

RURAL AND SUBURBAN

ROSE PRUNING

By James Simpson

In the *Colonist* of February 13 there is an article on the above subject by E. A. Wallace, criticizing a previous article of mine on the same subject. To take his article seriously, he says the climate of the east of Scotland is very different from Victoria, and so it is, in so far as it is much colder and the spring frosts far more severe than here. I remember once calling at Crawford Priory, the seat of the Earl of Glasgow, in Fifeshire, about the first of July, and telling the head gardener that I was sorry I could not compliment him on his rose garden, which was looking wretched. He said it was, but he couldn't tell the reason. I said the reason was easy to see, it being that he had pruned too late and bled them. He admitted pruning them first a week in May and had previously pruned them on all dates through April, but never before the first of April. Results always a fiasco, as they will be to any one here who takes Mr. Wallace's advice, to prune after their plants are well started. Any practical man of any sense would see that to cut over any plant after the sap is in full swing must be injurious to it. No one with a knowledge of structural botany and the circulation of the sap would do it to any tree. Mr. Wallace mentions Ben Cant of Colchester. The writer knew him and his firm well, they growing about 250,000 roses per annum. Notwithstanding that fact, what was it, except late pruning on their part, that enabled the writer in July, 1896-July 2, at Croydon, in Surrey, to take first prize for 12 any rose, eleven competitors; July 3, at Editham, in Kent, first for 48 roses and the medal for the best rose in show? B. R. Cant & Sons were at both shows, and though the writer had 600 miles to bring his roses, he had no difficulty in beating all the crack English growers the same year on July 8. He beat the English champions at Newcastle-on-Tyne six times in one day, and at Helensburgh, in Scotland, next day. July 9 beat the Scotch and Irish growers six times. The writer for these two shows made eleven entries and had eleven first prizes. It is comparatively easy for Scottish rose growers to beat English growers in August or September, but the case is quite different in the first half of July. Victoria rose growers therefore will better take the advice of a man who has studied the subject and knows what he is talking about, rather than that of any timid, antiquated twaddler, of whom there are hundreds writing to the papers daily, but who are simply writing what they have heard somebody else say.

Before January's severe frost of 1909 I pruned a charming lady's roses in Victoria. She was, and is yet, a great lover of roses, and as I had pruned her roses hard and gave no protection whatever, she was in a great state about them, and wrote me specially about that fine rose Frau Karl Druschki, which she said was dead, and she was sure if I had not pruned it so hard and given it some protection it would have lived. Notwithstanding her terrors, it came through all right, grew splendidly and is now a much better plant than when I saw it in December, 1908. By pruning late and over-watering, a great many, indeed the majority, of the roses in Victoria are made poor, sickly plants, and always will be till a sensible, rational system of treatment is accorded them. My own roses last year stood a three months' journey from Europe, got no protection, were hard pruned, stood the spring frosts without damage, and the blooms were a treat. I was told by lovers of roses at the rose show; my Marechal Niel even all summer doing splendidly.

I don't agree with Mr. Wallace, that Esquimalt roses can be pruned any earlier than James Bay. I know both districts well, and their capabilities that way, and would say prune both districts at the same time, say from the middle of December to the first of February.

HARDY SHRUBS

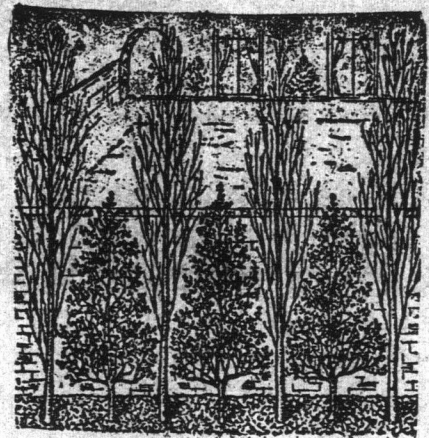
A common cause for regret with those who entertain ambitious views of ornamental gardening is that in the formation of shrubberies, and in the general planting of evergreens in borders and forecourts, the resources of gardening are, generally speaking, so little understood. Everywhere the old laurels, acacias, tree box, and hollies are used abundantly, and though they are really noble objects when judiciously grouped and skilfully treated, the extensive choice of high-class ornamental shrubs now available for similar purposes seems to be scarcely known, and little is seen outside the ordinary round of old-fashioned evergreens except in grounds where gardening is carried out with ardor and intelligence. So many new and beautiful shrubs have been introduced of late years that it is time this department of amateur gardening underwent a complete reform. Not that our good old friends should be abolished, but rather that they should be made more effective and acceptable, by being blended with subjects of a more gay appearance. If we thus obtain all the requisites of hardiness, free growth, and dense and often vivid foliage, together with a seasonal show of cheerful bloom, a grand step towards the improvement of garden scenery, in which hardy shrubs play an important part, will have been gained. Here are the names of a few beautiful shrub-like plants—some evergreen, other deciduous—which display their favors either in foliage, flowers, or color of bark through the winter or early in the spring months:
Berberis, of sorts; *Corylopsis spicata*, *Olearia*, *Haastii*, *Skimmia japonica*, *Elaeagnus pungens aerea*, *Garrya elliptica*, *Choisya ternata*, *Lonicera fragrantissima*, *Forsythia suspensa*, *Cydonia japonica*, *Caesalpinia japonica*, *Golden privet*, *Hamamelis*, of sorts; *Cornus*, of

sorts; *Daphne*, of sorts; *Spiraea Thunbergii*, *Chimonanthus fragrans*, *Andromeda*, *Rhododora canadensis*, *Photinia serrulata*, *Magnolia stellata*, *Cistus cyprus*, *Erica arborea*, *Coronilla glauca*.

Then there are the flowering almonds, peaches, plums, cherries, currants, and the pretty double-flowered gorse.

It is unfortunate that very few hardy shrubs are in bloom during January, and the number is still further reduced when only those in the open ground are taken into consideration, as any kinds that may flower on a wall will not do so thus early in the year without such protection. A foremost place must be given to the Japanese witch hazel (*Hamamelis japonica*). At the present time the still leafless branches are studded thickly with the peculiar yellow, octopus-like blossoms. If a spray is cut just as the earliest are expanding, they will continue to open out in water, and last a long time, so that they may be made attractive indoors. The perfume, though not powerful, may be detected for some little distance. The witch hazel is quite hardy, and should a sharp frost cut off the expanded blossoms, the buds will be uninjured, and a few mild days will soon restore the plant to its original beauty. The laurustinus blooms more or less continuously throughout the winter, while the mezeron (*daphne mezereum*) flowers from the middle or end of January onward; in fact, one variety—*autumnalis* or *grandiflora*—blooms before Christmas. The other forms, beside the common kind, are *alba* and *rubra*. *Erica codonodes*, one of the larger heaths, will, where slightly sheltered, be plentifully covered with bell-shaped blossoms, white, but tinged with pink. The little winter heath, too, is now in flower; it is the *Erica carnea*, that grows about 6 inches high, and is well suited as a rock plant, or as an edging to the larger-growing members of the same genus. Besides the bright-colored blossoms of the ordinary form, there is a white-flowered variety, *Chimonanthus fragrans* and its large-flowered variety will, on a sunny wall, be studded with curious cup-shaped blossoms, which emit a delightful perfume when cut in spikes—indeed,

are grown on the Continent, because foreigners so greatly appreciate their beauty and gracefulness, and a constant demand is thus created. Nurserymen, alive to their own interest, build houses expressly for their culture, and raise them from seed by the thousand. Belgium supplies large quantities, and even sends them to the Paris market, which is already well stocked from its home supply. Such



A reader wishes to know how he can hide an ugly brick wall with trees at the bottom of his garden, preferably something that will grow tall. I would suggest black poplars and pyramid hollies, and, if needful, cover the bricks with ivy.

species, as *corypha Australis*, *chamoerops excelsa*, *gentia Balmoreana*, *latanua borbonica*, *areca lutescens*, *cocos weddelliana*, those illustrated, and many others are sold there and in the London markets at very moderate prices. Who, then, would be without a palm or two in their houses?

Why Palms Die

A common practice with many, on receiving a palm from the nursery, is to pot it immediately into a larger pot and to give a different soil from that to which it has been accustomed, before even studying its proper wants or the time of year it came to hand. May is the best month in which to apply additional food to palms; and July and August are the best months for getting them from any distance. If procured now they must not be repotted. It is surprising how much the more robust kinds will endure in the way of cold or heat, dust, draughts from open windows, and gas-heated air. Such treatment, however, soon tells on the more delicate species, and should in all cases be avoided. Although palms are so tenacious of life, when they once begin to go there is no stopping them. In taking them from the greenhouse of a reliable nurseryman we may feel safe, and this is the best way of buying them. To patronize hawkers' barrows or small greengrocers is exceedingly risky. Too often the plants sent to market have been brought on in heat, which, while getting them forward quickly, weakens them, and if not sufficiently cooled down unfits them for the atmosphere of a room. Well-grown palms do not die except from accident or some other cause easily explained.

The soil best adapted for the cultivation of the palm is a mixture of turfy loam and peat, with a little sharp sand, care being taken to afford plenty of drainage, as nothing is more injurious than stagnant water around their roots. It is very necessary to keep the foliage perfectly free from dust and grime by cleaning the under as well as the upper side of the leaves with a damp sponge at least once a week.—Donald McDonald, F.L.S.

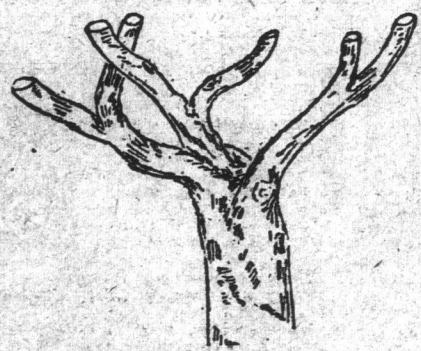
THE BUSY BEE

Every spring reports from all parts of the country tell of extensive losses of bees.

No colony should be considered safe unless it has stored in the combs at least twenty-five pounds of honey and sealed most of it over.

The arrangement of this food is a matter of some importance, for if the bees are crowded upon a few frames, and fed liberally, they will fill every available cell with syrup, and they will be compelled to cluster during the winter upon sealed combs instead of upon empty cells, as is more natural, and having stores above and around.

With the movable comb hive the arrangement for the combs is a simple matter. If feeding is continued up to the middle of Sep-



A fruit tree headed back, ready for grafting.

tember, and the proper amount of food is then given, the bees will arrange it around the brood (which gradually diminishes by the bees hatching) convenient for their comfort and need.

If the combs are arranged by the beekeeper, the centre one should have sealed stores about halfway down, the amount of stores increasing to the outside of the brood-nest.

Bees often starve in the midst of plenty. They winter in lots, called seams, between the combs, and may be called packed like slate upon a house roof, the top row removing the food from the cells above them to feed themselves and to pass it down to those below.

While the weather remains mild, the bees are able to move about from comb to comb in search of food, or with the object of bringing to the centre combs food stored in the outer frames.

But this activity ceases as soon as really cold weather sets in, and they then pack themselves close together for mutual warmth. When the food around them is consumed, they die, simply on account of the cold air by which they are surrounded; they cannot pass around or under the frames to a probable abundant supply close by.

Though they are prevented from going around or under the frames, a provision may be made for allowing them to pass over the top bar into the warmest part of the hive. This is done by giving what are known as winter passages.

The old method, now almost discarded, was to cut a hole through the comb in each frame near the top bar. A more effective passage could hardly be devised, but apart from spoiling the combs it is a tiresome and troublesome operation, and is therefore not recommended.

A simple plan is to lay across the top bars four pieces of wood half an inch square and about six inches long, half an inch apart. If the quilts are then evenly laid across; effective passages for the bees will be provided.

Then, again, a cake of candy laid upon the frames when closing up the hives in October will be equally satisfactory, for passages will be formed as the candy is consumed over the bars.

The necessity for conserving the heat in the brood chamber is evident, and the importance of double walls and covering of non-conductive materials is recognized. But as a preliminary to packing the bees up snugly for their winter rest, the size of the brood-nest should be limited to the size of the cluster.

For instance, if there are only enough bees

HOW GEESE ARE FATTENED

The following method of fattening is adopted by the English good farmers: Geese in good condition should be shut up in a quiet place, shaded from light, where they cannot see other geese at liberty, and should be kept there from twenty to twenty-five days. It is beneficial to let them out for about fifteen to thirty minutes the first thing in the morning and again in the evening about dusk. The meals they get should be nutritious and a mixture of barley meal, wheat meal, a little cornmeal and boiled potatoes given twice a day is good. About the last ten or twelve days it is advisable to mix a little finely chopped rough fat with the meal. This has the effect of plumping them up, rendering their flesh much more palatable. A trough of clear water should be supplied the birds after the evening meal.

CARE OF CREAM ON THE FARM

The ultimate destination of our cream is, as a rule, the butter churn. This must be kept in view, whether the farmer intends to make the butter on his own farm or send his cream away. A point of primary importance in grading butter is flavor, and it is a well known, though often little-appreciated, fact that the care of the cream is the chief factor influencing the flavor. Therefore, if the farmer can produce first, second or third grade cream, according to the care he bestows upon it, surely cream of the lowest grade ought never to appear at a creamery or elsewhere.

It has been said that the public will always pay for quality. The market was never yet over-stocked with a first grade product. It is the material of inferior value that stagnates prices. Let the farmer produce the cream which will yield the highest returns, and that is first grade cream. To do this he must keep a close watch on it from the time it comes from the cow. Yes, some care even is necessary before the cream is drawn. We all know the injurious effect which the feeding of certain crops, such as potatoes, turnips, etc., sometimes has on the flavor of milk, cream and butter. In every case avoid feeds that show this tendency.

The watchword in all dairy operations should be cleanliness. Dirt should never be countenanced, since it is the home of myriads of bacteria. Every particle of dust floating about in the air carries bacteria; every crevice in the dirty utensil has them by the thousands. Many of them are harmless in every way. Some kinds, such as tuberculosis and typhus bacilli, are very dangerous to human health. A great many more turn cream sour. Some bacteria are of great value to numerous branches of the dairy industry, but the man who desires to deliver his cream in good condition must look upon them all as enemies. He must, as far as possible, keep the milk and cream and the bacteria separate to prevent disease, contamination and fermentation. And, now, how is this to be done?

First of all, fodder the cattle some time before or else after milking, but never while the operation is in progress. Foddering raises a great deal of dust, part of which, with its load of bacteria, will eventually fall into the milk. The cows, especially the udder and the parts bordering upon it, the milker's hands, the milk pails and the stable should all be as clean as possible.

Immediately after the milk comes from the cow it should be put through the separator, as it is a fact that separation is more complete at body heat than at a cooler temperature. A separator is not properly looked after is a source of many disagreeable taints. Take it apart every time after use and clean it thoroughly and finish cleaning with boiling water or steam, if possible.

The cream from the separator should be cooled at once to 50 degrees and lower if feasible, as low temperatures limit the growth of bacteria.

Most farmers have a supply of running water or have arrangements such as pumps and windmills for obtaining a regular flow. Many farms have a reservoir or tank into which water is regularly pumped and from which it can flow through pipes to different points where required. One pipe could lead into the tank in the milk room.

Here the farmer can set the vessels containing the cream in such a manner that no water can gain entrance. On one side of the tank there should be an overflow pipe, and a continual stream of fresh, cold water should run through this tank. The overflow pipe carries the superfluous supply away. This water may be used for stock, and the best plan is to have your milk tank fixed so that all the water pumped runs through it. Cream kept under these conditions will remain sweet in the extreme heat of summer for a considerable time.

There is no other farm product so susceptible to bad odors as cream. Cream kept in rooms where bad odors are noticeable soon absorbs these, and they are transmitted to the butter.

Bad air has an undesirable effect. Keep the milk room sweet, well ventilated, clean and have plenty of light and fresh air in it. Never take cream into the living rooms, even for a short time. Don't allow people with infectious diseases to handle the milk or to come into the dairy. Cool the fresh cream to 50 degrees F. before mixing with older cream.

Let the farmer adopt "Cleanliness, Care and Low Temperature" as his motto and then only high quality material will be produced.

A man begins to die as soon as he lowers his ideals.

Importance of Tree Spraying

As has come when tree one of the most important things to do in fruit production is the production of good fruit. In years gone farmers were satisfied to produce fruit with much attention to the care of the trees. Today it is not only the farmer but the marketer of his fruit, to clean fruit, or in other from scab, etc., but it has become a compulsory spray the wise he is running the fruit orders, or having down, simply because of the full of disease and spread to neighboring orchards this before you, naturally on the look-out for a reliable one, that you are no risk of destroying when using it. A few W. J. Pendray & Sons, ent a considerable amount in making a lime and suitable for this work, fortunate in producing a fulfilled every requirement, that it is heartily endorsed official inspector of fruiting the season of 1909 this extensively throughout the with exceptionally gratify. The demand created merits, necessitated the much larger plant in the large number of ordered daily, so that Pendray's Sphur solution can be had at a very short notice. We are in receipt of from prominent farmers of British Columbia.

It is Said About Pendray's Sphur Solution by Independent Fruit Growers.
Week, B. C., Feb. 14, 1910.
Pendray, B. C.

pendray:—
to your inquiry re your Sphur Solution Spray, you is in 1909 on trials (leaves, trees, etc., beg to report on first application of your Sphur Spray was applied by "Motor Pump", again the same operation and used the same King Apple Lime & Sulphur with a none. I sent King Apple with report back that were as fine and clean as from all B. C. Further, if my neighbors would use Sphur Spray as I have scale and fungus would appear. Therefore, I have in recommending your Sphur to all fruit growers in British Columbia, adding it must thoroughly with a good result if possible, and as is.

testimony from a Mr. J. adjoining neighbor, a heat grower, not a fruit willing to try.
as ever faithfully,
H. KIPP.

Lime & Sulphur Solution to test over 32 degrees, a. Don't experiment with any, said to be the same, or just as good as Pendray's Spray has been tested, and during the season gave the highest satisfaction B. C. The above testimony one of hundreds which every month. Pendray's Sphur Solution is sold by all hardware Dealers.

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