

are truly considered as belonging to the real luxuries of life.

Orchards and fruit trees generally, should now be carefully examined and pruned; a most necessary operation, and, in this climate, much better deferred till the more intense frosts are over, but by no means so late that the vegetable fluids are in active circulation. Shrubs and exposed flowering plants, whose tips the frost has affected, should be severally cut down, which will enable them the more readily to make fresh wood when the growing season arrives, and sometimes prevent their being destroyed. Box-edgings, which have so neat an appearance along garden walks, may be made as soon as the frost is fairly out, and the ground getting warm and dry. Rooted plants are much to be preferred to cuttings, the latter being so liable to die in patches. Care should be taken to place the plants at a uniform depth, and tread the soil closely against the roots, in order to preserve a straight line and prevent disagreeably looking conditions. In Canada it is well to keep box-edgings pretty close to the ground, or they are liable to severe injury by winter frosts. A slight covering of leaves or rough muck before the warm weather sets in will do much to ward off this evil. All kinds of rubbish should now be removed from the garden, if not done before, and the walks raked and got into order, as soon as the weather and surface will admit. When the frost is thoroughly out of the ground, and before the latter becomes too dry, the roller should be put into requisition, both on the walks and lawn. If the grasses are getting thin and weakly, a slight top dressing of guano and salt, soot or wood ashes, or a rich solution of the nitrates of potash or soda, will be found highly advantageous; the latter should not be applied till the growing season has fairly commenced. In England these nitrates in a crude and impure state, are used pretty largely in agriculture, throwing rapidly much nitrogen into the cultivation of plants, and often changing their color, in a few days, from a sickly yellow to a healthy green.

In the vegetable garden no time should be lost, as soon as the frost is out and the ground dry, in making the necessary preparations for getting in peas, carrots, beets, parsnips, spinach, lettuce, onions, salary, early potatoes, &c. Caution, how-

ever, is required in these matters; and care should be taken not to put in any crop unless the soil is properly prepared, and sufficiently warm and dry. It often happens that but little can be done in getting in garden crops till the middle, and sometimes the end of April. In some situations and seasons, but little can be done before the beginning of May. Much, however, will depend upon the character and treatment of the soil, and the exposure of the garden. Under-draining when needed, and a deep, rough digging previous to winter setting in, will render Spring operations both earlier and easier, and the crops more abundant and certain.

Asparagus, rhubarb, and horse radish beds should be prepared as soon as the ground will admit. The two former require a deep, loose, rich soil, and care taken not to plant too thickly, which is a common mistake. Ground should be prepared for pot herbs, which are required in every family; such as thyme, sage, mint, balm, and other perennial herbs. Cabbage seed of the summer kinds is sown in hot beds, and the young plants should be gradually hardened by careful exposure before being finally planted out. Cabbage requires well manured and deeply cultivated ground, in which a considerable amount of clay is incorporated; heavy soils produce a better quality than such as are sandy. Owing to the lateness and uncertainty of our springs, it is prudent not to be in too great a hurry in planting out cabbage; a caution indeed that is needed in relation to most other crops. Be always prepared for sowing as soon as the proper time arrives, which must be in great measure determined by the state of the ground and the atmosphere;—always remembering that in gardening, as well as in farming, *haste is not necessarily healthy progress*.

Dwarf Apple Trees.

EDITOR CANADIAN AGRICULTURIST.—In a previous communication I endeavoured to call attention to the mode of training and planting orchards of apple trees adopted by Dr. Beattie of Nichol, and Mr. Werden of Picton, to advance some reasons why such a system seemed better adapted to meet the severity of our climate; and to obtain from these gentlemen a more full and detailed statement of their mode of culture, and of the results attained; in the belief