly together, some of them should be rooted out. If the flower shoots are layered into four or six inch pots, they make very pretty dwarf plants, that are well adapted to neatly ornament a room or small conservatory, where larger plants would be objectionable.

Fuchsias in pots should have the coolest position of the flower garden assigned to them. They usually suffer much from Red Spider, which makes their leaves drop. The various remedies we have so often recommended should be applied. Frequent heavy syringings are particularly grateful to the Fuchsia.

Hollyhocks will be coming into bloom at this season. They have now become so much improved as to be one of the most popular flowers for the summer decoration of the flower garden. If the kinds are kept carefully separate, any particular variety will reproduce itself from seed. They may be more certainly kept pure by cuttings of the flower stem; each bud will make a plant. The seed should be sown as soon as ripe in a light rich soil, in the open air. If retained till late in the season they will not, probably, flower the next year.

The raising of new varieties of florists' flowers is an interesting occupation to the amateur. The process of hybridization, applies to all plants as well as to grapes; but good improved kinds of some things may be obtained from chance seedlings. The finest and doublest of Roses, Petunias, Dahlias, Carnations, &c., should be selected, and as soon as the petals fade, they should be carefully removed, or they will cause the delicate organs of reproduction to decay before maturity. A flower may be so very double as not to bear seed at all, as in the case of the Gillyflower or Stock; but if the pistil remains perfect, as it usually does, seed will ensue.

Dahlias will require watering in hot, dry weather, which is done by making a small basin about the plant, filling it with water, and when it has thoroughly soaked away, some hours afterwards, the soils should be drawn back as lightly as possible into the basin. All plants that require watering should be similarly treated.

Amateurs may have some rare or choice shrub they may desire to increase. They may now be propagated by layers. This is done by taking a strong and vigorous shoot of the present season's growth, slitting the shoot a few inches from its base, and burying it a few inches under