

the bees have filled themselves in part or to their full capacity with honey and have commenced rushing about in clusters all over the hive.

HONEY SHOWS.

Bee-keepers have not taken the trouble which they should to place honey before the public. It may be argued, and truly, that the various agricultural societies offer no inducements to the exhibitors of honey; but we must, on the other hand, remember that it is in our interest to make them encourage honey exhibits. A good example of this is to be found in the Brant Bee-Keepers' Association. Owing to their energy the prizes offered this year in the honey and apianian supplies list is about sixty dollars. Not bad for a county show, but no more than right. The bee-keepers and their association contribute some, but they in turn know that this outlay will be more than repaid by the increased demand for honey. No one should show anything unless it is good. What will you gain by taking a miserable prize, and then have every one remark about the slovenly exhibit? Of course after a poor season the honey is generally inferior in color and even flavor, and every allowance should be made for such, but otherwise bring only an article of merit, and exhibit it in a tasty manner before the public, and in this matter you will not lose by the transaction.

PRICE OF HONEY.

It is impossible to fix the price of honey all over the country, every one must judge what price he may secure. Do not sell too soon, and on the other hand do not allow it to hang too long upon your hands. It should be disposed of at least a month before maple syrup comes in; retail when you can, and do not send it away on credit to a stranger.

Horticultural.

Securing Grape Cuttings.

At the late meeting of nurserymen across the border, an authority gave the following method of securing good grape cuttings and stocks: "There are three important requisites to be considered, viz.: Select good, strong, well-ripened wood, well-handled, and planted with care. Grape cuttings should be cut from seven to ten inches long, with two to four buds to each cutting, tied in bundles of 100 each with willow ties; never tie with wire; the rust of the wire soon penetrates the cutting to the pith, and thus renders it worthless. As soon as they are cut and tied they should be immediately heeled in the ground, or placed in the cellar in damp packing to prevent evaporation. If heeled in for the winter, invert them by placing buds up and tops down; let them remain there until planting time. If in taking them out in the spring before planting you find they are not in a good moist condition, you should either wet them well in the ground and let them remain two or three days, or soak them in water twenty-four hours previous to planting. The cuts should be planted deep enough to leave but one bud exposed. If weather is dry hoe up a little mellow soil over the buds. In order to secure best results, the ground should be put in the highest state of cultivation and given clean culture."

The Farmer's Garden.

The farmer's garden should be the object of his earnest concern, but oftener it is not. There is a great deal more bound up in its prosperity than he is usually aware of. Its value consists not so much in

the intrinsic worth of its productions as in their relative worth, viewed from the standpoint of its beneficial effects upon the health of the farmer and his family. A want of vegetables and fruits, each in its season, is a great lack.

By exercising due diligence every farmer may have a full supply of fruits and vegetables the greater portion of the year, and in the very finest and best form. Those who are not in such a position would do well to give this question their thoughtful attention at this season of the year, as the best farmers' gardens are put in shape in the autumn for the next year's production.

In laying out the farm garden a small piece of ground only is necessary. One portion of it may be entirely devoted to the production of small fruits, as currants, strawberries, gooseberries, and raspberries, and the other portion to vegetables. Where fowls are not running at large, it is better without than with a fence. It may occupy some portion of the lawn, simply in the rear of the dwelling. Where exposed to fowls, the fence should be sufficiently close and secure to protect it effectually.

The small fruits may occupy one portion, in rows of course, and so far as practicable in squares to admit of horse hoeing both ways. Rhubarb, and all plants permanent in their habits of growth, should have a place in the portion where the fruit is, which admits of the most thorough autumn cultivation of the vegetable portion without anything to interfere.

Everything should be so arranged that the horse-hoe may be used to the greatest possible extent, for hand-hoeing is diminished and growth is promoted in proportion to the frequency and thoroughness with which the horse-hoe is used.

In autumn the manure should be applied where the soil is not very open below. We need scarcely add that it should be sufficiently decomposed to prevent the growth of weeds. The ground may then be deeply trenched with the plough in the vegetable portion. Where the drainage is sufficient this will give ample time for the soil that is exposed to mellow through exposure to the weather, so that by springtime it may be harrowed down and stirred with the cultivator more or less deeply, according to the object sought, when it is ready for planting early in the season.

It is not advisable to have fruit trees growing in a vegetable garden, not even in that portion of it where the small fruits are, as they will impede cultivation and injure the crop beneath by their shade.

A garden handled according to the mode that we have given need not interfere seriously with the work of the farm. If the horse-hoeing is kept well in hand, the children of the farm will do a large portion, if not all, of the weeding, and it will be a source of pleasure to them, rather than the opposite, where the family has been rightly ordered.

A good clean farm garden is a thing of beauty as well as one of utility. The pleasure it gives and the health it promotes are an hundred fold return. The only one who would suffer by it is the physician, whose annual fees would be somewhat less.

Instead, what do we too often find? An entire blank where the garden should be, or an apology for one, deplorably neglected, the weed and the thistle growing broader and higher, as though they were in the garden of the sluggard. Many and many a farmer will take an honest pride in showing you over his farm or through his buildings, where everything is most commendable, and yet he feels ashamed to have you see his garden.

It is another instance of that self-deprivation too common in the country, where the choice of the fowls and of their products, the choice of the lambs and of many good things the rightful heritage of the farmer's

wife and children, go to feed others. With all these disadvantages, the free air and quiet habits of the farm nourish fine brains, but they would do this a good deal more effectively if the vegetable garden was of suitable dimensions and properly kept, providing in season throughout the year a large quantity of varied food well-adapted to sustain the waste of that strange thing called life.

FOR THE CANADIAN LIVE STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

Top-Grafting on the Talman Sweet Apple Tree.

By D. NICOL, Cataraqui, Ont.

Many of the choicest varieties of apples, such as the Northern Spy, Ribston Pippin, R. I. Greening, Gravenstein, Baldwin and King of Tomkins County, which are somewhat tender, can be grown successfully by root-grafting or by budding on common stock only in favored localities; yet by top-grafting on hardy stock they can be satisfactorily grown where only hardy varieties succeed in the ordinary way.

The Talman Sweet is peculiarly adapted for this purpose. Next to the Crab, and the Duchess of Oldenburg it is the hardiest of all known varieties. Indeed, I have found it to be quite equal to the Duchess in this respect. I have known trees of it so mutilated by cattle and horses as to be considered completely destroyed, yet when given a fair chance recovered and became remarkably healthy and good bearing trees. In fact there is no kind of apple tree that will stand as much hard usage and survive. It is less particular as to soil and situation than any other kind of apple tree. It endures dry seasons better than most sorts. Its bark being of a thick, tough, leathery nature, soon overgrows almost any wound; and good, sound grafts inserted into its branches seldom fail to grow. Its growth is very much of the same habit as that of the Duchess, throwing out its branches at nearly right angles with the trunk; unlike the Spy, which forms forked crotches that readily split when it comes to mature age. I have never known a Talman Sweet tree split at the crotches by weight of fruit, by accumulations of ice or by wind storms. In short it is the most enduring kind of apple tree that I know of.

It should be observed that in top-grafting any kind of apple tree the whole top should not be cut off at once, because the too severe check is apt to kill the tree. A far better way is to make a two or three years' process of it; the first and second year grafting only each alternate side branch, and finally the third year grafting the top branches.

Branches into which grafts are to be inserted should not be cut off too close to the trunk, where they are of large size, but rather where they are subdivided into branches about 1 or 1½ inches thick; then the joint quickly heals over; whereas, when grafts are inserted into the side of a large stump they are much more readily broken off.

There are now growing throughout the country a great many Talman Sweet trees—perhaps more than of any other variety of apple. I know of many instances where orchards were planted years ago, and now all that remains of them is the few Talman Sweet trees which constituted part of the selection.

The Talman is by common consent adjudged to be the best baking apple; yet it is hardly seen in any market in Canada; therefore it is of little value beyond what is required for family use, and for that purpose one or two trees in an orchard is sufficient. If all the others were top-grafted with choice sorts there might be much more good fruit grown.