

must be obstructed, and consequently the vine must die. In case of such winters as the present one with us with little or no snow, and more or less sudden and severe freezing, and just as rapid thaws, any trees, wind-breaks or obstructions to prevent snow from blowing off are of little account, and we must resort to covering our vines, or be in danger of losing many of our choice varieties. And at the same time we find by experience on all heavy lands other advantages from such covering, such as in the case of rye, as spoken of above, when ploughed under in the spring tends to keep the soil in an open and porous condition, as well as to add its fertilizing properties as a manure to the soil. It also tends to keep the ripe fruit, especially grapes, from becoming dashed with mud in case of heavy showers in the fall. And when manure is used it also gives the two first advantages as the rye, and helps to lessen the work of the first digging or hoeing in the spring by keeping the soil from baking. Deep planting is also another remedy for grape root freezing, where it can be done without being subject to standing water in the soil. And, of course, no tree or vine can be expected to live and prosper in wet soil. If you think the above of any use to your readers, use it, and if not, let the waste basket take it.

I am, yours respectfully,

J. TWEDDLE.

Stoney Creek, Ont., Jan. 18, 1886.

GOOSEBERRIES.

DEAR SIR,—When I purchased the property on which I now reside I found quite a number of what is known as English gooseberry bushes. I also found I could get no fruit off them; mildew they would in spite of sulphur, salted hay, etc. So two years ago I dumped about a bushel of ashes from

the coal stove around one of said bushes and was rewarded with a full crop of fine berries from it. Last winter I served half a dozen more bushes the same with like results, and this winter shall continue the practice.

GLADIOLUS.

A few years since I procured half a dozen of the more costly and finer kinds of Gladiolus, such as *Africana*, *B. B. Coutts*, *Cameleon*, etc., but they would not increase as the more common sorts, and after three years planting I just had the same quantity I commenced with. So last spring I cut them in two, with an eye in each half. I found they bloomed just as strong and I doubled my stock.

I have the best success with the following mode of culture. I may say that my soil is sandy with gravel subsoil so that it is perfectly self-draining. First, I prepare a sufficient quantity of compost, fully one-half well rotted manure, then dig a bed of required size to accommodate what bulbs I have, a foot deep, filling the same 8 inches with the compost and press moderately firm, then set the bulbs on top of the filling about 6 inches apart, then cover the bulbs with 3 inches of pure, clean sand, and fill the remaining inch with some of the top soil dug out, scatter the balance over the garden. I have raised bulbs 5 inches in diameter perfectly free and clear of blotches, scabs, etc., with bloom to correspond.

I am, yours,

J. S.

St. Thomas, Jan. 1886.

BURNET GRAPE—CORRECTION.

In the account given by me of grapes grown in Muskoka, in January number, 1886, page 9, I gave the wrong name to the vine received from the Fruit Growers' Association, it should have read *Burnet*, not Moore's Early.

F. W. COATE.