

great and very general evil. A tree overloaded with fruit can neither perfect the fruit nor ripen its wood properly, and in a severe climate is quite likely to succumb to a degree of cold, which, under proper treatment, it could have resisted perfectly. It is safe to say that millions of trees are annually ruined in this country by over-crops. The grape is very sensitive in this respect; if overloaded, the fruit will not color, nor will the wood ripen. It is not uncommon to hear people complain of their grapes not ripening and their vines being killed, and ascribing the trouble to every cause but the right one, over-cropping. This is an error committed not by novices only. A great many trees and plants are killed by kindness, too. New plants, costing a high price, are very apt to be stimulated by manure and water, so that, instead of making a moderate, well ripened growth, they are forced, as it were, and come out dead in the spring. I have seen many such cases. I will only refer to one on our own grounds as

A FAIR EXAMPLE.

There was a large bed of the new *Hydrangea paniculata* on the lawn; the plants were set close, and it was thought that a surface dressing of manure and plenty of water would assist their flowering, which takes place late in the season, and generally when it is dry. This treatment was well enough, but they got too much of both manure and water. They did not ripen either roots or tops, and nearly all were dead the following spring, while those in other parts of the ground left to themselves were not injured in the slightest degree. I will mention another instance which has frequently arrested my attention, as showing the importance of well-ripened wood. The varieties of Golden Arbor Vita have proved so liable to be injured in winter,

that their culture with us has been almost abandoned. Four years ago a couple of them were planted on a piece of rock work, and these have escaped the slightest injury, even during the last severe winter. They make a moderate growth, but it is healthy; the color is perfect, and they seem quite at home. In every other situation they have failed. It is because the roots running among the rocks, free from stagnant moisture, acquire perfect ripeness, as do the whole plants. I believe that by special means of this sort we may do much to increase the hardiness of many beautiful trees and plants only half-hardy. Much injury is done in city gardens by the excessive use of water, not only to the lawns, but to trees and plants, and to health as well. Ripeness, then, is essential to hardiness, is

THE SOURCE OF HARDINESS,

and the cultivator should never lose sight of this. Thanks to our climate, it is not so difficult to secure ripeness here as it is in some parts of our country. In reading a report from Minnesota, a few days ago, the writer stated that they had scarcely any autumn, but passed at once from the season of growth to severe frosts. Here our autumns are splendid, with rarely frost enough to kill flowers until about the 1st of November. The early frost is the exception, and it is generally so light as to do little harm, so that generally it is our own fault if our trees and plants are not well ripened. The generally acknowledged superiority of nursery trees grown in Western New York is due mainly to the perfect ripeness they acquire. The means to be employed to secure ripeness and hardiness may be very briefly summed up as follows:—

First—A dry soil, absolutely free from stagnant moisture.