

Garden, Orchard and Forest.

Seasonable Hints—August.

BY HORTUS.

The customary dry hot weather of this month will be trying to the existence of trees planted last spring. The soil should be loosened several inches deep; a liberal watering given if any signs of wilting or drying up are observed. Remove grass or weeds that may be growing in close proximity to trees, absorbing all the nourishment. Apply a good mulching if not already done. Newly planted hedges and evergreens will be benefitted by the same treatment, and much trouble and expense may be saved in the future by careful attention to this particular time of year. Layers should receive an occasional watering. Beds and borders of shrubs and herbaceous plants should be hoed, and all weeds, dead branches and unnecessary growth removed. Neatness and order should prevail everywhere. Fresh raked earth, snug plants and bushes out of bloom are more pleasing to the eye than weedy, untidy flower beds in full bloom. Have the box of hellebore handy for dusting the bushes on the final appearance of the currant worm, which frequently comes at this season to eat the "last leaves of summer." Raspberries and blackberries, as soon as the fruit is all gathered, should have the old canes removed, also thin out new growth; some kinds throw up so many suckers that if all would be left the berry patch would become a wilderness with but very little fruit. The black cap varieties reproduce themselves freely by having the tops of this summer's growth covered with a few inches of soil; they will root freely and may be allowed to remain till the following spring, when they can be transplanted into rows for fruiting. Early apples, as Harvest, Red Astracan, Duchess of Oldenburg, &c., should be carefully hand picked, rejecting any wormeaten, scabby or diseased fruit. The use of new barrels facilitates a good sale. Any fallen fruit should be gathered and destroyed—merely feeding to pigs is not enough. Plums and cherries have suffered very much from Aphis. The curculio, too, has been terribly destructive, hardly sparing the little fruit that escaped frost. How necessary it is to do all you can to destroy these pests need hardly be mentioned. This is a good time to plant out strawberries; put in at the latter end of this month they form strong hills for fruiting next season; keep plants from getting too dry; shading after planting for a few days with boards or brush will assist their growing. We also advise the planting of evergreens; they may be planted with perfect safety, selecting cloudy or rainy weather for the operation. After planting they should be well watered and mulched. Parties who have been unsuccessful other seasons would do well to try evergreen planting from now till October. Amongst the vegetables very little is required doing beyond keeping the ground loose and mellow by an occasional hoeing. This will assist the growing crops and prevent weeds from seeding. Clear out old lettuce stalks and pea brush. Tomatoes and melons can be assisted in ripening by placing boards underneath the vines. Celery requires earthing up, but not too much at a time as it checks the growth. In the flower garden dahlias should be tied to stakes and growth thinned out by pinching. A little liquid manure applied often will very much improve color and size of blooms. Cuttings of geraniums, coleus, &c., may now be taken off and put in shallow boxes of sand, with about an inch of soil underneath the sand; keep the sand damp and the box in a shady place; here they will root readily, when they may be potted off, and will make fine plants for blooming in the house. Seeds of the foxglove, hollyhock, del-

phiniums and other hardy border plants should be sown now in a moderately shady place; after coming up they may be transplanted into beds six inches apart, and will make fine plants for blooming next summer. If your fruit, vegetables or flowers promise to be fine make sure to secure prize list and make the necessary entrees for exhibiting them, thus showing what your soil and locality is capable of producing with skill and labor. How often the remark is made at fairs, "What miserable greenings and spys. I have got much finer at home, and did not think they were worth bringing." We see, as a rule, year after year, at our exhibitions, the same exhibitors with usual exhibits, and taking nearly the same prizes. For all the good effect this has on the community, the association or society might as well present them with the premiums without them going to the trouble of exhibiting. We want more competition, so stir up friends and let the country know you are in existence.

Unfair Judging.

BY HORTUS.

The season for exhibitions is drawing near and intending exhibitors are now speculating on the chances of their best stallions or bulls, their South-down sheep or improved Berkshire pigs. If in the Horticultural line their Baldwins or Snows, Lam-bard plums or Flemish Beauty pears. In the mechanical department brains and heads are busy contriving and devising improvements whereby to excel their neighbors and catch the public. For in these lines competition is keen and people must think and work and advertise if they are bound to succeed. Now this is as it should be, and at our fairs how often is the case, when people have been to all the trouble and expense of entering, of freights and fares, besides the attendant care and safety necessary to the production and delivery of their exhibits—to have this all for nothing and worse, by unfair judging. There is unfair judging through ignorance and unfair judging with intent—the latter is the worst phase of the two. There is some satisfaction in seeing the best win; it encourages the lucky one to go on and stimulates the unsuccessful to find out the cause of their failure and resolve to do better next time. But when an inferior animal or article secures the premium through ignorant or deliberate unfair judging everyone is dissatisfied, it disgusts the lover of fair play and no favor, and has a most damaging effect on all concerned. Some people get the reputation of being competent to judge in some particular class, this sticks to them and henceforth they are always on hand, when in their own hearts they know they know nothing about it. I suppose after a few years experience and the mingling in the society of better posted men they pick up sufficient knowledge to rub through—its a pity however, that their knowledge should be gathered to the annoyance of many and the detriment of the Association.

It behooves agricultural societies and exhibition committees to select good men and true. Men whose past life and experience render them particularly fit for the position of judge in this or that class. Make it your duty, to carefully inquire for and secure the best ability to dictate what is good form, good breed, good taste and color.

Judges should be selected from the different parts of the country and as wide apart as possible, avoid securing the second cousin to some possible exhibitor's brother-in-law. At their duty, judges should insist on all the requirements and regulations being complied with as far as possible in reason and justice, they should carefully grade, class and examine and not slip over the work superficially. Every animal in its own class and of the age required. Every plant, fruit, or vegetable

wrong wanted, reject, no matter how fine the quality. Mistakes will occur of course but a great deal may be done to the future success of exhibitions by having honest and skilled judges.

Round-headed Apple-tree Borer.

BY J. W. ROBINSON.

I presume that in a half day I have frequently killed newly-hatched larvæ and crushed unhatched eggs of this beetle to the number of two thousand. My observations are, that the eggs are deposited from the latter part of June to the first of September. There may be a few deposited a little earlier, and some later, but the great majority are deposited during the harvest time. There are usually from three to seven eggs laid in a tree, but sometimes less than three, and I have taken out of a tree, only three years from nursery, twenty-one larvæ and eggs, evidently the work of more than one beetle. I think that usually but one beetle deposits eggs in a tree, and they are generally as evenly placed around the tree as the uneven surface of the tree will admit of, and very rarely all on one side of the tree. The eggs are usually deposited from one to six inches above the ground, though some will be found below the surface of the ground, in such places as where the ground has cracked open or the swaying of the tree by the wind has caused an airy place about the root. The beetle never deposits its eggs in the tree where the earth is touching the tree. In exceptional cases it deposits its eggs higher up, even in the branches. The larvæ seem to develop equally well in these parts, but not so well if deposited in any of the cavities below ground level, as there they are very liable to be drowned if these cavities become filled with water before the larvæ get well buried in the tree.

The eggs are deposited in the bark of the tree, the beetle puncturing or splitting the bark of the tree upward and downward, and a little sidewise the puncture looking very much as if made with an ordinary sharp-pointed pocket-knife. The eggs are usually injected into this puncture so deep as to be out of sight, but not always. On young and thin-barked trees the eggs will be pushed in next to the wood, but in older and thicker-barked trees they will be only through the hard, outer bark, and in the inner, soft bark.

As soon as the egg begins to hatch, which is in a few days after being deposited, its enlargement causes the puncture to open, and thereby it is much easier detected. The young borer hatches out on the inner side of the egg, and eats out a circular place of the size of a half-dime, and then starts off, boring upward at first, but sometimes sideways or downward. At this stage of development, it is easy to detect the young predator by a few drops of discolored juice of the tree exuding from the puncture and sticking on the bark. The larvæ usually bores down below the ground surface to winter and up again the summer, living in the larva state in the tree nearly two years, then boring out in the form of the beetle, ready to repeat its round again.

The remedy I have successfully used, is to keep the ground around the trunks of the trees clean and mellow, so that there will be no cracks or openings there for the beetles to get in to lay their eggs in the tree, and so that the puncture where eggs are laid or young beetles hatching may be easily seen, and eggs or insects destroyed, which can be done while in the egg by merely pressing firmly on the puncture with a knife blade—the cracking of the egg can be heard distinctly—and if hatched, by cutting away the dead bark over the little cavity first eaten out and killing the young worm.

The borers do not go into the wood much the first year, and can be easily followed with a knife; but if not taken out soon after hatching, they seriously injure, if not entirely kill the tree, especially when they run around just under the bark, as they sometimes do; or when several borers are in a small tree, they so injure it that it breaks over with the wind.

If the ground is well cleaned and patted down smooth around the trees about the last of June, the destroying of the eggs and young borers will be much easier and more certain.

The trees should be examined twice, and perhaps three times a year, if the borers are very numerous, in order that those first hatched may be killed before they do serious injury to the tree. August, September and October are the months in which to destroy them. They seem to infest