

HORTICULTURE.

(Under this heading all questions relating to flowers or horticulture will be answered.)

HOPS.

I SHOULD like to call the attention of our readers to this valuable crop. No doubt many have read the favorable reports that have lately been written on the quality of British Columbia hops. I was a grower of hops in Worcestershire, England, for fourteen years, and regularly attended the hop fairs. I was well acquainted with the principal hop merchants and brewers, and handled many American samples, and my views on them were that they were inferior to the English, so that I was astonished to find here in British Columbia such fine hops, in my opinion, equal to Kent Goldings and Worcestershire Matrons, which are the finest hops grown in the Old Country. Here, then, is a field open for enterprise, and it is astonishing that so many who own the most valuable land for this crop should allow it to remain uncultivated, when it might be made to yield a fortune. I have planted fruit trees in many acres of hop yards, and found the trees did better than planted any other way—usually ploughing up the hops the seventh year, by which time the trees had become a valuable orchard. Hops should be planted from cuttings, though many prefer yearling roots, which often yield eight hundred weight the first season. A good hop yard will yield 2,000 to 3,000 lbs. of hops per acre and last for many years, if properly cultivated. Poles cost me in England 30s to 40s a hundred. Here they can be had for very little—a considerable advantage in hop growing. Land for hop growing should be prepared at once for planting early next year.

KITCHEN GARDEN.

The main crop of carrots may now be sown.

Beets should be sown at the end of the month.

Peas may be sown every twelve days. Stake the earliest crop before they double over.

Celery may yet be sown for main crop. Plants pricked out in frames or other protection with a few inches of rotten manure and two inches of soil over the surface of it, is a good preparation for celery.

Radishes are easily injured by frosts, so I should advise slight protection for some time yet—a few fir boughs answer the purpose.

Early frames that are now being emptied will be useful for French Beans or Vegetable Marrows, Gourds, or Ridge Cucumbers, if the same have been in a high, moist temperature, care must be used in hardening them off—hand lights are most useful for this purpose.

Asparagus seed may be sown.

Keep the ground moved by constant hoeing.

Lawns must be constantly mown with the machine and verges trimmed.

J. W. WEBB.

Fern Hill, Boleskine Road, April 19.

In an open letter to the fruit growers of Washington, President C. P. Wilcox, Norton Yakima, reviews the great benefit as resulting from the convention recently held at Spokane, and says: "Washington, as well as the other states there represented, may well feel proud of the commendations showered by our eastern visitors upon the fruits exhibited there, and heartily thankful for the rate reductions and shipping facilities promised by officials of transportation departments of railroads on which we depend for access to markets. To a thinking man these are but straws which point to a future full of promise to those who avail themselves of the highly favorable conditions of soil and climate with which this state is blessed." In order to secure the greatest mutual benefit through united action, President Wilcox urges the necessity of organizing local societies. Minor details will be carried out in connection with the work which will have for their object the best method for obtaining for the members the greatest returns for money and labor invested, and the small producer will find himself more in need of such assistance than the larger growers. The closest possible connection between the producer and consumer will be made, and as full information as possible, as to the condition of supply and demands of the markets, will be sought and given to shippers. We also have reasonable assurance says the president, that arrangements will be made with the different railroads whereby local branches of this association will receive the benefit of carload rates, providing a car be filled among the different societies along one line of road. The membership fee to be allied with the Northwestern Fruit Growers Association, is one dollar. To become members direct correspond either with W. S. Offner, Walla Walla, Wn., or A. Clarke, Salem, Oregon."

FRUIT LAND.

We have several 5-acre blocks of land well adapted for growing large and small fruits, three to four miles from the city on good roads. Some of these blocks are all cleared and fenced, with residence and out buildings all ready for the planter to set out his orchard. Now is the time to take advantage of low prices, and the season to plant out your trees.

Winnett & Cooper,

18 TROUNCE AVENUE.

WANTED

This coming season from 200 to 500 tons fruit. All varieties.

The Okell & Morris Fruit Preserving Co

J. W. WEBB,
Gardener.

Open to engagement in all branches by the day or hour. Apply FERN HILL, BOLESKINE ROAD, or to Winnett & Cooper, 18 Trounce Ave.

Important to those wanting Nursery Stock

Having entered into an arrangement with the proprietors of this journal to open a cultural and floral department, and, at the same time, to do away with the existing prices paid for fruit trees and bushes and of all kinds, which have always been considered an obstacle to the planting of orchards to extent in British Columbia, and, further, has been detrimental in the settling up of country, and, at the same time, one of the strongest arguments we have had to contend with in the sale of fruit lands.

Right here on Vancouver Island exist possible natural conditions for a great diversity of fruit growing—apples, pears, cherries, prunes, gooseberries, currants, raspberries, strawberries and blackberries grow better than in California. They ripen later in season, true enough, but ours is a better specimen, especially the prune, which grows twice the size of the California raised prune. It has more meat in comparison to the stone, would advise the growing of the prune, what money can be made out of a small orchard is astonishing, and there is no danger of glutting the market. If all available land on Vancouver Island was planted out in prunes it would not commence to supply the needs of Canada.

By arrangement with the largest nursery in Oregon, and more especially a firm noted for delivery of stock true to name, place in a position to deliver any of the following trees at Victoria, duty and freight paid:

Apples	2 yrs, 4 to 6 ft, per 100	12 cts
Pears	2 yrs, 4 to 6 ft, per 100	10 cts
Peaches	2 yrs, 4 to 6 ft, per 100	16 cts
Cherries	2 yrs, 4 to 6 ft, per 100	17 cts
Plums	2 yrs, 4 to 6 ft, per 100	18 cts
Prunes	2 yrs, 4 to 6 ft, per 100	15 cts
Apricots	2 yrs, 4 to 6 ft, per 100	10 cts
Crabapples	2 yrs, 4 to 6 ft, per 100	15 cts
Nectarines	2 yrs, 4 to 6 ft, per 100	20 cts
Quinces	2 yrs, 4 to 6 ft, per 100	22 cts

Special rates on quantities of 1,000. Berries, grapes, evergreens, nut trees and ornamental trees. Prices of same on application.

WINNETT & COOPER,

18 TROUNCE AVENUE, Victoria, B. C.

Wanted IN SEASON.

50 tons Cucumbers and Tomatoes
Due to arrive in March

15 Tons New Maple Syrup and Sugar

Falconer Vinegar and Pickle Works
Fort Street, Victoria, B. C.

USE I. X. L. Compound

For Destroying Insects. Does Not Fail.
Spraying Pumps and Garden Tools for sale

Nicholles & Renouf, L'td., Victoria,

VICTORIA BONE MANURE WORKS

Manufacturers of
GROUND BONE.
As a fertilizer, it has no equal for Floriculture, Horticulture, Agriculture. Make your own manure by feeding ground bone.

Office & Works: Cor. Gov't and Pembroke

LANGLEY & CO., Wholesale Druggists, DEALERS IN

NITRATE OF SODA } Plant
SULPHATE OF AMMONIA } Food.
NITRATE OF POTASH }
SULPHATE OF POTASH }

E. C. PRIOR & CO, L'TD.,

WINDMILLS, INCUBATORS, SPRAY PUMPS, GARDEN TOOLS, LAWN MOWERS, PRUNING TOOLS, ETC.

Victoria, Vancouver, Kamloops