

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

IMPREGNABLE EVERGREEN HEDGES.

An evergreen hedge, kept in proper order, is an ornament throughout the whole year. But being destitute of thorns, it is easily broken through. One may be easily made, however, with thorns that will stop an intruder, in the following way: When the hedge, after cutting back, is about twenty inches high, set upright stakes or small posts along in its centre about twenty feet apart. On these posts stretch a well-galvanized barbed wire, resting on the top of the hedge. The evergreens will grow up and around it, and keep it in its place. In one or two years more, when the top has been cut thirty inches or more in height, stretch another barbed wire. The growth will secure this as before. A third wire may not be necessary, but it would complete a strong barrier. As the evergreens become stouter, they will hold the wires from ever becoming displaced, and no man, boy or quadruped will desire to pass such a hedge. Any number of wires may be used if special strength is required. The expense of such a barrier will be moderate, and the only care will be to keep the trees cut back annually to a moderate extent, or triennially more largely. It will possess an important advantage over common barbed wire fences, since by their invisible nature animals are sometimes injured in striking against them. The only perfect way by which a barbed wire can be placed in a hedge is by allowing it to grow up around it. Norway spruce is the strongest grower, but hemlock and arbor vitae may also be made perfect by the barbed wire. The buckthorn, the only fault of which is want of strength, may be rendered secure in this way.

PLANTING TO-MORROW.

No man has seen to-morrow. To-morrow I will restrict myself, says the spendthrift. To-morrow I will pay my debts, says the bankrupt. To-morrow I will reform, says the drunkard. We have a man here who is going to plant fruit trees to-morrow. He stopped our teams on the road, laden with trees, and asked if we had any more left. "Yes; well, I will come to-morrow and get some." Not coming, we sent our man over to see him. His place was barren of everything eatable but hogs and hens. "Young man, I will come over and see you to-morrow—I want to put out an apple orchard and some cherries, but I don't know just how many I want. No, no, I won't order now—wait till to-morrow." Our man thought he heard a giggle from the young folks in the next room, but couldn't understand the point. One day, about the last of the season, our man, who never says fail, drove up to our to-morrow friend's door with just the kind of trees he said he wanted. "No, I can't plant this year; it is too late now—must put it off again." "How long have you talked about planting trees, my friend?"

"Well, sir, I have talked about it these twenty years, but never quite got at it. Sometimes the folks was sick, sometimes I hadn't a cent to buy with, sometimes I thought the boys ought to do the settin' out, so long as they would get all the good of them—one reason or another has upset me, and while I have been foolin' about it my neighbours have got their orchards into bearing. But see here, young man, you come around next fall, and I rather think now that I'll plant them 'ere trees. I need 'em, you know. Yes, come around; come around. But our agent shook the dust of that man's farm off his feet forever, never more to return to-morrow.—*Green's Fruit Grower.*

CURRANT CUTTINGS.

The currant may be successfully propagated from slips. Cut strong, healthy ones of last year's growth, and cut into pieces of six or eight inches long. Set them in a rather damp soil, leaving only one bud exposed to the light and air. Press the earth firmly about the young slip, and keep the grass and weeds out. During the summer you will find that most of your slips are growing. They should be left in their beds about two years, and then set where they are to remain. They ought to begin bearing the second year after being set in the open ground. The old Red and White Dutch are about the best varieties, all things considered. My soil is light sandy loam, and was well enriched with common stable manure before the bushes were set—four feet apart one way and six feet the other. They should have been six feet apart each way.

FOLLY OF DEFOLIATING GRAPES.

No surer evidence of the impropriety of defoliation "to admit the sun's rays" can be cited than the results of recent experiments in bagging grapes. We see that the covered clusters ripen more thoroughly, colour more beautifully, and assume that charming bloom which, without artificial aid, in many sections, they rarely attain. The foliage in a great measure acts as the lungs do in the animal creation, and every perfect, healthy leaf taken off a plant destroys a portion at least of its power of subsistence, for vegetation extracts from the air a wonderful amount of nutriment which enters into its organism through the myriads of minute apertures which nature has so wisely ordained for this express purpose. Then why partially cut off its means of supply to gratify the whim that "fruit must receive the direct rays of the sun?"—*New York Tribune.*

STANDARD TREES VS. DWARF PEARS.

A *Fruit Recorder* correspondent says that he transplanted some dwarf pear trees that had been set out eight years, and when put out were set eight to ten inches below the budded section or junction, and in taking up the trees large roots have formed from the pear wood above the quince stock, so much so that he had to cut many of them off with an axe. We set in our father's garden twenty-eight to thirty years ago, a few dwarf pears, setting them deep, at least six to eight inches below the junction, and to-day they are rooted to or near the surface of the ground. So we say, away with the false theory that setting of the dwarf pear on quince stock does not cause them to root from the pear wood, and in time they become almost standards.

FORCING STRAWBERRIES.

A correspondent of the *South and West* says: "I procured a half-hogshead, filled it with rain water and put into it one quarter-pound of ammonia and one quarter of common nitre. When the strawberry plants were blossoming I gave them a sprinkling of the solution at evening, twice a week, until the fruit was nearly of size. The result was double the amount of fruit."

RESTORING OLD ROSE BUSHES.

The *Gardener's Chronicle* recommends the following treatment for old "lanky" rose bushes: Most essential, they must have manure. Prepare a compost of two parts of turfy loam, one part rotted manure, and one of soil from the kitchen garden. Mix it over three times. Then dig a circular trench four or five feet from the base of the stem, and two or three feet deep, cutting off

most of the roots. Then fill and tread in the compost, and mulch the surface. An eighteen-year Devonensis was treated in this way, and it grew enough to "gladden the most enthusiastic rose-grower."

THE BEST MANURE.

With all the merit of modern knowledge, there is no saying that includes more real and enduring truth than the old adage that "the foot of the owner is the best manure for the land." Mr. Wade's paper forms an illustration of this. He had apples so fine that twenty-two Boston Russets covered a barrel head, and after a big crop in the even year had a bigger one the next—the "off" year. But he says he "kept the dirt whirling," and scraped stems and thinned tops so diligently that evidently his foot was seldom away from the orchard. He "wakened the sickliest trees into new life."—*New York Tribune.*

RASPBERRY AND BLACKBERRY CANES.

The raspberry and blackberry canes which were laid down during the winter, should be uncovered the first week in April and firmly staked, having of course been pruned before laying down, and the ground thoroughly forked-up. After the new sprouts are up six to eight inches, any offal of the garden, such as the rakings of the top-dressing, weeds, grass, and if there should not be enough of these, then long manure should be applied as a mulch. These fruits require a cool, moist soil, and the heavier and more frequent the mulching the better.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

LIMA BEANS.

Joseph Harris recommends the following treatment of the Lima bean: Put four or five seeds in a pot and cover them an inch deep. After they are up and the weather is warm, set them out without disturbing the roots, which is done by placing the hand on the top of the pot with the plants between the fingers, and then turn the pot upside down, and strike the rim gently against any solid object, when the soil and plants will come out together. The soil must be first thoroughly soaked with water to prevent the earth crumbling off the roots in taking them out.

MONTHLY ROSES.

H. B. Ellwanger—and we have no better authority—recommends for the best continuous bloomers the following six sorts: Gerrard Dubois, one of the hardiest, bright-red teas; Homere, mottled salmon rose; Jean Pernet, beautiful light yellow; La Franca, remarkable for its fragrance; Marie Van Houtte, pale yellow with rose edges; and Mons. Furtado, a valuable yellow tea. For the best twelve he would add Appoline, rosy pink Bourbon; General Tartar, deep mottled rose; Madame de Vetry, salmon rose; Madame Lambard, reddish salmon; Sombreuil, creamy white; and Triomphe de Luxembourg, coppery rose.

RAISING WINTER SQUASHES.

Robert McCrone, of Thompsonville, Ct., says in the *Homestead*: "The secret of raising winter squashes is to plant them late. When maggots get into the vines, the only way to save the crop is to cover the vine about six inches deep with earth. Burying the worm kills it, and doesn't hurt the vines. The Crescent strawberry is the best variety for all purposes. The way to get rich in farming is to keep down weeds and use plenty of manure."