

seed will not, except in rare instances, germinate in dry ground; and thus the poor thing, as we would say of it, if it were animal life, has to be satisfied to grow in places where only its seeds will sprout.

The Rhododendron is exactly in the same case. The seed is so minute, and slow in its germinating power, that out in the open places they would dry and burn up with the first warm sun. Only the deep shaded recesses of the forest, or amidst the continued moist but not wet moss, or bark of logs in open swamps, is it possible for it to exist. It grows there not because it likes to, or because it is best for it to be there, but by the inexorable law of necessity, which gives it no better chance.

All these things are very apparent to those who have observed these plants growing in woods, and in proper ground in the full sun. There is no comparison of the wood ones, with the health and beauty of those in the full light and air.

But the roots of the Rhododendron are finer than the finest hair, and grow thickly matted together, requiring a great amount of moisture for their subsistence. Hence, if placed in ground that will become hot in summer, or will speedily dry out in drouth, they will not do well there.

It is well known that our American Rhododendrons are the pride and glory of English gardens,—but even there, notwithstanding their humid atmosphere, which does not allow the soil ever to dry as it does here, the English have to prepare the soil to grow these plants to great success. This they do by digging out the natural soil, and filling in with soft spongy turfy peat or bog soil, which they often have to bring many miles for the purpose.

We must also make our soil for them here in most cases; but this is done with no more trouble than is required for any garden crop. One of the best plans is that first described by us in the "Gardener's Monthly," and which has been found after four years' trial, an admirable plan, proving effectual in the stiffest soil. That is, to dig out 20 inches or two feet, and fill in with a few inches of brush-wood, then soil, then brushwood, and so on, until the whole is finished. The mass will be a foot above the level of the ground or more; and in time will find its own level with the surface. On this mass they grow wonderfully well, and it takes very little trouble to make up. Those who have soil which naturally neither cakes nor dries, need do nothing with them further; but care must be taken not to plant on wet ground. The "Naturalist" may say that the Rhododendron grows in swamps and wet rocks; but pay no heed to this. The truth is,

as we said, that though found there, they will thank those who put them in dryer but not dry places.

The seed of the Rhododendron is like fine dust, and requires some care to raise. They have to be sown on the surface of the soil, and the box which contains them placed somewhere in the open air, where the soil will hardly become dry, and where they will be protected from the drip of trees or heavy rains. The growth of plants from seed is very slow for two or three years; but after that their progress is more rapid, and in about six years they will, under favorable circumstances, flower.

Plants from the woods grow very well when cut back freely. New buds will break anywhere from the old stems, so that the ugliest looking stump will make a good plant.

Layering is often employed. The young, strong shoots are taken when half or two-thirds mature—about July—and tongued on the upper surface, and bent into rich soil. They will root the same year, but hardly well enough to separate from the mother plant before the second season. It is worthy of note, that the slitting of the layer on the upper surface, instead of the lower, as always recommended by writers, until the "Gardener's Monthly" first taught the contrary, was suggested to the writer of this while layering Rhododendrons. It is almost impossible to follow the regular book plan of layering by cutting underneath, in the case of the Rhododendron, as they will snap off when bent down. When cut on the upper surface they will not break.

Grafting is practised by those who would perpetuate the finer varieties, distinct by themselves. There are many ways of doing this: each propagator having his own idea of what is the best to be done. But a very good idea is to have a few three-year-old seedlings, in four or five inch pots, and when the growth is about two-thirds mature, whip-graft a scion of about the same degree of maturity, on this part. It is very essential to have the grafted plants in some very close, warm place for a few weeks, so as to check much of the evaporation from the leaves, otherwise the scions will dry up before the union takes place.

Grafted or layered plants are of course much more expensive than seedlings. They are valued by those who would have the very choicest collections; but the cheaper seedlings are good enough for all ornamental purposes.

The *Rhododendron* takes its name from two Greek words, which signifies "Rose tree;" and next to the Rose itself, there are few flowers more worthy of bearing its name than this. Our own *Rhododendron catawbiense*, has particular right to

the name, for amongst its flowers are produced almost every shade of color, rivaling the Rose in abundance and beauty.

The *Catawba Rhododendron* grows dwarfier than the *R. maximum*, and has far more change of color. It abounds in South Carolina and Georgia; while the *R. maximum* is found chiefly in the Northern States. The most usual forms of *R. maximum* have the flowers of purple shades; but along the Alleghenies, down to the Virginia line, is a dwarf form with white flowers, or more shaded with rose, which is particularly beautiful, but which we have not seen anywhere in cultivation.—*The Gardener's Monthly*.

IMPORTED STOCK.

THE thorough-bred registered BULLS, imported and owned by the County Agricultural Society, will be placed for the season as below:—

DARLING, Jersey, 1371, A. J. C. H. R., at Benjamin Goudey's, Brooklyn.

PLANTAGENET, Jersey, 2074, A. J. C. H. R., at Elenkm Killam's, west side of first pond.

BARON OF LEE FARM, Short Horn, at Jefferson Corning's, Chegoggin.

PRINCE CHARLIE, Ayrshire, 1220, C. R., at A. Lovitt's, Fletcher Farm.

Fee \$1.00, payable at time of service. The above are all fine animals, in good condition, and will get valuable stock.

If those who wish to sell the calves next spring will leave their names with the several keepers, purchasers can in most cases be obtained at a fair price, say \$5.00 to \$15.00, according to age of calf.

THOMAS B. CROSBY,
Sec'y Y. C. Ag. Society.

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"DOMINION SPLENDOR."

INTENDING stock raisers will please take notice that this well-known STOCK HORSE may be found for the present at APPLE TREE HILL, Milton. This Horse has been long enough in the County to prove himself to be a FIRST CLASS HORSE for general use, and any one noticing the *fine condition* he is in at present, and looking at the work he has done for the past six months, cannot fail to say that he is just what is wanted for a STOCK HORSE. We don't claim that he ever trotted in 2.40 or less, although it might be done and come as near the truth as it does in some of the Stock Horse advertisements that may be seen; we do claim for him, however, that he is as good a Roadster as can be found.

Terms—Single service \$5, cash down; Season \$8, cash or note; Insure a foal \$12, \$4 down at time of service, balance when mare proves with foal.

JAMES W. OLIVE,
Or, Groom in charge.

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The JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE

—is published monthly by—

A. & W. MACKINLAY,

No. 10, GRANVILLE STREET,

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:

Fifty cents per annum—payable in advance.
Single copy five cents.