

Garden, Orchard and Forest.

To Recover Frosted Plants.

An intelligent florist writes to an English periodical on the subject of recovering plants that have been frosted in greenhouses, pits or frames. He says that geraniums, and such soft-wooded plants, cannot endure one degree of frost at certain stages of their growth, although Cape heaths and several other hard-wooded plants endure four degrees of frost without being injured, if precautions are taken, before the sun's rays reach them, to raise the temperature two degrees above freezing, and shade the plants inside or outside the house with mats. The sun will gradually increase the temperature of the house, and the effects of frost will gradually disappear. The covering should not be removed until the sun has passed its meridian.

In extreme cases, syringing the plants overhead with tepid water, after the temperature has been raised to thirty-four or thirty-five degrees, and maintained at either of these points, will produce the same effect; but unless sufficient air can be admitted to dry up the moisture, and the temperature of the house is kept up to forty-eight degrees during the night, the remedy may prove worse than the disease. There is more difficulty in securing plants from frost in pits or frames, than in houses where fire heat can be applied; the greatest attention ought then to be given to cover such places early with some dry material, such as hay or straw, and to increase the cover according to the intensity of the frost.

Effects of Vegetation in Cities.

It is well known that trees absorb carbonic acid gas and give off oxygen, the first as injurious as the last is indispensable to animal life. Men and animals, on the contrary, absorb oxygen and give out large quantities of carbonic acid gas. When, therefore, we consider the immense amount of this gas given off from the lungs of the inhabitants—human and brute—of a large city, and the immense amount produced by the combustion of the fuel used in dwellings, factories and workshops, we may form some idea of the enormous vitiation of the atmosphere thus produced. Those who have given attention to the subject estimate that it requires more than two acres of forest to purify the air vitiated by every three inhabitants. According to this, a city of 600,000 inhabitants would require 400,000 acres of vegetation to take up the carbonic acid and other deleterious gases given off by its people.

If it were not for the action of the wind in removing the atmosphere poisoned by the emanations from the city and replacing it with a purer atmosphere from the surrounding country, the city would soon become uninhabitable; but the winds have not such full sweep over cities, owing to the height of the buildings and other causes, as to thoroughly cleanse the atmosphere brooding over them. Hence the necessity of encouraging the growth of as much vegetation as possible within the limits of the cities themselves. So nearly exact is this estimate that we may regard it as demonstrating the necessity of large parks and squares in cities. But, through the growth of the city, land becomes too valuable to provide a sufficient area of parks and squares for such purposes. Resort must, therefore, be had to the streets themselves; and hence all streets not devoted to commercial purposes, should be planted with continuous rows of trees on either side. Paris now has so large a number of parks, and its streets and boulevards are so profusely planted with trees that, according to very reasonable estimates, the death rate has been thereby reduced from 1 in 34, as it formerly was, to 1 in 39, as it is now.

Added to the beneficial effects produced by these trees in the absorption of deleterious gases, is the shading of gutters and roadways, which materially retards and prevents the action of the sun in producing noxious fermentation. The roots of the trees also take up large quantities of such matters as are washed by the rains into the interstices of the pavements. In addition to these sanitary effects are the comforts derived from the shade of sidewalks. It is the glare of the sun upon these, when unprotected, which, during the tropical heat of summer, gives such an oven-like atmosphere to our streets and causes so many cases of exhaustion from heat and the often fatal sun-stroke. Last, though not least, the beauty of our cities would be greatly enhanced by this tree-planting; and walking in the streets during the hotter parts of the day would be made less wearying than it now is.

In none of the cities of the United States has proper consideration been given by the authorities to this simple and not costly means of adding to the general comfort and health. Tompkins Square, in New York City, is an instance on the other hand of downright ignorance and stupidity in this respect. Situated in the most densely populated portion of the city; surrounded by tenements filled to completion with artisans whose labors are carried on in their own rooms or in the close and confined atmosphere of neighboring factories, it has been almost entirely denuded of trees and its surface covered with a cement pavement, which, on a hot summer's day, evolves a degree of heat only surpassed by the furnace spoken of in the book of Daniel.

English Ivy.

The use of English ivies for the purpose of decorating living rooms is more extensive every year and cannot be too highly commended. Being very strong, they will live through any treatment; but study their peculiarities and manifest willingness to gratify them, and they will grow without stint. Most houses are too hot for them, as indeed they are for their owners. Neither plants nor people should have the temperature over 65 deg. Fahrenheit. Take care not to enfeeble your ivies by excessive watering or undue heat, and you will see they will not seem to mind whether the sun shines on them or not, or in what position or direction you train them. Indeed, so much will they do themselves to render a room charming, that we would rather have an unlimited number of them to draw upon than anything else in nature or art.

Do you wish the ugly plain doors that shut off your tiny entry from your parlor, to be arched or curved, like those in the drawing-rooms of your richer neighbor? Buy a couple of brackets, such as lamps for the burning of kerosene are sometimes placed in, and screw them in the sides of the door. Put in each a plant of English ivy, the longer the better; then train the plants over the top, against the sides—indeed, any way your fancy dictates. You need not buy the beautiful but costly pots the flower dealer will advise; common glazed ones will answer every purpose, for, by placing in each two or three sprays of Coliseum ivy, in a month's time no vestige of the pot itself can be discerned through their thick screen.

The English ivy growing over the walls of a building, instead of promoting dampness, as most persons would suppose, is said to be a remedy for it, and it is mentioned as a fact that in a certain room where damp had prevailed for a length of time, the affected parts inside had become dry when ivy had grown up to cover the opposite exterior side. The close overhanging pendant leaves prevent the rain or moisture from penetrating to the wall. Beauty and utility in this case go hand in hand. *Journal of Horticulture.*

Notes of the Garden and Farm.

Original and Selected.

LOOK AHEAD.—If you have not already devised the best course of labor, and cropping of the year, delay not a day longer, lay all your plans for the spring campaign on the farm. To do this with the greatest prospect of a prosperous season, demands first, a thorough knowledge of the past and present condition of every part; and secondly, a consideration of your ability to turn its capabilities to the best account. Your working power, both men and horses, or oxen, the quantity of manure you will have, the quality of seed you can have, or think most profitable, must all be taken into account. The stock of cattle you are to feed during the grass season, and stock of the succeeding winter, must all be considered. You may have a field tired of wheat, and yet not have manure to sow it with turnips, or other root crops to renovate it. Mark it out for green crops for soiling. A portion of the farm devoted to this purpose every year, will eventually be found the best paying part of the farm. Its profits will be found in the improved condition of the farm stock, in the great increase of receipts from the dairy, in the quantity and quality of farm yard manure, and the increasing fertility of the soil.

INCREASING DEMAND FOR CANADIAN MEAT.

The animal exports from Canada since the year 1868 have been every year increasing as shown by the following table:—

Year 1868	\$ 6,893,107
1869	8,769,407
1870	12,138,161
1871	12,582,925
1872	12,416,613
1873	14,243,017

The great hindrance to improvement in Canadian agriculture has been, the want of good markets with remunerative prices for the products of stock, farms, and dairies. The demand for wheat, with the absence of a demand for our fat cattle, led our farmers to rely too much on the produce of the wheat fields, and to pursue a system of robbing the soil, impoverishing the farm, and entailing loss on the agriculturists; it is therefore with pleasure we see better prospects for stock raisers and feeders. As shown by the above table, the value of the exports of animal food have more than doubled within six years; and this improvement has taken place despite the prohibitory duties put on our products by the neighboring nation who, previously had been our best customer. In our last issue we told our readers of the formation of a Canadian Meat Company, and this we have every reason to believe is but the precursor of a trade profitable to England and Canada. The high price paid for meat in the English market, and the scarcity of the supply, increased not only by the ever-increasing population, but also by the diseases of cattle in the European countries, whence the demand was usually supplied, will be an irresistible stimulant to this new trade, springing up between Canada and the northern country.

The improvement in agriculture in the British Isles, unequalled by any nation in the Old or New World, is partly owing to the demand for the products of the stock and dairy farms. Hence, the area of wheat culture in England, and more especially so in Ireland, is every year becoming more limited, and more of the land turned into pasture. English economists say they can easily get breadstuffs to purchase, but not beef. Let us bear in mind that stock and dairy farming pays two profits—one in the product sold, the other in improving the land.

TOMATOES THE MOST PRIZED IN ENGLAND.

The Garden, London, Eng., says.—“We believe that it is now conceded that the Trophy is the best late tomato, and Canada Victor the best early. “Good for Canada.”

NASTURTIUMS AND TOMATOES AROUND ORCHARDS AND VINES.

Van. Hulle, a Belgian horticulturist, states that they grow nasturtiums in the apple orchards, and let them climb up the trees to keep off the American blight. Also tomatoes are planted amongst grape vines to keep off wasps; it is said that they do so effectually.

POTATO PROFESSOR.

The *London Gardener's Magazine*, relaxing from its graver moods, writes of the potato disease and the scientists. As for the fertility of the fancy in discovering explanations of potato disease, it is really a matter demanding the instant attention of psychologists, for it is evidently of wide spread stupidity, or insanity, or vanity, or something equally dreadful, that should be cured by the Social Science Congress. The past season has been characterized by a continuous sunshine, and potato disease was unheard of, until the sunshine failed, and then the crops still in the ground became more or less diseased. There is no mystery about the potato disease; it is a question of sunshine from first to last, and if Mr. Toobitt is resolved to eradicate it, he must go to the sun and abolish his spots and make such other arrangements as shall insure to the globe uniform and favorable cosmical influence. A wet, cold summer makes potato disease. A hot, dry summer makes a healthy crop of potatoes. The facts are patent, and yet there is a crowd of clamorous people always ready with some nonsensical and injurious fancy to explain the cause and cure of the murrain, and de-claims that noble root.

CARROTS FOR COWS AND HOW TO USE THEM.

An article in the *N. E. Farmer* under this heading, says:

Another word about carrots; if you feed out to horses about a pint or three pints of carrots a day, in their oats, you will soon see a difference in their outward appearance, their insides are strengthened, and their wind lengthened. Perhaps it is not generally known that the “big bugs” of England buy carrots by the ton for their hunting horses;