

Seasonable Suggestions for Garden Work

Henry Gibson, Staatsburg

THERE is no time of the year that offers greater opportunities for getting ahead with the work in the garden than the fall. Work done at this season will facilitate operations when nature rouses the occupants of the garden from their winter's rest in the spring. If work is left over until then, it will probably not be done at all.

There is no better time for preparing the ground for the roses you intend to set out next spring. An open, sunny position, sheltered from boisterous winds, is an ideal location for a rose garden. Roses will do tolerably well in almost any good garden soil, but for best results a fairly strong, retentive loam, such as will keep the roots cool and moist, is essential. Spade out the soil to a depth of two feet. In the bottom place six inches of clinkers, brickbats, or other material that will ensure good drainage. Over this, to prevent the finer soil clogging the drainage, place a layer of marsh grass, hay or straw. Fill up with the remainder of the soil, to which should be added a liberal dressing of thoroughly decayed barnyard manure. Raise the bed somewhat higher than it was originally to allow for settling during the winter.

Continue to harvest vegetables, clean and spade the land. Nothing looks worse than an untidy vegetable garden. Old leaves and rubbish left lying round make the finest possible medium for insect and fungus pests to hibernate in during the winter, only to give you more trouble next year. Therefore, clean them out and save yourself a lot of need-

less worry, and perhaps some valuable crops.

If your garden has received large quantities of barnyard manure year after year, a good dressing of lime will be beneficial, in fact a necessity. Lime disintegrates or lets loose, as it were, valuable plant foods in the soil which are otherwise unavailable. Half a ton per acre of fine ground or air-slaked lime will be enough. Spread it on as evenly as possible, and then rake it in.

Potash manuring is indispensable if you would have your garden produce a maximum yield, but there is danger from burning if a high grade of sulphate or muriate of potash is used in the spring, hence it is better to do it now. An average of two hundred pounds per acre of either of the above-named forms of potash will be sufficient, and the harmful liming qualities will have been washed away before next growing season.

Basic slag is to be recommended as the means of supplying phosphoric acid to the soil, and it is generally conceded to be the best and cheapest means to this end. Where results are expected the next growing season, it should always be applied in the autumn. A finely ground sample is the most quickly available, and produces the best results. About one thousand pounds per acre or a little more will be all right.

These suggestions are just as applicable to the orchard and small bush fruits such as gooseberries, currants and raspberries as they are to the vegetable garden.

Pruning of the small fruits, such as currants, gooseberries, and raspberries, should not be overlooked. This work is



An October Blooming Rose

This rose bush, on the lawn of Mr. R. W. Turner, Peterboro, Ont., produced some 100 blooms last summer, and bloomed again last month.

best performed during mild weather, and the amateur with only a small collection may easily choose his time for this. In pruning currants, the new wood should be kinned out, where it is very dense, to allow free access of light and air to the centre of the bush, the main shoots shortened back about six inches, and the spurs cut close in. Red and white currants carry their crop on spurs, and shortening back the main shoots encourages the formation of these. With black currants, however, the case is different. They bear next season's crop on the wood produced during the past season, and in pruning every effort should be made to preserve the young wood so as to replace the old which does not produce good fruit. Black currants should not be pruned to spurs. With gooseberries the spurs should be preserved and the strong ripened shoots of the previous summer retained as far as practicable.

CANE FRUITS

Raspberries should have all the old canes cut away. The young canes which are to fruit next year will stand the winter all the better for the ripening they will get by the increased exposure to the sun as a result of cutting away the old canes. Raspberries that are tender



A View of the Calceolaria Border at the Guelph Agricultural College