

THE FRUIT GARDEN.

Pruning Grapes.

A part of my vines are trained on trellises, six and a half feet high, and a part on poles. At the trellis, my plants are six or eight feet apart, and the canes are spread in somewhat fan-shaped fashion, so as to be pretty nearly equally distributed over the wires and slats. When poles are used, from four to six canes are allowed to stand, and poles lean outwardly in every direction, so as to secure sun and air. The canes on the poles are longer and higher than on the trellises, and the bearing wood is mostly confined to the top—some old wood being cut out annually, and the new growth brought into use. I get splendid fruit this way, but would not claim that it is the best mode. Perhaps my method grows out of the circumstance that I have plenty of room, and need to practice no economy in this respect.

I prune altogether in the fall, and cover all my vines of every description with earth, burying them so as to put them as much under as possible. Some of the wood will be ten inches deep. It all comes out in the best condition in the spring. In this northern climate, the snow sometimes falls so deeply that it affords some additional security against frost; but snow is not to be relied on in this locality always, as eighteen inches to two feet in depth, sometimes disappears in a single night. I suppose early spring pruning answers every purpose as well as it done in the fall; but I can only cover after removing or thinning out the surplus wood of the previous summer's growth. Some years ago I left my vines one winter hanging to their supports; but the frost that season was exceptionally severe—the thermometer falling to 18° or 20° below zero—and my vines were evidently injured, neither starting vigorously in the spring nor setting the usual quantity of fruit.

In regard to training, I should advise no one to adopt the fancy styles so much recommended and so profusely illustrated in the books. There is some beauty, but no profit, in their systems. They involve an enormous amount of labor and attention without anything like an equivalent. When more fruit is wanted, occupy more ground and let the vines grow more naturally. I don't advocate slovenly cultivation; let the ground be kept clean of weeds, and in small vineyards, stir the surface frequently. But espaliers, horizontal arms, spurs, &c., should be left to those whose time is of no account, or whose room for grape growing is extremely limited.

While on this subject, I will take occasion to add a word in regard to "ringing" the grape vine. I have had so much prejudice against this treatment, from what I had read in relation to it, that I never tried it until last year. Last spring I ringed several Concord vines of eight or ten years' growth, by way of experiment. The fruit from these vines was much improved in size and flavor, and I think was a little earlier. I was so well satisfied with the results, that I shall do much more in that way hereafter. Wherever I wish to get rid of an old cane and substitute a new one for it, I intend to ring the former, and then cut it away in the fall. By this practice I reckon upon obtaining some fruit of a superior quality without detriment to the crop or to the canes left over.—*Cor. Country Gentleman.*

WINTERING GRAPEVINES.—Prof. Reel of Michigan Agricultural College says: "Our vines of 25 or more varieties are on a gravelly terrace facing the south. We bury the vines in the soil a few inches deep every autumn, and leave them till about the first of May. They are sure to keep nicely."

PRUNING RASPBERRIES.—It was formerly the practice to allow the old canes of raspberries to remain untouched after the season of bearing till early the following spring, when these and all supernumerary newer canes were cut out at the surface of the ground, and the few stronger ones left to bear the crop for that year. More recently the practice is recommended of cutting out all the old canes as soon as the crop is gathered. There is one objection to this practice. The leaves are usually in their full vigor, and the roots derive a portion of their strength from these leaves. Cutting away the canes at this time tends to check the vigor of the roots, in the same way that pruning away large limbs of a tree in full leaf injures its strength. It is better, therefore, to defer the pruning till the leaves begin to drop from the old canes, or even to leave the work till early spring. When too many new canes spring up, they should be cut out as soon as they make their appearance early in the season, leaving no more to grow than are wanted for bearing the crop next year. But if this is neglected till they have made full growth, it is better to leave them till spring, as cutting them away in full leaf injures the roots, as already explained. But as experiment is usually better than theory, those who have raspberry plantations may satisfy themselves on these points by treating parallel rows according to the different methods, and observe the results on the bushes and crops next year.—*Country Gentleman.*

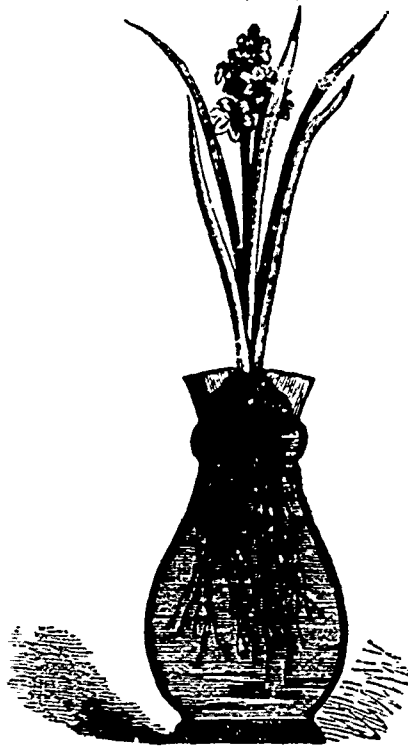
SETTING STRAWBERRIES IN THE FALL.—Says the *Small Fruit Instructor* in answer to a correspondent who wants to know if he can set out strawberries in the fall and get fruit next year: "Successful fall setting depends very much on the character of the soil, location, &c. If it be dry, and does not heave, they can be set any time in your section up to November 1st to 10th, and come on well in the spring, but if it is wet and liable to heave, don't set them in the fall. We have gathered from fall-set plants, at the rate of 15 to 20 bushels to the acre the following season. Eight to ten bushels can be relied upon, so you can judge from this how many you can depend upon for use in the family, or to sell. The "gain" in setting in the fall on soils where they do well, is that they make a much larger growth next season for the first full crop the year following, than those set next spring, and too, the drought is not so apt to affect them as spring set plants. For family garden beds, where there are none now, of course we would recommend to set this fall, and protect well with straw or evergreen brush. We would not purchase plants from a distance, to be transported by mail or express, before last of September, or in October, for they are "milky" or "sappy" until then, and very easily peel and spoil."

THE FLOWER GARDEN.

Culture of the Hyacinth in Glasses.

In selecting glasses, says an English gardener, always choose colored ones and with the lower part the widest, to allow the roots to have plenty of room. The glass ought to be at least 9 inches long, with a cup at the top to contain the bulb; they should be filled with clean soft water just up to the neck, but not to touch the bulb.

The time to do this depends upon the wishes and wants of the cultivator. If desired early they should be put into



the glasses as soon as the bulbs arrive from Holland. When they are so placed, and at whatever time, they should be put into a dark cold room for twenty to twenty-five days, to cause the root to be formed previously to the bloom bud appearing. Examine them occasionally and remove gently any scales that may be decaying, but be very careful not to injure the young roots, which will soon be seen breaking through the skin at the base of the bulbs. One drop of spirits of hartshorn put to the water of each glass, changing the water every week and adding the same small quantity of the hartshorn, is beneficial. They should be brought into full light of the window, but even then, if possible, avoid a window facing the midday sun, or one in a room where there is a fire. If these precautions are attended to, it will induce a gradual growth, and consequently a much stronger foliage and finer bloom.

When the roots have nearly reached the bottom of the glass, there will be at the extremity of each a covering of mucous matter. This soon stops the absorbing power of the roots by which the food of the plant is conveyed to the leaves, when the plant is injured and often the whole set of roots are destroyed. To prevent this, the roots should be drawn carefully out of the glasses, and in a wide vessel partly filled with clean soft water the roots of the bulb

should be placed, drawing them carefully through the hand, yet using a gentle pressure. This should be done two or three times until the roots appear quite clean. The glasses in the meantime should be thoroughly washed-out and wiped clean and dry, then gradually work the clean-washed roots into the washed glass before putting in any water. If the roots are numerous, it will be found necessary to twist them round and round till they reach their old quarters and the bulb rests on the neck of the glass. Now fill the glass with clean soft water and replace it in the window. Once washing the roots will be sufficient to carry the bloom through. The regular changing of water will be all that is required.

After having bloomed, the bulbs should be taken out of the glasses, preserving the roots, and lay them in a border. A slight watering will be necessary, and they will ripen the bulb and the leaves will gradually turn yellow and decay. They should then be taken up and keep them dry and cool until the middle of October, then plant in the borders.

EARTHWORMS.—Mr. Vick says in his "Floral Guide" that ten drops of carbolic acid, to be obtained from any one of our druggists, put in a pint of water and poured on the earth in flower pots, will destroy all earth worms which do so much damage to the plants. A trial will satisfy all of its beneficial effects.

SAWDUST FOR WALKS.—In the extensive wild garden adjoining the well-kept pleasure grounds at Cadland, near Southampton, the gardener, Mr. Harnett, has used sawdust as a dressing for the pathways cut out amongst the heath and trees in the woodland. The transition from smooth mown lawns, bright, clean gravel walks, and brilliant flower-beds, on the one side, to the adjuncts of this wild garden, is both pleasing and refreshing, and seems specially enticing when the sun sheds a tropical heat, and quietness and solitude are most appreciated. The walks are firm and yet soft to the tread; the sawdust soon becomes of a natural tint closely allied to the crushed dried leafage of the Beech, which here so much abounds. Weeds seldom grow, and these are easily kept in check with the hoe and a light sweeping with a broom keeps all clean and neat. No doubt the turpentine, found so abundantly in the wood of the Pine tribe, proves a great deterrent to weed growth.

FLOWERING BULBS IN SPONGE.—James Vick says:—An article was published in the English papers several years since, stating that if Hyacinths were placed in a sponge, they would flower almost immediately—in a few weeks at most—and much sooner than if placed in either earth or water. This was copied by many American papers, but there is no merit in the method, so far at least as the hastening of the flowering is concerned. Hyacinths will flower in water, or anything that will hold moisture, like moss, and of course a coarse sponge is almost, or quite, unequalled for this purpose. Cut a place in the sponge sufficient to insert the bulb. The sponge can be placed in a basket or stand. To conceal the dark looking mass, sow over it a little Cress, or fine grass seed, and it will soon be green. Of course the sponge must be kept supplied with water. Hyacinths that we grew in sponge last year flowered in thirty days after planting, but about three weeks after we put a few in earth that flowered in fifteen days after planting. The Hyacinth needs a long season of rest, and does not become anxious to grow until about the first of December, and this desire increases as time advances. A Hyacinth planted the first of November will go along moderately, and will take nearly three months in blooming. The same bulb, if kept out of the ground, in a cool and moist place, so that vitality would not be weakened, and planted in January, would flower in thirty or forty days. As a general rule, however, the slower grower produces the most robust plants and the most perfect flowers.

THE BEST TIME FOR MOVING EVERGREENS.—Your correspondents differ greatly in their opinions as to the best time for transplanting evergreens, some advocating spring, some summer, and others autumn as the best time for moving them; while their combined experience goes to show that evergreens may be transplanted at nearly all seasons of the year, the winter months perhaps excepted. Nevertheless there must be a general best time for the transplanting of evergreens—a time when the life of the plant can be ensured, and when it can be moved without impairing or, at most, but slightly impairing its vigor. That time cannot be in the spring when the sap has already begun to move, because, even should the plant live, the check given to it by the cutting of its roots would impair its vigor, at least for the current year; and the same consequence in a general way, must, of necessity, pertain to summer transplanted trees, to say nothing of the danger belonging to the moving of some species of Conifers, the leaders of which are of so much importance. Autumn, therefore, is the best time for transplanting evergreens, say from the middle of September to the end of October, or more definitely still as soon (the weather being favorable) as the plants have made their terminal buds. Why? Simply because the sap of the plants has not then become inactive, and the soil is sufficiently warm to induce the formation of new roots, which serve to re-establish the plants in their new situations, thereby enabling them to push vigorously and without check the following season.—*Garden.*