

Two very good silver-leaved plants of this season's introduction are *Centaurea gymnocarpa*, which has leaves very much like the old "Miller's Geranium" (*Cineraria maritima*), as it does not grow so tall that, it is better adapted to some forms of masses. The other is a white leaved, woody but trailing graphalium, also called *gymnocarpum*, but we suspect wrongly named. The large variegated Periwinkle is not much in use, though not amongst the least valuable by any means. It is a good season to think of these things; as wherever this kind of gardening is to be done, six months is little enough to get the plants ready in. The Cannas have done well as bedding plants this summer. In former times they were grown for their pretty leaves chiefly; but now large and early flowered varieties have been produced, which make them showy as well as otherwise interesting.

We think ornamental vines have been too much overlooked in the summer decoration, of grounds. We have seen this summer some remarkably pretty effects from the hybrid Nasturtiums, Cypress vines, Maurandia and other summer vines. There are several new "Morning-glories" of various colors, of which pretty groups could be made, but as these are mostly closed before nine o'clock, they are of no use to city ladies; but are charmingly sweet things for the country girls, who always have the best of everything in life; though not always thinking so. These vines could be arranged on fancy figures, according to colors, and certainly the effects in some parts of the ground would be as striking as that derived from leaf plants.

We gave some hints about flower roots in our last. We may again observe that the planting of spring bulbs, tulips, hyacinths, crocus, snowdrops, fritillarias, lilies, &c., and the transplanting of shrubs, and division of herbaceous plants, will occupy chief attention in October. All herbaceous plants are much better for being protected through winter by a covering of dry leaves, on which a little soil is thrown to keep the leaves from blowing away. Half-hardy roses and vines may be protected in the same way. When they are very long and slender, they are taken down from their trellises, and coiled into circles as small as may be, without risk of breaking them, and then the soil put on. Those things that grow late, such as many kinds of Noisette Roses, should have their mature top shoots shortened a few weeks before the protecting process is commenced. The wound will then heal over, and not cause decay of the upper portion of the shoots, as is very often the case when they are either cut at lying down, or not shortened at all.

Of course, those roots that suffer by frost should be taken up before danger. Gladiolus, Madeira vines, Dahlias, Tuberoses, &c., for instance.

Tree seeds should be either sown or prepared for sowing in the fall. Hard shell seeds require time to soften their coats, or they will lie over a year in the ground. It used to be popular to mix with boxes of sand; but unless there be very few seeds to a very large quantity of sand, the heat given out though perhaps imperceptible to us, is sufficient to generate fungus which will destroy the seed. It is much better to soak the seeds in water, and then dry just enough to keep from moulding, and as cool as possible all winter. This is a much safer plan than sand. In States where the frosts are severe, seedlings of all kinds that have not attained a greater height than six inches, should be taken up, "laid in" in a sheltered place thickly, and covered with any thing that will keep frozen through the winter. If left out, they are liable to be drawn out and destroyed. Young seedling stock received from a distance, should be also treated. In the more Southern States they may be set out at once,—and as much planting as possible be accomplished that will save spring work. Many cuttings will not do well unless taken off at this season and laid in the ground under protection, like seedlings,—the quince, syringas or lilacs, spirea prunifolia, and some others. In the "mild winter States," evergreen cuttings should be made now, and set out thickly in rows. The leaves need not be taken off, but short, thick-set branches laid in the under soil. When rooted next fall they may be taken up and divided into separate plants. In more Northern States, evergreens may not be so struck at this season, unless protected by greenhouses and frames. Where these are at hand, evergreen may be put in, in boxes or pans all through the winter.

#### FRUIT GARDEN.

So general has been the bountiful fruit crop this season, that many will be induced to plant this fall in the hope of having a continuous supply for their families for all time to come. The question, how shall we prepare the ground and plant? will be a very general one. We feel that the advice constantly given to subsoil and under-drain, and manure to the extent of hundreds of dollars per acre is too costly to follow, and of little use after it is taken. If we were going to prepare a piece of ground for an orchard, we should manure it heavily and put in a crop of Potatoes; then in October manure again lightly and put in Rye. On this, in April, we should sow Red Clover. The Rye off, we should then consider it ready to plant trees. For Apples, Pears, Plums or Cherries, we should mark out the rows ten feet apart, and for the trees ten feet from each other. This will be twice as thick as they will be required when fully grown, but they grow much better when thick together; and they will bear more

than enough fruit to pay for the room they occupy, before the time comes to cut every other one away. We say the rows ten feet apart, but every fourth row should be twelve feet to afford room to get between the blocks with a cart.

Plant as early in October as possible, but it can be continued until the approach of frost. To plant, a hole can be dug in the stubble just large enough to hold the roots without cramping them. We should tread in the soil and trim in the head very severely. The next spring we should just break the crust formed by the winter rains about the tree, and then leave everything to grow as it might. The clover will be ready to cut in June or July. The twelve feet rows may be done by machine, the rest by hand. Hay enough will be made to pay for all the labor for one year and a little more. After the hay has been hauled off, bring back some rich earth of any kind, and spread about a quarter or half an inch thick over the surface of the ground disturbed in making the hole. This will keep the grass from growing very strong just over the roots. Keep on this way annually, every two or three years giving the whole surface of the orchard a top dressing for the sake of the grass, and it will be found to be the most profitable way of making the orchard ground pay for itself, until the fruit crops come in, that one can adopt. The trees also will be models of health and vigor, and when they commence to bear will do so regularly and abundantly. This is an epitome of what the *Gardener's Monthly* has taught, opposed as it has been by excellent men of the old school of culture. No one who follows it will ever abandon it for any other. It is costless comparatively, from the first to the last; and pays its way at every step.

The dwarfed fruit tree we would plant on the same system, but six instead of ten feet apart. Few soils are *too wet* for fruit trees. Only in wet soils plant on the surface, and throw up the earth over them from between so as to make a ditch or furrow to carry away the surface water. On the plan of annual surface dressings which we have outlined, the feeding roots will thus always keep above the level of standing water; and when they can do this, it will not hurt the trees though the tap roots are emersed in water for half the year.

#### GREENHOUSE.

The taste for cut flowers is considerably increasing, and one of the greatest demands on a greenhouse in winter, is from the best half of the head of the household for room and table decorations. Beautiful specimen plants are not so highly valued as those which will afford plenty of bloom for cutting. The various kinds of Zonale Geraniums are very good for this purpose: Bouvardia leianth, Calla Ethiopica, Cestrum aurantiacum, Habro-