

tenth of the bulk) of well rotted stable manure, makes a good compost. Most kinds particularly like well-drained pots. This is usually effected by filling a third of the pots in which the ferns are to grow with old pots broken in pieces of about half an inch square, on which a thin layer of moss is placed, before filling the pots, to keep out the soil from choking the drainage.

In regard to the kinds of plants for windows and rooms, as a general thing bulbous or succulent plants do best. These plants in their native places of growth choose dry places, seem also especially adapted to room culture if they have plenty of sunlight. The old wall-flowers and stockgillies are excellent for this purpose; and there are few things superior to the modern race of carnations, known as the perpetual or tree carnation. The English, single and double, and the Chinese primroses, together with the whole race of violets are capital for window culture where the room is not too warm—they do not do well where the temperature is over 55°. These last named plants, especially, as well as many others are liable to the attacks of the Red Spider, which is the great foe to window plant culture. They are so small as seldom to betray their existence until some damage is done. On primrose and violets they usually keep on the under surface of the leaves, and hence are very difficult to be got at. We have found the best thing is the plan first recommended some years ago in the *Gardener's Monthly*, to take warm water, say about 120° or 130°, just a little greasy, and with a little powdered sulphur floating on it, and dip the plant in for an instant only. It will rarely destroy a leaf unless very tender, by growing too much in the shade, while it bothers the red spider badly. The Green Aphis may be got rid of in the same manner.

FRUIT GARDEN.

There are few things connected with fruit growing which gives greater pleasure than a knowledge of the names of the varieties. Utilitarians may say with truth that of all the long lists in the catalogues and in the books, the half of them are worthless, and of the other a dozen at most is all one need have. But there is a satisfaction in a good number of kinds, and though we find most men desirous to cut down their lists to two or three kinds, they always hesitate to do it, when the time for action comes. As then people will have an "assortment" of kinds, it becomes an important question how to label them so that it shall be permanent, and yet not take too much labor and trouble to accomplish. In planting, the trees of course are in some kind of order, nearly in rows, and a book should, at once on setting out, be provided, and the names entered therein in the order they run on the ground. But we do not want to have

the book always with us, so must have labels attached to the trees in some way. The cheapest and easiest is the Wilder plan with the zinc labels. These are cut about four or six inches long and from one half to an inch wide, and after being put in water a day or so to oxidize, are written on with a common lead pencil. It needs no "chemical" ink. It is not very legible at first, but blackens with age. We believe such labels will last perfectly plain for fifty years or more. The only trouble we have found is in the wearing away of the holes through which the attaching wire passes, by the wind. If some "eyelet" of durable material could be stamped in the hole for the copper wire to rub against, it would be perfect. The wire must of course be loose enough to allow of the branch increasing in size, but even with this wire must be looked to sometimes, for wood does not grow as we all thought it did a few years ago, by a downward layer from the leaves, which would naturally push out of the way any foreign thing on the outside of the bark; but by the germination or budding out of cells, and thus even a loose wire will be enveloped by the new growth of wood, as badly as if it fitted tight, provided the wire be perfectly stationary. It is a good season to go over and examine the wires of fruit trees and attend to these other labeling and naming matters; of course when the weather is sufficiently warm to allow of it being done with comfort.

In young orchards some species of scale insects are likely to be troublesome. These should be killed by washing at this season. If the trees be very badly infested, cut back the young shoots, and the stouter branches can then be more thoroughly done. Some people use weak lye for washing, with good results; we do not object to some lime and sulphur going in with it. Old trees are very much assisted by having the rough bark scraped off the trunk and main branches, and then coated with a similar wash. Never mind what people say about stopping up the "breathing pores." Try it once, and you will always want to repeat the practice.

This is generally supposed to be the pruning season. Orchard trees generally get too much pruning. In young trees only thin out so as not to have the main leaders crossing or interfering with one another. Or, when a few shoots grow much stronger than the rest, cut these away. Insist on all the branches in young trees growing only on a perfect equality. On older trees which have been in bearing a number of years, it will often benefit to cut away a large portion of the bearing limbs. By a long series of bearing, branches will often get bark bound and stunted, preventing the free passage of the sap to the leaves. In such cases

the sap seems to revenge itself by forcing out vigorous young shoots a long way down from the top of the tree. It is down to these vigorous young shoots that we would cut the bearing branches away. One must use his own judgment as to the advisability of this. If the tree bears as fine and luscious fruit as ever, of course no such severe work need be done, but if not, then now is the time.

Above all look after the nutrition of the trees. Some people say that land which will raise good corn will grow good fruit trees, which is all right; but they should add that, like corn, they require regular and continuous manuring. There are some parts of the country where corn can be successively taken or have a life time without manure; on these soils we need not manure fruit trees, but in all others we must have good results. This is particularly essential where trees are grown in grass, as both the trees and the grass require food. Where trees are grown in grass, we prefer top dressing in June or July, but if it has not been done then, do it now. Where trees are kept under clean surface culture, the manure is of course ploughed or harrowed in with the crop in the spring of the year. To know whether trees require manure or not ask the leaves. If in July they are of a dark rich green, nothing need be done to them, but if they have a yellow cast, hunger is what is the matter. This of course is supposing they are not infested by borers, in which case they will be yellowish in the richest soil.

Yellowness will also sometimes come from trees being in wet ground while they are growing; but fruit trees should not be planted in wet ground. At the same time if one has a piece of wet ground desired to be used for orchard planting, we would not underdrain it. We do not think it ever paid any man to underdrain for an orchard. The roots in time, will very likely get into the drains and choke them. We would rather plough the ground into narrow ridges, on which plant the trees. This can easily be done by starting the plough on the line where the trees are to go, and then continuing to plough towards this line on both sides, until a breadth of twenty or twenty-five feet is done. By another or several ploughings in the same beds, one can get the tree line a foot or two higher than the ditch, and in this way no surface water will ever be able to stay about the tree. After the trees are in, in succeeding years, the earth may be ploughed towards the stems of the trees, which will carry the beds still higher. The burying of the roots by this process will not hurt the trees, as the fibrous roots, which are the feeders, and are the ones which suffer from water, come to the surface with the increasing deposits. This will not only be found to be a much cheaper plan than underdraining, but the deep