



Mushrooms.

The usual method of growing these, is to prepare a heap of fresh horse dung, during the month of August, under cover where the rains cannot reach it, and after it has fermented for ten or twelve days, turn it all over and allow it to become equally and thoroughly fermented. In the beginning of September, the bed should be made under cover, in order to protect from rains and frosts, and made upon the surface of the ground where it will be dry. Make the bed about four feet wide at the bottom, and of such a length as is desired. Place the coarsest of the dung at the bottom, to the depth of five inches, beat it down with the fork, and then shake on another layer, gradually narrowing in each layer, and beating it with the fork until it is formed into a ridge like the roof of a house, sloping at both sides and ends. The great art in preparing the bed, is to so beat it down firmly as it is made, that it shall settle down evenly, and when settled stand fully three and a half feet high. When finished it should be covered neatly with long straw to prevent it from drying, and left for ten or twelve days, or until the heat has become temperate, which may be ascertained by thrusting a pointed stick into the heap occasionally and feeling when withdrawn. When the temperature has become moderate the straw can be taken off, and the bed covered with light rich earth, to the depth of one inch. The spawn may now be planted all over the bed six inches apart each way, deep enough to touch the surface of the dung. Loose spawn may then be shaken over the entire bed, and the whole covered with another coating of rich light earth, an inch and a half deep, and this covered with straw enough to keep the bed moist. The great point now to be observed, is to keep the bed from excess of cold and wet, and to preserve a uniform degree of warmth and moisture. From 55 to 60 degrees is thought to be the proper temperature for the mushrooms to grow. If this be properly maintained the mushrooms will make their appearance in from four to five weeks. They should be sought for under the straw and gathered white, and of moderate size, and care be taken to pull out the stems from the bottom, for if they are broken or cut off the part that is left will become putrid and full of maggots, and so infect the growing plants.

Rural Cemeteries.

We have received the following note from a correspondent:—

"Will you please let me know what flowers are generally put around a grave, and what trees? Why is it that the graveyards here are left so un tidy, some of them full of logs and stumps, while the graveyards in and around Edinburgh, Scotland, are like a garden, full of nice gravel walks and flowers? Should we not have flowers and trees in that hallowed spot? Would it not be a good thing for everyone to give a day in the graveyard they bury in, laying out walks and adorning it?" An answer to the above will oblige me and several others."

The repulsive appearance of too many of our burying grounds is an evil incident to a new country like ours. When the homes of the living are left so untidy, we may not expect much care of the resting places of the dead. The battle has been one for existence. The wilderness had to be subdued, and so strict was the strife, that no thought could be given to home adornment. With lack of opportunity for gratification came at length the loss of desire, and a generation has grown up among stumps and logs and weeds, upon whose accustomed eyes they make but feeble impression. Some little time must pass to give opportunity for the cultivation of that love of the beautiful so inherent in our natures; but we are making rapid strides, and it will not be very long before our rural burying grounds will vie with those of any people in tasteful adornment. The suggestion that each grave be given to the purpose of making walks

and planting trees is certainly practicable, and merits attention. Perhaps the appointment of a small committee, who should lay out the walks beforehand and designate the places where the trees should be planted, would facilitate the operations. Almost any tree that flourishes in the particular locality may be planted with good effect. There is no need of straining after the productions of foreign climes. Canada can furnish from her own soil trees of great beauty trees that have had their birth and training amid her frosts and snows. What more graceful than our drooping elms, more stately than our hard maples, or more beautiful than our white-bark birches? In our pines, spruces, and hemlocks, we have a wealth of evergreens that can be set in due proportion with the deciduous trees, so as to give richness and permanence to the whole. To these may be added a few drooping trees, such as the Weeping Mountain Ash, Kilmarnock, and New American Weeping Willows, and the cut-leaved Weeping Birch, all of which will probably prove hardy throughout Canada.

In the planting of flowers and flowering shrubs, we notice in our cemeteries a great variety, greater than seems to us to be in keeping with the place or its true associations. Flowers of gaudy hues, flowering in scarlet or flashing in gold, may be attractive adornments of home, but more modest colours seem to us to be most in harmony with the dwellings of the dead. We would plant largely of such shrubs and plants as bear pure white flowers, and if we admitted any others they should be of the most modest tints. The plum-leaved Spirea, the Mock Orange, Deutzia Scabra, Deutzia Gracilis, White Lilac and Mountain Ash leaved Spirea are some of our hardiest white flowering shrubs, to which might be added a few white flowering herbaceous plants, as the Double White Daisy, Feverfew, White Campanula, Spirea Filipendula, Lily of the Valley, and the like. With these tastefully planted and properly cared for, our rural cemeteries will soon become what they ought to be, pleasant spots where we sow in hope that the seed we bury in sorrow shall come forth at the last in beauty and vigor immortal.

How to Keep Apples.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR—The following remarks, though out of season, may yet be referred to, under the above heading, in the yearly index, by any person who may feel desirous to secure the best price and highest excellence for winter kept fruit: and as the farmers of Canada are becoming deeply interested in the subject of fruit growing, on account of its being a most profitable investment and a safer return for money and labour expended than they derive from four-fifths of any single production of their farms, it follows that this must become a question of much importance to us. My plan is as follows:—To have a cellar under the north-west side of a house, if possible, or at least across the north end from east to west, with eighteen inch thick walls laid in mortar, eight feet high, with ventilating glass windows in either end, with brick floor, the whole to be plastered in good, fresh water-lime, floor, sides, and in between the ceiling joists, and rubbed smooth with a towel.

Such a construction could be built of any required dimensions in any dry piece of ground, and roofed over, so as to secure the same advantages as might be obtained under the dwelling house. This would make a substantial and cheap room, and if well under ground, quite secure against any Canadian winter. I have one such, and the apples kept therein until last spring are admitted by my friends to be as fresh as fall gathered apples. There must be a tier of shelves so erected one above another through the centre of this cellar, and supported by pieces of scantling let into the joists, with cross-bars to lay the shelving on one above another, eight inches apart. This gives room to extend the arm between the shelves, which ought in no case to be more than five feet wide. Apples can be placed on these with their stems up. Many bushels can be stored in a small space. Rats and mice cannot work here through cement. Decayed apples do not affect others; they can easily be looked over, and bad ones removed.

Apples are not to be placed here until great fear of frost touching them in upper rooms. In the meantime the ventilating windows of the cellar are to be left open, and only closed up when the apples are placed on their shelves, and then not to be opened again until all the fruit is removed. With a decent attention to picking and handling, the lover of good fruit may enjoy in this way the best flavour of the apple until late spring.

Yours respectfully,

Hamilton, Feb., 1864.

W. H. M.

The Fruit Crop in the County of Lincoln.

We are now able to speak advisedly of the prospects of the fruit crop in this county. The past winter has been one of unusual severity, not so much on account of the degree of cold as registered by the Thermometer, but because the cold was accompanied by a fierce wind, which put both animal and vegetable life to the severest test. The peach crop is destroyed; in many places the trees have suffered severely and some are killed outright. A few trees in forward localities will bear a little fruit. The cherry tree will bear a small crop, the Heart and Bigarreau varieties, not more than quarter of the usual quantity, and Dukes and Morellas, about half. There will also be a deficiency in the pears, for although there was apparently an abundance of bloom, the fruit has not set well, and very few, if any, trees will need much thinning, while some are very sparsely covered. There is promise of a good supply of apples; on most trees the fruit is setting quite full enough. Strawberries that were not well protected, have suffered severely, and the crop will probably be light. The Isabella grape vines suffered much, and as they have been the main dependence, the loss will be severely felt. Many vines have been killed to the ground, and others to within two feet of the ground. The Ontario and Adirondack vines, in the grounds of Mr. Beadle, are either quite killed or barely survive, and those in the gardens of other gentlemen, are in a similar condition, unless laid down or protected. The Concord and Delaware have hardly suffered at all, but the Rebecca is nearly killed. Currants and Houghton seedling gooseberries will be very abundant; English gooseberries are generally covered with mildew. The New Rochelle blackberry has suffered considerably, and the yield of fruit will be materially lessened.

Answer to Queries about Grape Culture.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR—I am pleased to find that there now appears to be some spirit of inquiry abroad on the important subject of grape growing, and I have pleasure in answering the enquiries of your correspondent "H.," of St. Andrews, C.E. I shall be glad to find, that the matter of which he is in doubt, is at last made clear to his apprehension.

Let me assure your correspondent, that there is no occult process "outside" to secure "rotation;" the whole matter is very simple. H. seems to have fallen into the strange mistake, of supposing that the cane after it produces fruit, dies like the raspberry or the blackberry. Nothing can be more beside the truth. The principle of annually cutting down, is by no means because that portion is either dead or eyeless, but because it is necessary to concentrate the whole strength of the vine on the smallest portion of wood, in order to obtain the best quality and the largest quantity of fruit it is capable of producing. H. must also bear in mind, that the single stem system supposes fruit to be obtained every second or alternate year. But it does not follow that fruit may not be had every year. If H. concludes to plant, say twenty vines, it is very easy to have ten bearing fruit and ten growing new wood.

"His difficulty," H. says, "is with the old wood that has borne fruit, what to do with it." He must, simply, at the end of the season, when the leaves fall, cut it away to within two or three inches of the ground, taking care to leave two or three eyes. By a little attention he will soon understand what eyes are, and where they are to be found. The laterals or branches, of this new stem, are to be kept within one or two joints, and the height not allowed to exceed six or eight feet, which is in any case sufficient for a trellis—it produces fruit the following year—and of course wood the next succeeding, and so on. There is never any difficulty in getting the eyes to grow, and as a general rule, your correspondent will do well always to select the strongest bud, and that as near as possible to the ground. W. S. Woburn.