

How to get good Celery.

Sow the seed in a hot bed in March, or as early as the weather will permit. Some prefer a cold bed, starting it in some warm place as soon as the soil is sufficiently dry to work it. As soon as the season will permit, and the plants have attained a proper size, transplant them into a rich, warm spot. Set them four inches apart, give them a liberal watering, and shelter them from the sun until they have taken root. Here let them grow until about the first of July, when they must be planted where they are to grow through the season.

In preparing for this, some dig trenches to set the plants in, and others do not. We have cultivated in both ways with about equal success. If a trench is decided upon, dig it eight or ten inches deep, spade the bottom and make it fine, add a coat of composted manure, then rich mould and set the plants. The plants must be taken up with care, and with all the earth adhering to them that is possible. Set them six or eight inches apart, after trimming off all the straggling leaves, then give them a good watering, and let them be shaded with boards until they strike root and begin to grow. The trenches should be four feet apart. If the weather is dry, water freely morning and evening.

After the plants have attained considerable size, and when they are dry, the earth must be drawn around them a little at a time, as they progress, taking care always that the leaves be held together so as to prevent the soil from getting in among them. By earthing up gradually, the stems are bleached and become tender and crisp.

It should stand out doors until there is danger of frost, which ought not to touch it. There are various modes of keeping it. Ours is, to take it up with as much of the soil as we can save about the roots, and set it out in a cool cellar, in plenty of the earth in which it grew. If the plants are set a little apart, and the temperature of the cellar is cool and even, they will keep fresh and ready for use until April or May.

If the plants are set on the surface of the ground, as cabbage plants are usually set, the same process of earthing up must be observed.

No weeds should be allowed to grow among the plant, and the ground should be frequently stirred with the hoe or some other implement.

Celery is easily cultivated. There is no mystery about it, whatever. Any farmer's son or daughter may do it that will try. If one prefers, he can purchase the plants ready for transplanting.

Fifty to a hundred of them might be enough for a family.

It is a convenient and healthful salad, and should be more common on the tables of our farmers.

An Orchard preserved by the "Canada Farmer."

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER :

SIR:—Enclosed you will find one dollar to pay for THE CANADA FARMER, sent to A. Anderson, Rockwood P.O. THE FARMER has been worth more than \$20 to me already. I was like to lose the best of my fruit trees with what one of your correspondents calls the Apple-tree Bark Louse. I made inquiry for a remedy of parties who had old orchards, but no one knew or could tell what I should do with them. At last I met with a gentleman who told me that the only remedy was to cut off the old top, and let the tree form a new one. I took his advice and lost my tree. But using what your correspondent suggests, has killed the louse without killing the tree. I write this in order that others may be induced to take THE CANADA FARMER and be able to save their trees from certain destruction by this pest.

A. ANDERSON.

Rockwood, May 10, 1864.

GENOTHERA LAMARCKIANA.—This long and uninviting name belongs to a superb flower of the class known by the more familiar title of "Evening Primrose."—Lamarck's Evening Primrose will, perhaps, be the name by which it will be distinguished, when it comes to be more widely known,—as it well deserves to be. It is a truly magnificent flower, reaching the height of three feet, and producing a profusion of immense light yellow blossoms, three or four inches in diameter. It is an exceedingly ornamental plant for mixed flower gardens. By sowing the seed in a hot bed, it will blossom the same year. It is a perennial.

Apples at the West.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER :

SIR,—When you say that the apples of the entire West and South-West will not keep throughout the winter, as do those of Western New York and Canada, &c., &c., you make a statement that would astonish many thousands of intelligent horticulturists in Michigan, Illinois, Missouri, and Indiana.

That many or even most of those varieties, depended upon by the people of the North and East for long keepers, are only Fall or Early Winter Apples in the South-West, is true; but their places as long keeping varieties are more than filled by others as good that have been originated in the South-West. But we, of the Prairie County, do not propose to quit even with you in the reputation of our different sections for winter fruits. We claim that for size, colour and flavour the apples of the same varieties are far superior when grown on the prairie soils, and in the climate of Illinois and Missouri, to those grown in Western New York.

Yours truly,

Cuba, Missouri.

B. SMITH.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—Our friend Smith ought to know whereof he affirms. Time will show whether the apples of the West will be able to compete in the markets of the great cities of America and Europe with those of Western New York and Canada. At present our remark is true that the fruit dealers of those cities rely upon Western New York and Canada for their supply of choice long-keeping apples, and we are strongly of the opinion that it will be a very long time before the showy apples of the West will supplant them. There are reasons for this opinion, based upon the meteorological conditions of the two sections of country, which we have not space here to discuss, but which will ever continue to make the apples of Canada of finer flavor (pardon the assertion), firmer texture, and more capable of enduring handling and transportation than the coarser grained, larger sized, and more watery fruits of the prairie region.

DWARF PLUMS.—The Horticulturist says:—"Dwarfs are admirably calculated for the garden. All parts of the tree being within easy reach, the fruit is readily gathered, and the little Turk is more under control. Trees of this kind become objects of regard, receive better treatment, and consequently produce better fruit. There is no reason why they should not be alternated with pears in the garden. They are deserving of a place there, and will repay the little extra trouble they demand in their formation. Our object at present is simply to call attention to the subject."

A CHEAP GRAPE TRELLIS.—I have a grape trellis that I like better than any I have seen a description of. It is substantial, does not get out of place, and is rustic in its appearance. It is made of five or six inch cedar posts eight feet long, set six feet apart, with spruce poles fifteen or sixteen feet long, nailed on to the posts a foot apart, running the whole length. The posts cost eight and ten cents each, and the poles three dollars a hundred here. I have used this kind of trellis for a few years past, and like it better than wire. Laths can be nailed across the poles perpendicularly to tie the growing shoots, if any one should wish, although I do not use them.—C., Provincetown, Mass., in Horticulturist.

SOILS FOR POTTING.—Those who are novices in the cultivation of plants in pots, are often troubled when they see the directions to use some particular soil or compost, given in the works on gardening. Various formulas for these composts are given, and some of their ingredients are mentioned by names which are little known in this country. These minute directions are frequently sufficient to deter those who think they are essential to success, from cultivating many plants. The fact is, that most plants will grow in any good garden soil, by which we mean a light loam enriched with vegetable matter and well-decayed manure. Sods from an old pasture stacked up and allowed to decay, will decompose into a compost which will suit the great majority of plants, and may be easily varied to suit particular ones by the addition of sand for those requiring a poorer soil, and by the use of some top soil from the woods to suit those requiring more vegetable mould. The sods and surface soil of a rich pasture, with about one-fourth of well-decayed manure like that taken from an old hot-bed, mixed together and left in a heap for some months, with an occasional forking over, will give a compost which will answer for all ordinary plants. Run it through a coarse screen to remove sticks and large lumps, and preserve under cover for use.

INFLUENCE OF FLOWERS.—During the raid of Quantrell in Kansas, and the sacking and ravaging of Lawrence, the gang came to the residence of George Ford, whose neat house was surrounded with flowers. The soldiers appealed to their leader to spare the place, "as it was too pretty to burn," he assented, and the house was spared, almost the only building left. Mr. Ford says now he shall cultivate flowers as long as he remembers the rebellion. The charm of a few flowers touched the heart of men whom no misery or suffering, in the midst of which they were revelling, could reach, and saved from destruction the house referred to. Who does not love flowers, and who will not devote even a little space to them? "they refine, they elevate."

MOWING OFF STRAWBERRY VINES.—At a late meeting of the Waltham (Mass.) "Farmers' Club," Dr. O. D. Farnsworth said he had been trying a new experiment with his strawberry beds. After his bed had ceased bearing, he mowed it closely and raked off all the vines, put on a little guano, and the result was that the ground was literally covered with the finest fruit. The bed which he experimented with is now five years old, and he intends to continue this course with it. He thought it would not be well to pursue this course if there were many weeds, as in that case it would be easier to set out a new bed. In setting a bed, he would trench 1½ feet deep and manure highly. The rows should be 3½ feet apart, and the plants 8 inches apart in the rows. Paths should be dug from 18 inches to two feet apart, and filled with meadow hay.

A NEW REMEDY FOR THE BORER.—In conversation with one of our subscribers the other day, he casually stated that his apple trees were not troubled by that pest, the borer. Upon inquiry we learned that he applied the earth and substance taken from where his sink-spout emptied, to the trunk, or rather around the collars of his apple trees each autumn, and then dug it away or removed it the next summer. He considered this an effectual remedy, as the borer did not trouble them, and further, it was a good dressing for the soil around the tree, after being dug away. Of course the soil where the spout emptied would have to be renewed yearly, by supplying a cart-load of earth, soda, &c., to absorb and hold the refuse liquid. If not used in this manner, the slops from the sink should always be added to the compost heap, or applied to the garden crops during the growing season, as they are too valuable and rich in fertilizing material, to be wasted.—Maine Farmer.

SAWDUST FOR ORCHARDS.—A year last fall I hauled a load of old rotten sawdust and threw it round my young apple trees. My neighbour over the way is one of those characters who plods on in the same old track that his father and grandfather did before him, believing that they knew all, and more too. My neighbour said, if I put saw-dust around my trees I should surely kill them! I told him I would risk it "any how." I put fresh stable manure around one row, and sawdust around the next. Around another row I put leached ashes. And the remainder of the orchard I manured with rotten barn yard manure, and in the spring spread potatoes. The result was, many trees grew very luxuriantly, but the trees where the sawdust was grew the best, the bark being smoother, and the trees had a healthier appearance. I will state also that the part of the orchard planted to potatoes grew greatly better than that planted with corn. The soil was clay loam.—N. E. Farmer.

CULTURE OF LETTUCE.—Everybody, we believe, likes lettuce. It is considered healthful, has a slight narcotic influence on the system, and, perhaps may be especially useful to such nervous temperaments as find it difficult to secure a nap after dinner.

It thrives best in a light, rich soil; a soil that is rich from prior cultivation, rather than from the immediate application of manure.

If it is wanted quite early—and that seems desirable—the seeds must be sown in a hot-bed in March, and transplanted in April, in a spot favourably protected from cold winds; and even here it may need occasional covering. It only requires proper cultivation after this to secure a crop. Allow sufficient room between the plants for them to head out without crowding each other, and an occasional evening watering if the weather is dry.

Those who keep poultry will find it worth cultivating for their use. They are excessively fond of it. A dozen hens will eat two large heads each day if they can get them. The store pigs like it equally as well. We have been in the habit of growing it along the sides of the paths in the vegetable garden, and on any little vacant spots, where it appears well, and gives us a cart load or two each summer for the pigs and the hens!

There are many varieties of lettuce, among which, four excellent kinds are the Early Curled Silesia, Drumhead, Victoria cabbage, and Bruce's nonpareil, the latter raised by Mr. Bruce, of Hamilton, and stands our summer heat better than most other kinds.