

grapes, such as Vergennes, Salem and Lindley; and apples, like Fameuse, McIntosh Red and Spy.

#### OUT-OF-DOORS

On pleasant days many odd jobs can be done on the lawn, and in the garden. Saw dead limbs from trees. Wrap and protect tender vines and shrubs. Remove and burn garden rubbish. Examine fruit trees for San Jose scale. Seek eggs of cocoons and insects and destroy them. Clean garden tools and cover the iron work

with grease to keep them from rusting.

Pruning fruit trees, bushes and vines may be done at any time during the winter if you think that you will not have time to do the work in early spring. Best results usually are secured in northern climates by pruning at the latter time.

Mulch the newly-planted bulb beds. Use strawy manure or spruce boughs.

Review your garden successes and failures of the past summer. Tell the story in a letter to THE CANADIAN

HORTICULTURIST. It will be published for the benefit of others. It matters not whether your garden was large or small, whether your experience was with a hundred plants, rare or common, or with only a single simple geranium, tell the story as it is. Read the experiences with asters and dahlias on other pages of this issue. Have you done similar work with these or other kinds of plant? Send illustrations if you have them. They will be returned at your request.

## The Amateur's Greenhouse in December

A. Alexander, Hamilton

THIS is one of the interesting periods of the year for the greenhouse of the amateur. The plants which have been out of doors all summer, many of them resting, are beginning to

the pots, they should never be allowed to get dry.

This matter of watering plants growing in the dwelling or greenhouse, is a most important one. How often we

the plants that have been brought in from the outside have been repotted into clean pots and fresh soil, and that those lifted from the borders, such as geraniums and other suitable plants, have been "cut back" and carefully potted in pots, scrubbed clean inside and out. We have to remember that plants that have been standing outside or growing in the borders have exhausted the soil, especially those in pots, for in the copious summer watering, nearly all the plant food has been washed out. The thorough drainage of the pot should be attended to.

Those who grow freezias in their greenhouse, and who does not? should place around the edge of each pot four or five neat stakes six or nine inches in length, with green thread or fine cord or wire at intervals of three inches around the stakes. If this is done when the plants are a few inches above the edge of the pots, it prevents the plants swaying over and getting unsightly. Good bulbs of all kinds are so cheap now and in such variety, that a constant succession may be kept up for months.

The aphid or green fly is one of the enemies of the amateur greenhouse. I have found the extract of tobacco, vaporized in a small copper dish over a spirit lamp, the handiest and most effective remedy, and it does not injure the bloom as the ordinary smoking by burning tobacco stems does.

Too high a temperature should be avoided. It should not get below forty degrees. A temperature of forty-five degrees is high enough for the night at this time of year, while it may have a day temperature of fifty-five or sixty degrees. Of course, if tenderer plants, known as stove or hot-house plants, are grown, then a temperature ten degrees higher would be required.

Best effects in flower combinations are secured by planting each kind by itself. Where contrast is desired, however, two or three colors may be used, provided they are such as harmonize well.



A Private Greenhouse Affords much Pleasure to its Owner

Near the centre stands Mr. A. Alexander, Hamilton, Ont., an enthusiastic horticulturist who has contributed many valuable articles to THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

show their gratitude for the congenial quarters provided for them by pushing out their new foliage, so fresh and green, and perhaps adding their gay coloring to make the house a real beauty spot for its owner to revel in while the blasts of winter are holding high carnival without.

The bulbs, especially the narcissus in variety, and the Roman hyacinths will now be pushing upward to the light, especially those planted early in October, and will afford a source of daily interest and pleasure in watching their growth and development. After bulbs commence to grow and the roots are filling

hear the question asked: "How often should I water my plants?" The best answer to this is: "When they require it." I always tell my questioners to use their knuckles. I tell them to tap the pot with their knuckles or a piece of wood. If it gives a clear ringing sound, then water is certainly needed, but if dull and heavy, sufficient has been given. When watering, do it thoroughly; never water in dribbles. The question of watering the plants in a small greenhouse is a most important one during this and the following two or three months.

Of course, it is taken for granted that