

HORTICULTURE

Orchard and Garden Notes

Spray with lime sulphur or other fungicide and insecticide.

Make plantings of spring bulbs if it has not already been done.

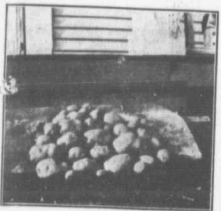
Cover Boston ivy vines with straw as a protection against winter.

Take up and burn all prunings and weeds in the orchard and garden.

As soon as the ground freezes cover the strawberry bed and bulb beds.

Prune and burn all diseased limbs or dry fruits clinging to the plum or apple trees.

Secure plenty of good potting soil



Can Anyone Beat This?

All of the potatoes in this illustration were grown in one hill on the farm of M. Emile Legue, Westmoreland Co., N. B. The hill yielded 31 tubers, 28 of which were marketable and weighed 11 lbs. 2 ounces. They are of the Green Mountain variety and grown from specially selected seed.

and leaf mold for planting next spring's seeds or for hot-bed use.

Draw the currant branches together and tie them to prevent their being broken down by the snow or sleet of winter.

Cut and burn asparagus canes. If well rotted manure is available mulch the bed well with it, plowing it

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in as early in spring as possible.

Place burlap, cornstalks or boards on the south side of small smooth-barked lawn trees and apple trees to protect from sunscald during the winter.

Put plenty of broken pottery in all pots over four inches in depth when potting or repotting plants. This will insure good drainage which is always essential to plant growth.

Just before snow comes cover the lawn with well-rotted manure. Rake this litter off in the spring after the rains have worked the manure into the soil. Better sod will result. Weeds will be kept in check more easily by the grass.

Winter Protection for Small Fruits

It is now time to be thinking seriously of winter protection for small fruits. For strawberries, the usual covering of straw is good. In mild locations, a layer of straw not less than four inches thick should be applied. In more severe locations this should be increased to six inches, and in the prairie sections of the northwestern parts of the county it is desirable to use eight inches of straw, or even more. In some years almost any covering will do; but winters that are hard on strawberries, and which injure or kill them out when not heavily covered, are sufficiently frequent to make it worth while to be well prepared.

It is important to have the straw free from weed seeds. Marsh hay is an ideal covering for small patches, when it is available. It is better than straw. Manure should not be used unless it is very light, because it is liable to settle down and smother the plants. The covering should be applied as soon as the ground is frozen hard enough to walk up a wagon. Sometimes a part of it is put on even before this time.

RASPBERRIES AND BLACKBERRIES.

Raspberries and blackberries are nearly always sufficiently benefited, by laying them down and covering with earth, to make the expense and trouble more than pay. The work is done by bending the canes to the north and covering them with earth. If the canes are large and stiff, and growing in hills, the best way is to dig a forkful or two of earth away from in front of the plant before bending over. It is more convenient to begin at the north end of the row. The entire cane should be covered with earth. This work may be done any time after the leaves fall, and before the ground freezes up. It cannot be done while there is frost in the canes, for they will snap off.

The only pruning necessary before laying down is to remove the old canes and some of the new ones, if they are too numerous. Leave just enough of the new canes to bear a good crop the following year. If they are planted in hills, and the canes are large, stocky and well-branched, about four to six new canes in a hill will be sufficient. Horse power may be used in covering the canes, by first laying them down by hand and covering the tips with enough earth to hold them in place, and then plowing a furrow against and then plowing a ridge against the canes from each side. A man should then follow with a spade, and complete the covering in spots missed by the plow.

Currants need little protection except from deep snows, which sometimes break down the branches when settling in the spring. Bushes may be protected from such injury by simply tying them together, with light rope or binder-string, tightly enough to hold them up straight, so that the snow cannot bend them down and break them.—A. R. Kohler.



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