

HORTICULTURE.

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

THE GARDEN.

IN the first place, I must correct a misprint in my last week's paper. It should have read "leeks" instead of "lettuces," which I recommended to be treated the same as celery.

Those who have not already rolled and mown their lawns should now do so, or the lawn mower will not face it and the scythe will have to be used first, which should always be avoided. A dressing of fine bone manure sown broadcast will greatly improve the quality of the grass. Any inequalities on the surface of the lawns must be made good and a few grass seeds thrown over and raked in will make all right in a short time. The verges should be neatly cut with a turf cutter or sharp spade.

Onions should now be sown so that they may get a good hold of the ground and be the better able to combat with the maggot and drought. Soot and bone dust are the two best fertilizers for onions. In planting, choose well prepared light and deeply cultivated ground, but be sure to well firm it, which is most necessary.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

To J. W. Webb.—What is the best way to grow Dahlias, and can they be grown from seed? **DAHLIA.**

To J. W. Webb.—Are cut potatoes or whole potatoes best for planting, and should the manure be put under the potatoes or on the top?

The Dahlia may be grown from seed, but it is better to buy roots and start them in a frame. Partly cover them with soil, and, by means of a brisk, moist, bottom heat, shoots are put forth, which, when three inches in length, may be cut off with a knife and started as cuttings, placing them in boxes in light, fine soil and plunge in the hot bed. They soon root, and must be potted singly and gradually hardened off for planting out in May or beginning of June, in a deep, rich garden border. The Dahlia is a gross feeder—fine flowers must be well fed with stimulants. One ounce of nitrate of soda to a gallon of water will answer this purpose. Those who wish to grow them from seed should grow the single varieties, which are very beautiful and most useful for cutting.

J. W. WEBB.

Fern Hill, Boleskine Road, April 4.

PRUNES.

To the Editor—I am about to set out five acres in fruit. Would you recommend the prune? What kind of soil is required, and also what is the estimated yield?

PRUNE.

Answer—The leading horticulturists of the Province recommend the planting of the prune to a larger extent than any other fruit. The prune is a gross feeder, and for its best development demands a rich and heavy soil containing sufficient moisture. The land should be thoroughly and deeply ploughed. The prune is a pro-

lific bearer, and can be relied upon for annual crops. Unlike many fruits, it does not take an occasional season's rest, but will yield its returns every season. If the trees have been properly cultivated, some fruit may be gathered the third year, and the fourth year will yield a fairly profitable crop. The fifth year will give from fifty to sixty pounds to the tree, and in the sixth year double this amount may be expected. From this time on, the tree may be considered in full bearing, and will yield from 150 to 400 pounds per tree of green fruit annually. In exceptional instances, from 600 to 800 pounds to the tree have been reported. For this Province, we would recommend the Italian prune.

OUR HORTICULTURAL ADVANTAGES.

British Columbia will be the great horticultural province of the Dominion. Fruit trees bear here when quite young. There are no killing frosts nor great extremes of frost and fruit grows constantly. These facts will ultimately result in the utilization of every available acre of fruit land and give to Vancouver Island absolute control of the fruit market east to Lake Superior. This is the logical sequence of unerring law. As this fact becomes better and more widely known, our land will increase in value. The price demanded for first-class fruit lands always seems excessive to strangers, but they soon learn that there are few safer investments.

ROCK LAND MADE TO PAY A BIG DIVIDEND.

It has been demonstrated that seemingly worthless land can be used to good purpose. Having a piece of such land of about three acres, mostly rock with occasional pockets of soil in them, at intervals of say ten feet, we planted Dew berries, which were trained over the rocks. The second season, there was produced an immense crop. The advantage of training over the rocks are: First, during the day, the heat is reflected on the berries from the rocks. Second, during the night, the rocks remain warm. Third, being on the rocks, they are kept clean and free of weeds. The Dew berry is one of the finest canning berries in the market, and is well adapted to this climate. An acre can be set out at very small cost, and very little cultivation is required.

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 horticultural and floral department, and, at the same time, to do away with the existing high prices paid for fruit trees and bushes and vines of all kinds, which have always been considered an obstacle to the planting of orchards to any extent in British Columbia, and, furthermore, has been detrimental in the settling up of the 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 exists all possible natural conditions for a great diversity of fruit growing—apples, pears, cherries, plums, prunes, gooseberries, currants, raspberries, strawberries and blackberries grow better here than in California. They ripen later in the season, true enough, but ours is a better fruit, especially the prune, which grows twice the size of the California raised prune. It has also more meat in comparison to the stone. We would advise the growing of the prune, as 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 market of Canada.

By arrangement with the largest nursery in Oregon, and more especially a firm noted for delivery of stock true to name, places us 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 (each)
Pears	2 " " "	16 cts
Peaches	1 " " "	16 cts
Cherries	2 " " "	17 cts
Plums	2 " 6 to 8 ft	18 cts
Prunes	1 " 4 to 6 ft	15 cts
"	1 " " "	per 1,000 10 cts
Apricots	1 " " "	per 100 19 cts
Crabapples	1 " " "	15 cts
Nectarines	1 " " "	20 cts
Quinces	1 " 4 to 5 ft	22 cts

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

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