

is to cut in proportion to apparent injury to roots. If not much the worse for removal, cut but little of the top away. Properly pruned, a good gardener will not have the worst case of a badly dug tree to die under his hands. In a nursery, where these matters are well understood, trees "never die."

Box edgings lay well now. Make the ground firm and level, plant deep, with tops not more than two inches above ground.

Roll the grass well before the softness of a thaw goes away. It makes all smooth and level.

Graft trees or shrubs where changed sorts are desirable. Any lady can graft. Cleft grafting is the easiest. Split the stock, cut the scion like a wedge, insert in it the split, so that the bark of the stock and scion meets; tie a little bast bark around it, and cover with Trowbridge's Grafting-wax, and all is done: very simple when it is understood, and not hard to understand.

Chrysanthemums are now indispensable for autumn decoration of the flower garden. Now is the time to secure a supply. They do well in any rich garden soil that is not too dry. The Lilliputian, or Pompone class are still popular for conservatory or pot culture, but the large flowering kinds still remain the gems of the open ground.

Hyacinths, Tulips, Lilliums, and other hardy bulbs set out in the fall, and covered through the winter, should be occasionally examined, and when they show signs of active growth, must be uncovered; in this latitude this is not safe until April.

Most things have been pruned, but Roses are always left to "see what damage the winter may do." In the "summer" roses, or those which bloom only once in the season, the rule is to thin out the weak shoots and leave the stronger ones, merely shortening their tops. If pruned severely in the usual shortening style, they will not bloom freely. The hybrid perpetual roses, if wanted for early flowering, should also be served much in the same way; but as their chief value is as fall flowers, a severe pruning now produces a vigorous autumn growth, bearing large and luxurious blooms. The Tea, China, Bourbon and Noisette roses which flower best on young wood, should be well cut in.

FRUIT GARDEN.

It will often be found that Pear trees blossom freely without producing fruit. At one time, it was thought this failure resulted from late spring frosts. It is now known to result from weakness, a "general debility," a disease of which our best pomologists of the last generation never heard. The best temporary remedy for this is a vigorous pruning. Trees which have this bad habit, should

have many of their weaker branches thinned out, leaving the stronger ones, many of which will then bear. But a permanent remedy must be sought in encouraging the surface roots to feed. This is done by heavy top dressings, and not injuring, more than can be helped, the surface roots during the growing season. There are differences of opinion as to whether the soil about fruit trees should be kept stirred, or left entirely under grass or mulch; but there is no difference about the value of not destroying the roots during the growing season.

If Pear or Apple trees are infested with white scales, cut away all the weaker shoots, and wash the bark with a composition of lime and sulphur. Sometimes Pears are affected with a disease, known in nurseries as frozen sap blight. In this case, just as the leaves are pushing, the branches will have spots of slimy black, and the leaves often have this appearance also. The only remedy is to cut back below any of these appearances.

Grape vines in the open air, on arbors and trellises, should have their pruning finished before warm spring days set in, or they will bleed. It does not injure them much, but it looks bad. The pruning must be regulated by the condition of the vine. If the vines are young and the shoots weak, cut them all back, to make a new and vigorous growth. If already a fair quantity of strong shoots of last season's growth exists, cut out the weaker ones, so as to leave enough of stronger ones. The cane system, slightly modified, is best for arbors and trellises in the hands of amateurs generally. This implies a new set of canes every year or two. If, as frequently happens from bad management, all the young and strong-bearing wood exists only at the end of the vines, and these latter have become nothing but long, ropy-looking apologies for what a vine should be; the whole cane may be buried down in the soil to where the strong shoots spring from, and the young wood of last season trained up from this. The plant will then recover its good appearance quite as well as by cutting down, with the advantage of not sacrificing a year's crop of fruit. Grapes that have become weak from age may be renewed by layering down a branch some feet just under the surface, and then cut back, so that one good eye only be left at the surface of the soil.

Apple trees in orchards are often so thickly matted with branches, that none of the leaves get their full share of light and air. This should never have been permitted, but as it is, a vigorous thinning should be effected, though the axe and saw be called in to effect it. Sprouts will come out thick next summer, after such pruning, but they should be torn out while green.

Peaches, it is said, grow too strong

generally, and should not be pruned; but the same rule holds good as with apples. Thin out all weak or crowded shoots. Our experience is that if a Peach tree's constitution is not impaired by bad treatment, it seldom grows too strong for its own good.

Plum and Cherry trees are often injured by the knot. These can often be renovated by a severe pruning. Cutting away all branches on which the swelling came the last season, a new growth will follow, which never has any knots on that season. The spores of the knot fungus, however, find their nests, and the next season grow, and then, if the trees are examined next May, the swelling will appear as soft frothy masses, which, if then taken out by the finger and thumb, usually destroys the crop at once and forever. Horticulture has made great progress the few past years in many of these things; and now, if Entomology shall prove its great value to gardening, by fixing the end of curculio, as mycology has, in its way, done us good, America will be the paradise of fruit growers.

In setting out Raspberries and Blackberries, remember the hints we once before gave, not to set out deeper than the plant grew before. A currant or gooseberry set deep, will root from the cane, but a raspberry will not. The new buds have to come up from the roots. Thousands of these plants die every year. In nurseries there are two kinds of plants—plants which are simply suckers, taken off in winter, and plants taken up as they sprout during summer, and set out to grow awhile before fall. These are called transplanted plants, and are worth much more than others. Transplanted plants seldom die. Both Raspberries and Blackberries should be cut down within six inches or a foot before planting. Transplanted plants may be left longer, and be allowed to bear a little; but if these plants are allowed to produce much the first year after setting out, the suckers for next year are very weak. Little is gained by having fruit the first year.

Strawberries, like Raspberries, are often destroyed by planting deep. Only the fibrous roots should be set under the ground—never the bud. Sometimes the excuse is that the plant will not set firm in the ground without; in this case, make the ground firm by rolling or beating down before planting.

People often complain that their Currants drop their leaves early, in which case they don't mature a very large crop the next season. The Currant is a native of cool regions, and the coolest ground should always be devoted to it. The leaves do not fall early then. In this section the currant borer is the worst insect pest. About this season the larvæ will be found in the pith, and the shoots containing them should be cut off and