Garden and Orchard.

How to Grow Evergreens.

BY HORTUS.

To no class of trees are we under such an obligation as to the evergreen family. Our country would be poor, indeed, it it were not that we are possessed of vast forests of pine and cedar, which have in a great measure built up our country. We are still, fortunat :ly, possessed of millions of acres of forestry, but so fast is it disappearing before the axe of the lumberman, that it becomes an important question in the political economy of our country how we should husband our present supply and increase it by replanting. This we will not enter into now at length, but briefly give a few hints respecting the manner of growing and transplanting evergreens; and first the most valuable one for the several purposes of shelter, ornament, &c., is the Norway spruce. This evergreen is pretty well known throughout, having been disseminated by the nurserymen of the States and at home. It is indigenous in Norway, from whence it takes its name, and in northern Europe. Here, amid the mountains and glens, and foaming torrents of the land in which it delights to dwell, it presents from its towering height and graceful proportions a most beautiful appearance. From the abundance of our native pines, and the superiority of the timber, the wood of the Norway spruce will never be of much value here, but in Europe, not so blessed as we are, the wood of the Norway spruce is of considerable value, and is known as white deal to distinguish it from the "red deal" of the Scotch fir.

The main product of the tree is the Burgundy pitch in chemists' shops, and is nothing more than the hardened sap or resin, melted and clarified by boiling in water. We do not imagine that it will ever become an article of commerce. The Norway spruce is exceedingly hardy and a very rapid grower. It germinates easily from seeds, which it produces abundantly in cones like others of the fir tribe. In Canada here it would not pay to grow from seeds in small quantities. Large growers even find it less expensive to import from the nurseries of Great Britain. Thousands are thus annually imported, and it would well pay the farmer to invest a few hundred dollars in an enterprise of this sort. The time for ordering them would be from the middle of January to the middle of February. This time is necessary to allow the nurseryman time to assort and select the orders sent him, so as to have all ready for shipping to Canada from the 1st to the middle of March. The plants to be ordered should be twice transplanted; they are furnished at a price so low as to cause surprise how it could pay for labor. They are packed in large crates in dry moss. They arrive usually in fine condition. They should be unpacked, and if the ground will permit should be trenched in layers thinly, tramping the earth firmly, and giving all a good watering. The young tops should be protected from the night frosts and bleak winds we have in spring, till the weather becomes mild and warm. Planting may be deferred till the middle of May. The Norway spruce succeeds in all good soils, but seemingly thrives better in those moderately stiff. The ground should be prepared as for growing roots and well enriched. Great care should be taken not to allow any manure near the roots. And here allow us to say that all we have said in reference to procuring young plants of the Norway spruce, the care necessary on reception of same and the mode of planting, will equally apply to all other evergreens that we can grow here, such as Austrian pines, Scotch and Swiss pines, Nordmann's spruce, cedars and larch, and all other kinds of the pine sub-family, and cedar hardy enough for cultivation in Canada. A cloudy day should be selected to commence planting, but if the weather is hot and sunny, a little extra care in keeping from the sun will be all that's necessary. The roots should be dipped in thick mud and kept moist all the time; dig the trench about six inches deep and place the plants a foot apart; be sure and tread the soil in firmly. As to the manner of planting expeditiously, we refer our reader to article on the Berberry, appearing in the ADVOCATE for March. Have the rows about two feet apart; here the plants may remain for say two or three years, when each alternate row may be removed, thus leaving remaining rows four feet apart. The cultivation required is the same as for a good crop of corn. Great difficulty is frequently experienced in transplanting pines; their natural tendency when undisturbed is to make but few roots, and these of a long thread-like character possessing no fibres. These, when digging up, are almost impossible to preserve intact, and they consequently in this condition require extraordinary care in transplanting. To obviate this the trees when young should be frequently transplanted, say every two years; this will cause them to produce numberless fibres, and they can then be easily transplanted where they are finally to grow. It is not necessary to dig them up altogether in this primary transplanting, but merely dig alongside, and cut underneath with spade, leaving the tree where it stood and firming the soil around it afterwards. A very useful machine for this purpose, now considered indispensable by large growers, is what is called the tree digger. This consists of a strong steel blade in the shape of the letter U., with strong handles and attachments for hitching horses to. This scoops right down underneath the plants, cutting the roots, but otherwise does not disturb the tree.

Evergreens may be transplanted all the season around; the writer would as soon plant in August or September as in May or June. All that is necessary is to see that roots are not exposed very long to sun or wind. All varieties of evergreens succeed admirably in plantations by themselves, but never thrive when crowded indiscriminately amongst deciduous trees, the drip from these soon destroying the foliage of either pine or spruce. In the natural forests of pine, the young plants being the produce of different years, and consequently of different sizes, the stronger gradually destroy the weaker, until the wood is reduced to the distances at which the trees can ultimately stand whilst the lateral gradually decay and fall off, so that thinning and pruning are quite necessary. In short, a natural or self-sown forest of pines is left entirely to nature. Nature sows the seed and rears the tree, prunes and thins the tree, and the hand of man is applied only to cut it down when fit for timber. When woods are planted the trees will be usually of the same age and size; then it will be absolutely necessary to thin them. For hedges all evergreens are suitable, but the Norway spruce is the most preferable; planted three feet apart it soon makes a hedge without further care. An annual shortening of the leading tips will do much to preserve the evenness of the hedge.

For all purposes we prefer to let the trees grow naturally without clipping. An even, close, clipped hedge is right enough in confined places, but outside in large fields we consider a trimmed hedge only an object for morbid curiosity.

Some excellent authorities on the subject say they prefer pure redtop for lawns to a mixture of grasses.

Select and Prepare Grounds for Fruit Culture.

A fruit culturist, writing to an exchange, says: "The Baldwin apple suffered more in the winter of 1856 57 than any other, and somewhat in hard seasons before; also during two hard winters since that time, but in all these winters was not injured on the top of the highest hills. All trees ripen earlier on high hills than in valleys, as may be seen by observing every fall the early oxydation of the leaves, causing the variegated hues upon the trees on hills, while in the valleys the leaves remain green and are often frozen to the twigs, as they were in the late fall and winter of 1856-57."

That "depends," however. For the early and thorough ripening of the wood on the hill is chiefly due to the want of water to continue growth in August and September. In seasons when such heavy and continued rain occurs in August as to saturate even all the dry slopes, trees make a second growth on high ground as well as low; and if this is begun late, or continued so late as to fail of full ripeness before a sharp freeze occurs, we see the leaves hanging frozen while still green on both upland and lowland. But of course there is usually more liability both to protracted second growth and to severe November freezing in the valleys than on the hills.

All fruit gardens and orchards should be well underdrained, and the cultivator should in every possible way aid nature to accomplish the best results.

Peas.

A most delicious vegetable is the garden pea. This may be grown in great variety so as to mature at regular intervals during the Summer and Fall. One mistake made in growing peas is to have the ground too rich. This produces vines instead of pods. Another mistake is in not planting early and late peas at the same time. A great gap is thus made in the supply at a season when the want is much felt. Last season I succeeded, after many attempts, in having peas all through the season. Early in April two rows of each of the following varieties were planted on the same day. The picking began on the 25th of May and lasted until the 28th of June. A second planting was made on the 20th of April and a third late in May Another planting was made in the field with oats for a fodder crop in June. The varieties were Landreth's Extra Early, Carter's First Crop, Tom Thumb, Alpha, Blue Peter, Advancer, Little Gem, Dwarf Marrowfat, Laxton's Prolific, Champion of England and Challenger. These are set down in the order in which they matured. The kind planted for fodder was the large black eyed marrowfat. A quart of each of these varieties will give a good daily supply for a moderate family and leave some for canning or drying. It may be a pertinent hint just now that it is a good time to get a supply of peasticks.—[Ex.

THE CARNATION.—The cultivation of the carnation is very simple. It is rooted from cuttings at any time from October to April or May, and as the plant is almost hardy, it may be planted out with safety in the open ground in early spring, as soon as cabbage, lettuce, or any other plant of that nature. Many, for want of this knowledge, keep carnations in house or pot until such time as hardy plants are set out, or later in the season, thereby not only having the trouble of taking care of them, but depriving them of a longer season well adapted to their growth. They are best placed out in beds of six rows, nine inches apart, and the same distance between the plants, with eighteen inch alleys between the beds. The carnation is very impatient of a wet soil, and care should be taken that the land be made dry by draining or otherwise. As the carnations grow they throw up flower shoots, which should be cut off all through the season until about the 1st or 15th September. If the plants are wanted for winter flowering, the cutting back of the flower shoots induces a dwarf and stocky growth, which is very desirable in the carnation. If only a few are required to mix in with a general collection of plants, it is more convenient to grow them in pots, so that they may be moved about as may be necessary. Of the varieties grown we have only a few suited for winter flowering. Of these, the most productive is La Purite, a deep carmine variety, and a variegated variety of it; among whites, Maimie and Delsew, and in yellows, Astoria and DeFontana take the lead. Roots from cuttings may be procured from nurseymen in April and May.