

Horticultural.

PLANTING TREES IN THE FALL.

We are beginning to find that the larger and hardier kinds of fruit trees, as well as many ornamental ones, can be made to succeed better by fall planting—if well done—than when planted in spring. The constantly recurring spring drouths tell heavily on spring planted trees, and the losses this year will be heavy.

Fall planted trees, if on land well prepared and surface drained, will take hold of the soil and make an early start in spring, and thus be ready to battle against the dry weather when it comes. It has been discovered that all the small fibres in the roots die out when a tree is transplanted, no matter at what time. In fall planted trees, the new roots will commence to grow the same fall that they are planted, if there is enough heat; and if not, they will start with the first warmth of spring. It is a good plan to put some long, but not strong manure round the roots, to remain as a mulch till spring.

WINTER MULCHING STRAWBERRIES.

If those who have plantations of strawberries would mulch them late in the fall before severe frost comes, by laying over the rows of plants a good coat of straw or dry cornstalks three or four inches deep, they would insure the plants being protected from the severity of our winter. It is not so much the actual cold as the variations of temperature that winter kills. Exposure to the rays of the sun on mild days in winter and early spring, followed afterwards by cold snaps, is what most injures the crowns of the strawberry plants when exposed, thus destroying the embryo blossoms, even when the plant survives. All hardy and half hardy shrubs and perennial flowering plants are also greatly benefited by the mulching of their roots during winter, either with straw or strawy manure or dead leaves.

ORCHARD QUESTIONS.

A correspondent writes, asking how to improve an old orchard of natural fruit, the trees of which, by pruning away the lower branches from time to time, have become so tall as to render it difficult to gather the fruit, which, when gathered, is small and of little value. The trees were planted in 1824, among stumps and roots, at distances of about two rods each, covering some six acres. Soil, dry clay and gravel. He asks if he can cut the trees down and raise a sprout from the root; or if a sprout can be found growing from the side of a tree four or five feet from the ground, should he cut away the main body just above the sprout and then graft the sprout. He says he saw in the Rural New Yorker an account of a man renewing his orchard twice in his life-time, but he has forgotten how.

Our advice in the premises is to cultivate the ground thoroughly by plowing and manuring among the old trees, and then to plant two-year-old thrifty trees of approved valuable sorts, at equal distance among the old orchard. Leave the old trees to bear what they will for, say three years, at which time the young trees will produce from half a peck to half a bushel each. Then cut away the old trees, root and branch. Removing old worthless native seedlings by means of cutting back, waiting for new shoots, and then engrafting, can be done; but it is a far more expensive practice and not as satisfactory in the end as planting anew.

We have no recollection of the account of the man twice renewing his orchard in his life-time, which you say was published in the Rural; but we think the man who having once acquired a good orchard, permits it to become diseased and valueless, so as to again require a systematic course of renewal, must be a careless, neglectful cultivator, and not the kind of man to devote the labor and care nec-

cessary to such renewal; or else he must have been a man like Methuselah, of so long a life as to embrace two generations of apple trees, each of which may be counted at, say one hundred years.

The man who owns an orchard, the limbs of which have become moss-grown with dead branches, and thickened up with watersprouts, can of course improve and renew it; and the time to attend to such work is just as soon as the frost is fairly out of the ground and the sap commences to circulate freely. Go to work then with pruning saw and knife, cut away all dead branches, shorten all long, ungainly over-reaching limbs, cut away all the water shoots except where one or more may be wanted to fill up the form of the tree. Cover all the wounds made by pruning with a painting of gum shellac. Scrape away all the old dead bark and moss, and wash the whole tree with strong lye made from wood ashes. Manure the ground well and plow, turning the first furrow light, say three inches deep, towards the tree; then let the plow run deeper and deeper as you get away from the tree, until the last furrows are at least ten inches deep. Sow corn or peas broadcast, harrow them in, and, when they have grown one and a half feet high plow them under with a furrow three inches deep, turning away from the trees. Spread on ten loads of well rotted manure to the acre and one and a half bushels of plaster, (gypsum,) harrow thoroughly and sow turnips. In the fall, when the turnips are fit to pull, pull the best and plow under the balance, turning the furrow towards the trees. From time to time during the month of June the trees should be watched, and any sprouts that appear where not wanted should be rubbed away. —Rural New Yorker.

BURYING TREES IN THE FALL.

J. B. Richardson, of Sheboygan Falls, Wis., furnishes the Herald of that place, the following article on a question which has already been somewhat discussed in our columns:

The question is often asked of us "do you approve of transplanting fruit trees in the fall?" We say positively, no, not in this section of the country. In the Middle States it will do, but not in a bleak, cold, snowless country like this. But we do approve of taking up all kinds of deciduous trees (intended for spring planting) in the fall and burying them for the winter, for various reasons.

All half hardy, and even the most hardy, are more or less injured where left standing in the nursery over winter, by the many severe changes from warm to cold—sometimes half frozen to death; such trees taken from the nursery in the spring and planted, invariably half of them die or become sick, while those taken in the fall, while perfectly sound, and buried, and planted in the spring, will every one grow and make a good growth. We speak from large experience, having practiced burying trees of many sorts for at least twenty years, and the trial in all cases has proved most satisfactory.

It is surprising to us that tree planters are so slow in adopting this practice, that so few obtain their trees from the nurseries in the fall, rather than to defer it till spring. Certainly there is more time to make their selection and to prepare the soil for an orchard in the fall, and get the trees upon the ground ready at the earliest opportunity to plant them.

Do not wait for an agent to come round, but go or send to the nursery, get your trees; two year old is the best age, they cost less and you can get more roots according to their size and they invariably make the best formed trees for an orchard in this climate; bring them home, select a dry spot in the garden or orchard plot, and for the first bundle of trees open a trench crosswise the intended mound, lay down and single out the trees in this cross trench (just the roots) and let the tops lay on the solid ground; then lay on a thin stick or lath, then cover this layer half under with fine earth, press down, and by doing this you will have opened another cross trench for the next variety or bundle. Lay down in the same manner, fill in with fine earth—same as before and so on until all are in, then dig a trench all around the trees and cover so that the roots will be under two feet and the tops six inches; the main point in covering is to keep the tops from the sun.

If the covering is with clean fine earth, and well packed, so there shall be no air holes, they are perfectly safe. Take all weeds and other rubbish entirely away, so there can be no danger of mice getting in, and your trees will come out as sound as when put in.

All deciduous trees may be treated in the same manner, also grapes, raspberries, gooseberries, blackberries, currants, &c. It will more than pay the extra labor, for that is your insurance, and every plant you set is sound and uninjured by the severe changes during winter. This is not my advice alone, but you have it from every experienced nurseryman and orchardist in the Western States.

CALIFORNIA ENCOURAGING TREE PLANTING.

The Santi Clara, Cal., Agricultural Society offers a premium of \$10 for the best one hundred fruit trees of mixed varieties, planted out within the last year in one body, or in different places on the same farm or plantation; for the best five hundred, \$20; for the best one hundred, single variety, \$5.

J. J. Thomas says a very common error in the culture of honey locust hedges is in not cutting them back enough. Close pruning is necessary to overcome its natural tendency to an upright and comparatively slender growth. He thinks such a hedge should be cut very near the surface, the second time three inches higher, again four or five inches higher.

Another Humbug.—The fruit-growers of the country are about to be treated to another humbug, originating of course in New York, and which is stated by the following notice by some of the Eastern press. Of course we do not think any reader will be foolish enough to invest in any such transparent swindle: "A remarkable patent has been applied for, and will be introduced to the fruit-growing world in a few months, which will astonish horticulturists. It is a discovery of an application by which the pear or apple tree may be thrown into bearing at a very early age, and kept loaded steadily, year after year. The principle by which this result is produced, we are not at liberty to make known, but that it is correct we have the best of evidence. There are now a large number of trees in full bloom in the pear and apple department, which never showed the sign of a flower till this application was made. To prove the correctness of the principle, any tree in the pear or apple line, of four or five years of age or upwards, which has never blossomed, can be made to show on one-half of the head of the tree, while none appear on the other half; the proof of the efficacy of this treatment is on hand. The application is not in the slightest degree injurious to the tree, as its continued state of high health, under the yearly yield of large crops of fruit, demonstrates. It is done instantly, and costs nothing except the cost of the patent right."

Saving Flower Seed.—It is not too late to say, generally that a very good way to save flower seeds is to take bottles of sufficient size, label them with the names of the different flowers on the premises, the seeds of which it is desired to save, and then take one at a time, pick your seeds, put in the bottle, and cork up. Here you have them safe and sound until sowing time comes round. No danger from mice or insects, and if there should be any insects among, or in the seed, they will be killed if the air is wholly excluded.—German town Telegraph.

COLORS AND DYES.

How many of our readers are aware that a great variety of colors and dyes can readily be obtained from common plants? A German writer informs us that this is the case, the method consisting principally in boiling them in water so as to produce a strong decoction. He says: "The well-known huckleberry or blueberry, when boiled down, with the addition of a little alum and a solution of copperas, will develop an excellent blue color. The same treatment, with a solution of nutgalls, produces a clean, dark brown tint; while with alum, verdigris, and sal-ammoniac, various shades of purple and red can be obtained. The fruit of the elder will also produce a blue color when treated with alum. The pivot boiled in a solution of salt will furnish an excellent red color, while the overripe berries yield a scarlet red. The seeds of the common burning-bush, when treated with sal-ammoniac, produce a beautiful purple red; while the juice of the currant, pressed out and mixed with a solution of alum, will furnish a bright red color. The bark treated in the same way produces a brown. Yellow can be obtained from the bark of the apple tree, the box, the ash, the buckthorn, the poplar, elm, etc., when boiled in water and treated with alum. A lively green is furnished by the broom corn, and brownish-green by the gentian."—Hx.

The Apiary.

OLD-TIME CUSTOMS.

Scientific "beeologists" have in general terms denounced the old time-honored custom of ringing bells, blowing horns, rattling old pans, &c., to get swarming bees to settle. They have assigned it a place alongside of the superstitious peculiarities of old fogies. And I am myself somewhat skeptical, having but little faith in the custom. Theory is one thing, and practical experience another. The mere theorist often sneers the loudest at supposed absurdities. I have a kind of experimental nature about me, so much so that I am sometimes found trying things that look superstitious. Consequently I have been simple enough to try the old tin-pan expedient of inviting bees to come down and tarry with me. The first attempt was in this wise:—One day while in my garden at work, my attention was attracted by a large swarm of bees, coming from some unknown quarter, and passing immediately over my head. Having been "on the brain," I immediately set out in hot pursuit, and in a very unceremonious manner beat double quick as I ran. After a hot race I came up with the fugitives, and if ever a tin pan made music that one did. No sooner did I get immediately under the swarm, which was making its way in a bee line across an old field for a skirt of woods, than I discovered they began to scatter and seemingly became confused; many came down and swarmed round me, and soon I had the satisfaction of seeing them hanging in a beautiful cluster on the projecting root of an old chestnut tree that had been blown down. I soon had them stowed away in my driving box, by which means I carried them home, put them in a patent hive, and they have done remarkably well.

The next season I had timely notice of a swarm coming directly toward my house.—When I first saw them they were above the tops of the tall forest trees, seemingly bent on going somewhere. As they came up I was ready with the tin pan, and saluted them as best I knew how. A few minutes after asking them to stop, they did so, settling on a large tree near by. The tree was three feet in diameter, the day was very hot, but there being a swarm of bees up that tree, I went for it.—Luckily it fell in such a manner as not to kill many of the bees. I soon had them in a hive and at work for me.

Now, if there is nothing but superstition in that custom, it is a little singular that those fugitive swarms should come down just as they did. May it not be true that the queen, or those bees that lead swarms, make a peculiar noise, as a signal for the rest to follow? Now, if that sound be drowned by some foreign noise, it follows that the swarm becomes confused and scattered, so that the queen settles to gather her disorganized forces. I should like to hear the subject ventilated.—Cor. Bee-Keep. Jour.

Feeding Bees in September.—Before the close of this month says the Bee-Keepers' Journal, the bee pasturage in some localities begins to fail. If there are any weak colonies, then is the time to feed, unite, or strengthen them from other hives. If they are to be fed, one pound of honey given them now is worth more to them than two or three, after the weather gets colder. We have had less experience than others in feeding, yet by way of experiment, we kept colonies building comb until November, by feeding diluted honey and sugar syrup. Care must be taken not to feed too much at a time, and to examine lest they store it too near the center of the hive, where they should cluster. If they put it here, it is time to stop supplies for a while.

REMEDY FOR SPRAINS.

I send you a recipe for the cure of sprains. It is a liniment and composed of the following ingredients—Oil stone, 1 oz.; oil of spike, 1 oz.; oil seneca, 1 oz.; sp. camphor, 1 oz. Mix well and rub the part sprained well with liniment. Pour some on a piece of flannel and rap it carefully around the sprain. It has been thoroughly tested, and is a sure cure for all sprains of the ankle, wrist or any like place. It is also good for horses and cattle. The druggists sometimes say the different oils composing it are one and the same, but be assured they are not and give a fair trial.—D. T. R., Pittsburg Pa.

A Great Work.—Many a discouraged mother folds her tired hands at night, and feels as if she had, after all done nothing, although she has not spent an idle moment since she rose. Is it nothing that your little helpless children have had some one to come to with all their childish griefs and joys? Is it nothing that your husband feels "when he is away to his business, because your careful hand directs everything at home? Is it nothing when his business is over, that he the blessed refuge of home, which you have that day done your best to brighten and refine? O, weary, faithful mother, you little know your power when you say "I have done nothing." There is a book in which a fairer record than this is written over against your name.