

up again the Hollyhocks, Chrysanthemums, Dahlias, Pansies, Pinks, Phloxes, Polyanthus, and other old fashioned things which the rage for massing nearly drove out of sight. Still the beautiful effects on the garden landscape produced by the newly introduced colored leaves which continue to come, will keep the massing style popular for many years yet. It is found that a very slight variation in colors of a leaf make a remarkable difference in the effect when massed. Thus we may have two plants of two kinds of Coleus together, and we see little difference between them; but when there are a few dozen of each kind in a mass together, we take in the aggregate of the difference, and the effect seems very striking. As the plants vary much from seed there will be room for many unique effects in this way from them for many years to come.

There have been some interesting and novel features introduced into European flower gardens the past year in the employment of dwarf hardy shrubs as permanent borders for flower beds. The little dwarf, variegated Japan Euonymus, *E. r. albus variegata*, for instance, makes a charming border for Coleus, Achyranthus, and such other things. Then the Golden Arborvitae, Golden Yews, and so forth, by a little shearing, such as we give box edgings, come nicely into play with many brilliant colored leaf plants. There is an additional merit in this style, that the beds do not look so naked in winter as they do when annual plants alone are employed. The ivy is very much employed for this purpose, and there are now so many varieties of Ivy that a set of a score or more of beds may be given a very varied appearance by the means of Ivy borders alone.

So far as the general hints applicable to the every year management of the flower garden department is concerned, the annual pruning must be got through with as soon as possible.

Many delay pruning shrubbery until after severe weather passes, so as to see what injury may be done, but with March all should be finished taking care not to trim severely such Shrubs as flower out of last year's wood, as for instance the Weigelia; while such as flower from the spring growth, as the Althaea, Mock Orange, &c., are benefitted by cutting back vigorously.

Do not transplant till the ground is warm and the buds are about to push. Many things die by exposure to winds for a few weeks before they have warmth to push roots and leaves into growth.

The rule for pruning at transplanting is to cut in proportion to apparent injury to roots. If not much the worse for removal, cut but little of the top away. Properly pruned, a good gardener will not have the worst case of a badly dug tree

to die under his hands. In a nursery, where these matters are well understood, trees "never die."

Box edging lays well now. Make the ground firm and level, plant deep, with tops not more than two inches above ground.

If flowers have been growing in the ground many years new soil does wonders. Rich manure makes flowers grow, but they do not always flower well with vigorous growth. If new soil cannot be had, a wheelbarrow of manure to fifty square feet will be enough. If the garden earth looks gay or yellow, rotten leaves—quite rotten leaves—will improve it. If heavy, add sand. If very sandy, add salt—about half a pint to fifty square feet. If very black or rich from previous year's manurings use a little lime, about a pint, slacked, to fifty square feet.

If the garden be full of hardy perennial flowers, do not dig it, but use a fork, and that not deep.

FRUIT GARDEN.

Take borers out of fruit trees, and wrap tarred paper round the stem at the collar to keep them out for the rest of the season.

Wash the bark of trees, where not done, to kill the eggs of insects, and soften the old skin so as to permit it to swell freely.

For small places, a plentiful supply of Strawberries, Raspberries, Blackberries, Gooseberries, and Currants should be provided, and the Grapevine by no means forgotten. These seldom fail to do well. Strawberries do well on a rich, dry, but deep soil. On banks that are not too poor or dry, they seldom fail to do well, and are often three weeks earlier than when on level soil. The Blackberry also will do on dry, rich bank. We mention this as there are often such spots in small gardens which it is desirable to render useful. *Strawberries seldom do well in low, wet ground.* Raspberries and Gooseberries do better there.

Of course all our reader knew by this time that deep planting causes the annual death of hundreds of thousands of both Blackberries and Raspberries. An inch under ground, and the earth beaten or trodden firm, is enough for these plants.

The Strawberry, where it has been covered during the winter, should be uncovered as early as possible in spring, that the warm spring suns may exert all their influence on producing an early crop. As soon as growth commences, a sowing of guano has been found to be of great benefit to the crop of fruit.

In planting fruit trees aim to have them so that the hot dry sun will not have full effect on the ground about the roots. The great heat in this way injures the trees. Many who have trees in gardens plant raspberries under them. The par-

tial shade seems to be good for the raspberries, and help the trees. Blackberries would, no doubt, do well in the same situation; and Strawberries, it is well known, do not do badly grown in the same way.

The Gooseberry and Currant also do well in partial shade. In fact if you would have the Gooseberry and Currant in great perfection, get a lot of old brush wood and cover the rows closely, so that the plants will have to push through and you will be astonished at the growth and healthfulness of the bushes. The decaying wood also furnishes an excellent manure for them. The finest currants ever grown can be had by mulching with old chestnut burrs, or even sawdust.

In fruit growing remember that fruits are like grain and vegetable crops, in this, that they must have manure to keep up fertility. Unlike vegetables and grain, however, their feeding roots are mostly at the surface. It is best, therefore, annually to top-dress fruit-trees. If manure cannot be had, any fresh earth from ditches or road sides, spread a half an inch or so under the trees, will have a wonderful effect. Indeed, we do not know but that for the pear tree a thin layer of road sand is one of the best of manures. We have seen apples thrive amazingly with a coating of coal ashes.

Apple trees in orchards are often so thickly matted with branches, that none of the leaves get their full share of light and air. This should never have been permitted, but as it is, a vigorous thinning should be effected, though the axe and saw be called in to effect. Sprouts will come out thick next summer, after such pruning, but they should be torn out while green.

Peaches it is said grow too strong generally, and should not be pruned; but the same rule holds good as with apples. Thin out all weak and crowded shoots. Our experience is that if a peach tree's constitution is not impaired by bad treatment, it seldom grows too strong for its own good.

Grapes that have become weak from age may be renewed by layering down a branch some feet just under the surface, and then cut back, so that one good eye only be left at the surface of the soil. The plant will then recover its good appearance quite as well as cutting down, with the advantage of not sacrificing a year's crop of fruit.

DURHAM BULLS WANTED.

At a meeting of the Directors of the Union Agricultural Society of Pugwash, it was resolved that they would purchase one or two Durham Bulls in the Spring; they wish that any Society having such Animals to dispose of, would make it known to the Secretary of this Society by letter or through the *Journal of Agriculture*, stating age, price, and if full bred.

THOMAS A. FRASER, Sec'y.
PUGWASH, CUMBERLAND, Feb. 20th, 1873.