

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

CULTURE OF THE HYACINTH IN POTS.

For securing successive blooms, and for using the Hyacinth for various styles of decoration, this is by far the most important way of cultivating and developing its beauties. At any stage of growth the plants can be removed from their pots and arranged at pleasure, either in flower-baskets or vases. To cultivate the Hyacinth successfully in pots, a free, porous soil is indispensable. The size of the pot must be regulated by the accommodation and requirements of the cultivator; for one bulb a four inch pot will grow the Hyacinth well, but one five or five and a-half inches will do better; for three bulbs a six or seven inch pot will be sufficient (and here we would remark Hyacinths cultivated in groups are much more effective than when grown singly). At the bottom of the pot place over the hole a piece of potsherd and some charcoal, and on this some rough pieces of turfy loam, to insure good drainage, then fill the pots with the prepared soil to within an inch of the top, placing the bulb in the centre; or, if three, at equal distances apart, pressing them well into the soil, and filling up, leaving only the crown of the bulbs uncovered; moderately water and place them on a dry, level bottom of coal-ashes in an open place, and covered over, to the depth of from six to eight inches above the bulbs, with decayed leaves, sand, or old tan-bark, leaving it rather higher in the centre than at the sides, so as to throw off heavy rains; or a few boards, or a tarpaulin will be useful for the same purpose, as the soil in the pots will absorb as much moisture from the ground as the bulbs require. If placed in such a bed from the beginning of September to the middle of October, the bulbs will have a temperature ranging from 50° to 55°, which, in soil not over wet, will promote a healthy vegetation. In from eight to ten weeks the pots will be getting crammed with roots, and before that time it is vain to attempt to force them to produce good flower-stems. The bulbs have been gradually deprived of their moisture the previous summer and now they must be gradually supplied with it through healthy roots to secure a healthy flower-stem early in the season.



When wanted in full bloom by Christmas and the New Year, those pots full of roots and showing the flower-truss through the incipient leaves should be selected, placed at first in a shady part, so that the blanched foliage may not be hurt, and in a few days removed to a forcing-pit where a mild bottom heat can be given to the plunged pots of from 70° to 75°, and a top heat of from 60° to 65°. Here the plants must be gently shaded until the leaves become quite green. The pots, though plunged, should be set upon slates, boards, or anything that will prevent the roots from entering the plunging-medium, whether tan, leaves, etc., etc. The extra bottom heat is a great means of success at this early period. Until moved from the bed, very little watering will be needed. The flower-truss is apt to come too close, the stem not growing long enough at this early period to let the

florets expand; an empty flower-pot placed on the top of the other will tend to remedy this; we prefer, however, funnels of paper, say eight inches in length, placed over the pot. If, after this, the flower-stem should still be too dumpy, give a few degrees more top heat for a few days. Whenever the stem shows the least sign of being too much drawn, so as to leave an excess of room between the individual flowers, gradually lower the temperature in which the plants are placed; when the flower-stem and leaves are all that could be desired, and the flowers are approaching the opening, raise the pots out of the plunging medium, and even keep cooler by more air; now the bulbs will require a free supply of water. After the pots have stood on the surface of the bed for a few days, remove them to the green-house or sitting-room; manure waterings and a rich top dressing will generally keep them in longer luxuriance. To have blooms in February and onwards, little of this extra care is necessary; the chief extra treatment required may be the paper funnel. When the pots are brought from the bed or the cellar, keep shaded until the leaves get green, and then place them on the green-house shelf, or parlour window; in all cases, healthy rooting must precede fine blooming. In the case of those of our readers who have no means of covering up their pots in a bed, or even a cellar in which to place them without covering, the bulbs may be grown in any sitting or dining-room in the same way, requiring only that a damp atmosphere should be kept about them; and as light is not wanted until they are progressing freely, the bulbs when potted will do well in the bottom of a cupboard, if set in damp moss or anything of that kind, and a small portion of the same sprinkled over them; they dislike at first the dry air of a sitting room; if the floor of the cupboard is sprinkled frequently, that will be sufficient; great success depends generally on trifles, and to keep a damp atmosphere about the bulbs at first is far better than deluging the pots with water. This magnificent species of bulbs is obtainable from J. A. Simmers, seed and bulb merchant, Toronto.

FRUIT GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

Cider should only be made from perfectly clean and sound apples, to be good. Insist on cleanliness being practised at every stage of the making. For preserving it, there should first be slow fermentation in a cool place, and after fermentation bung tightly. In a short time the cider will become clear, then rack off into clean barrels.

Cuttings of Currant, Grape, Quince and Gooseberry are easily made by anyone and may be cut and set this month. Make six inches long each; place in lines about four inches apart in trenches, packing the soil firmly against them. Cover with coarse litter, to prevent winter-heaving.

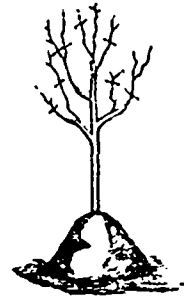
Grapes.—Pick for winter or for wine only after fully ripe; all may not colour at the same time, be patient up to hard frosts. Ripeness is known by the stem turning brown and shrivelling somewhat.

Grapes, unlike some fruits, won't ripen after gathering. Gather in fair weather and between dews, place in shallow drawers in a cool room until assorted and packed.

Marketing.—Pack uniformly, whether in barrels for shipping, or in crates or baskets for the home trade. Strict honesty is the best practice; once let a grower obtain the reputation for "facing" his packages more than they will bear, and he will find difficulty in selling, and he deserves to.

Planting.—One season with another, we prefer

to plant fruit trees, of all but stone fruits, in this month, provided the ground is properly drained. Raspberries and Blackberries, we think, also do better to set now on such land. Whatever planting cannot be done before the 10th of November in Canada had better be deferred until spring. The work may begin as soon as the leaves show maturity by their colour; if they persist in hanging, strip off with the hand.



In planting shorten all the main shoots, somewhat, as shown in the engraving. Have the hole large enough to receive all the roots without bending. Spread them out naturally, bring fine earth between and against all the fibres and other parts, mounding up and pack the soil firmly.

In finishing the job, raise a mound of earth against the tree as shown in the cut. This will steady the tree, shed water from and protect the roots. In exposed places a stake should also be provided.

Any trees or plants received too late for fall planting should be buried root and top in earth in some dry spot. Some who prefer spring planting, advocate this course with all the stock to be set out.

Seeds of fruit may easily be saved by washing the pomace of such kinds as are made into cider. Small quantities may be gathered up when hand-paring and quartering is done. Wash clean, dry and keep until planting time in boxes of sand. Peach and other stones, as well as nuts for seeds, should be packed in sand and set out doors to freeze hard during the winter.

Weeds should be kept down with the hoe to the end of the season. Many kinds grow rapidly now, and to kill them will save work next year.

Winter Apples and Pears.—Leave on the trees while growth keeps up, unless freezing weather is expected. All fruit not intended for cider should be hand-picked. Bruises from falls cause rot. Keep wormy fruit from the sound. Store in a cool dry room in heaps for several weeks, in order to dry out somewhat, before consigning to winter quarters. For winter, store in shallow bins that admit of a circulation of air through them.

VEGETABLE GARDEN.

Beets.—Gather and store in a cool cellar after the growth is checked by frost. The quality and flavour will be better retained by packing in sand. If there is a large crop, they may be kept in pits over winter. Locate these in well drained ground, covering with straw and earth, to prevent hard freezing, and sudden changes of temperature.

Brussels Sprouts.—Treat like cauliflower.

Carrots.—Treat as directed for beets.

Cauliflower.—When indications of freezing weather appear, gather those not fully headed, and plant in boxes of soil in a cool cellar. Similarly treated in glass-covered pits will also answer.

Celery grows well now, and will need close attention in earthing up. The early crop may go into trenches for winter.

Chervil.—Treat as directed for parsley.

Chicory, for use as a salad in winter, should be lifted by the end of the month, stored in a cool part of the cellar, and brought into a warm place for growth as wanted.

Digging over.—As the crops are gathered dig over the earth, so that the air and frost may have full effect upon it. By such a course, the larvae of many injurious pests will freeze to death.