

AGRICULTURE.

PLANTING BULBS FOR SPRING FLOWERING.—October is the best month for planting in open ground, hyacinths, tulips, crocuses, snowdrops and other hardy flowering bulbs, as they have then time to strike root before Winter sets in. The beds should be prepared some time before planting well enriched with old decomposed manure. If the soil is heavy, a portion of sand should be added to it, and dug over two or three times before planting to incorporate all altogether. Hyacinths and tulips should be planted four inches deep and about nine inches apart in the row, rows a foot apart.

Crocuses and snowdrops can be planted much closer, and about two inches deep.

Hyacinths, planted in small beds in the lawn, have a beautiful appearance in Spring. To appear to best advantage, each bed should be composed of only one variety, and the single varieties are finer for this purpose than the double. Where a bed is composed of mixed varieties they will be of different heights. Some will bloom early while others will be late coming in bloom, after the early are past, and present a confused appearance, while a bed of blue or purple, white, red, etc., make a fine show if the shorter growing varieties are selected. Second class bulbs are best for out-door planting, not being so liable to rot in the ground as the large bulbs usually grown in glasses.

If inconvenient to lift them every year (which is the best way), they could be allowed to remain two years, but no longer, without lifting. As soon as the leaves are withered the stalks could be cut closely to the earth, and verbenas, Drummond Phlox, or other bedding plants could be planted between the rows. These might be planted before the foliage is cut, or before the bulbs are lifted, if early flowering is required.

Tulips also make a fine show, more especially if the finer ones, known as florists' flowers, are planted. Early tulips, such as the Duc Van Thol, are very suitable for lawn beds, but we cannot recommend either double or parrot tulips for this purpose. The finer varieties must be lifted every year to keep them in perfection. Crocuses and snowdrops should remain several years without lifting.

If a small canvas awning is placed over the hyacinth and tulip beds when in flower, it will keep them in fine bloom for a much longer time than if exposed to the sun and rain. The bulbs, however, will be weaker, the longer the bloom continues. The flowering stalks of the hyacinths, and the seed-pots of the tulips, should be cut or broken off as soon as flowering is past. If allowed to go to seed, the bulbs will be very much weakened, and will make a poor blow the following year.

When the bulbs are lifted they should be spread out on the ground, where they will be partially shaded, till fully dry, when the foliage, and the stems and pods should be taken off, and the bulbs put apart in paper bags or boxes, kept perfectly dry.

Ducks.—The best and largest breeds, are the Rouen, Aylesbury, Pekin, and Cayuga. The first is the largest, but all are very large, weighing from twelve to sixteen and eighteen pounds a pair when fully grown. The Rouen resembles the wild Mallard in appearance, and is a very beautiful, majestic bird. The Aylesbury is pure white, with pink bill and orange colored legs. The Pekin is also pure white, but has yellow bill and legs; it has a very upright carriage, differing in that respect from all the others. The Cayuga is a brilliant black; it is very hardy and domestic, a great layer, in fact all these breeds are great layers of large-sized eggs.

GESE—The best breeds of geese are the Toulouse and Emdon. The former is grey, and the latter white, and not just so large as the Toulouse, but its feathers being white, commands a higher price in market. Prize birds of either breeds have weighed 45 to 46 lbs. a pair.

Both ducks' and geese eggs can be hatched out in incubators as easily as hen's eggs, and with care, can be as easily raised, but their eggs must be set in separate machines, as they take from 28 to 31 days to hatch.

We are not aware if it would pay to ship them to Europe, but wherever sold they should be fattened before sale.

For further information in rearing poultry of all kinds, we can recommend two low-priced books by G. M. Johnson, Binghamton, N. Y.: One "Poultry for Pleasure and Profit," at 25 cents; the other, "The Practical Poultry-Keeper," at 50 and 75 cents, the latter in cloth.

WINTER DAIRYING.—It is most profitable to be doing business when most other people are idle. This applies especially to dairying. So few dairymen can make first-class butter, and so few can or will take the pains to pack it perfectly, that the demand for fine butter during the Winter is greater than can be supplied. The Winter dairyman is now about beginning business. His cows have been resting during the hot weather in the shade of a wood lot while he has been busy with his crops, and now that he has all these secured, his late fodder and roots prepared, and his Fall pastures in the finest order, he is ready to begin butter-making with every advantage in his favor. The Summer dairyman has been worrying through the heat, consuming ice at great cost, and has succeeded only in getting a second quality of butter, which will sell twenty five to fifty per cent. less than that fresh made in Winter. The necessities for winter dairying are few and are easily provided. They are: fresh cows coming about September, plenty of good hay and fodder, with roots and supplementary food, which is cheaper now than at any other time because it is in season and is abundant; an airy dairy-house, warmed to an even temperature by a stove, avoids every difficulty, and the dairyman is in full control of everything needed for the best management of his business, instead of fighting flies, torrid heats, dry weather, and every other difficulty, as in Summer.—*American Agriculturist.*

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HALIFAX, N. S., 10th Oct., 1885.

To John H. Barnstead.

DEAR SIR,—We, the undersigned Ratepayers and Electors of Ward One, in the City of Halifax, being aware you possess in a high degree all the qualifications necessary for the efficient discharge of the duties of a member of the City Council, beg that you will permit yourself to be nominated as candidate for the vacancy in the representation in said City Council for Ward One. Should you see fit to comply with our request, we shall use our best endeavors to secure your election.
Signed by over 100 Electors of Ward One.

HALIFAX, 16th Oct., 1885.

GENTLEMEN,—The influential nature of the requisition with which I have been presented induces me to accept the nomination to the vacant Aldermanic seat, and if elected to that position, I will endeavor to advance the interests of the Ward of which I am a resident, and to assist in the economical and efficient administration of civil affairs generally. I am, Gentlemen,
Your obt. servt.,
JOHN H. BARNSTEAD.

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CHARLES J. MACDONALD,
Post Office Inspector.

Post Office Inspector's Office,
Halifax, 9th Oct., 1885.

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