

large number of bushes every winter from decay.

Dampness gathers where ventilation is impossible—the hot suns of early spring turn the imprisoned moisture into steam, and when the snow is gone and the roses come to be examined one is aghast at the mouldering blue-black mass of jelly that was once a rose bush, often not more than one or two inches of healthy wood surviving above ground.

This disaster is wholly confined to the hardier roses, which, with their stout woody stems are more readily a prey to decay than the leathery pliable stalks of the tender varieties.

My *La Frances* (nearly a dozen of them) all vigorous growers have survived many winters, but have never lost one inch of wood from any cause but the pruning-knife, and the *Gloire de Dijon*, a pure tea, has passed equally well through one winter quite out in the open ground.

The *Jacqueminots*, (on the other hand) and all that hardy *Baroness Rothschild* race, and the mosses and the provinces, (the hardiest of all,) have come out of their winter sleep little heaps of black ruin.

My experience proves that the hardest of the roses (that is my hybrid perpetuals, mosses and provinces), will pass the winter without the slightest injury, quite uncovered, if they are planted near a close high fence, and that if planted quite in the open and left perfectly upright and uncovered the wood will only be killed back to the snow line; as that is about the extent to which they should be pruned, there will be but little damage done to either the bushes or their season's bloom from their winter's exposure.

I have found that, to lessen the risk of decay, it is better not to cover the hardy roses until December, although it is well to peg them down in November. The teas, hybrid teas and polyanthas should be covered in November—and well and deeply covered for at least a foot or more from the stem

all around. Leaves, earth, evergreen branches, then more leaves and evergreen branches—a goodly pile,—but for the victims of decay nothing does so well as a very light covering of very dry straw.

In regard to pruning, several systems are recommended, and I have tried them all, with the result that the few concise and simple rules given by George Paul (the president of the English rose growers,) have proved by far the best for us as well as for England.

He makes it a rule without exception, to cut out altogether all wood more than two years' old, and to shorten the strongest shoots about one-half. Cut out altogether the weakest and the crowding shoots, and the less vigorous branches cut back to three eyes.

These rules apply to hybrid perpetuals only—*Madame Plantier*, *Charles Lawson*, *Blairii* and all of that class, should have all the wood that has flowered cut out entirely, directly the flowering season is over, thus encouraging an immediate growth of new shoots from which the next season's bloom will come.

In regard to insects, mildew, etc., I have seen nothing new suggested for some time, but I think that effectual remedies are well known to all rose growers, and only untiring fidelity in using them is required.

It may not be generally known how much common soot will add to the beauty, brilliancy and substance of a rose. It should be well mixed with the earth close to the roots, and a very few weeks will show its benefit.

It is very important to keep the rose beds well mulched during the heat of summer, and their foliage sprayed as often as possible after sunset.

*(To be concluded.)*

#### **Fuchsia "Storm King."**

OUR readers who have selected the *Storm King Fuchsia* from our plant distribution will perhaps be interested