

COAL TAR AS AN INSECTICIDE.—Mr P. Bennett says in the *Gardeners' Monthly*, that this is a valuable insecticide, and that a valuable powder may be made by running a quantity into a pile of fine sand, until the sand takes up all it will absorb. This powder may be kept for years without losing its value. Shaken over the floor of the poultry-house, no vermin will remain to annoy the fowls. It will drive away

the squash bug and any other species of hymenoptera in short order. It should not, however, be applied to the leaves of the plants.

APHIS ON CHRYSANTHEMUMS.—We have tried Persian Insect Powder for this pest with good results; but the most approved method of destroying them is by use of tobacco smoke, if in a closed place, or tobacco water syringed upon the leaves.

QUESTION DRAWER.

Best Use of a Border.

16. Can you tell me what is the best use to make of a border about 5 or 6 feet wide on the west side of a stone wall running north and south and about 8 or 9 feet high? An answer through the *HORTICULTURIST* will do.
—DERFLA.

WITHOUT seeing the border, or knowing the kind of soil, the question is a difficult one to answer. We would recommend grape vines planted eight or ten feet apart in a row down the middle of the border, or dwarf pear trees similarly planted.

Strawberry Leaves Curling Up.

17. What is the cause of my Sharpless and Crescent Seedling leaves curling up and becoming dry? They look as if an insect had sucked the sap from them.—J. C. GILMAN, *Fredericton, N.B.*

WE could not give any reliable answer without seeing samples of the affected leaves.

The Northern Spy.

18. Is the Northern Spy a highly colored apple? I have some but they do not color much. Would our short seasons prevent them from coloring. My trees are thrifty and hardy; well pruned and thinned in the top. I should like to grow more of them, if they made a better appearance.—J. C. G., *Fredericton, N.B.*

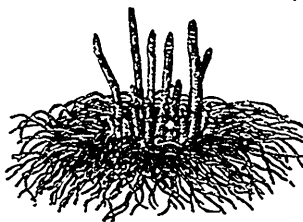
WITH us in Southern Ontario, the Northern Spy takes on beautifully rich shades of purplish red under favorable

conditions. That is, it must be allowed to hang later than most other varieties, and needs plenty of sunshine. In the shade, they lack color, and on poor soil the fruit is imperfect and knotty. We would suppose the Spy rather tender for New Brunswick, and that such fine, hardy varieties as Wealthy, Winter St. Lawrence, and Scott's Winter would give you greater satisfaction.

Asparagus.

19. Please tell me how to manure and cultivate asparagus when the bed is 3 or 4 years old, without disturbing the roots, or does it make any difference?—A. J. C., *Listowel, Ont.*

REPLY BY J. A. BRUCE, HAMILTON, ONT.



ASPARAGUS.

I WOULD advise "Subscriber," about the middle of October to clean off all the dead stalks and weeds from his asparagus bed, and top-dress very liberally with old rotten manure, and leave for the winter. As early as the ground can be worked in the spring, give an