

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

FROZEN GRAPE VINES.

People who have sometimes left their outdoor grape vines on their trolises all winter with impunity, wonder much that, after a comparatively mild winter like the last, so many refuse to bud. The fact is, that a mild winter is often more destructive than a severe one. Warm weather starts the sap, and if frost catches the wood full of moisture, it is sure death to the vine. The only safe course is to lay the vines every fall; then, whether the winter be moderate or severe, they will come out all right in spring. A correspondent of the *N. Y. Tribune* emphasizes this good counsel in a recent issue of that journal. He says:—

"There is a 'howl all along the line' from people who left their grape vines upon the trelises the past winter. In this locality vines not laid down are seriously damaged, and a short crop is the inevitable consequence. Apparently the roots are not materially injured, new shoots are pushing out, and growers are flattering themselves that by another year their vines will be all right. I think they will be disappointed, as my experience convinces me that it will require from three to five years to get their vines in good condition again. People say to me, 'You are lucky that your vines were covered;' while the fact is there is no luck about it. My vines are protected every winter to secure them against injury, just as one insures his building or feeds his cows well to insure a good flow of milk. Grape vines, if left unprotected, may escape injury for years, but it is wise to, as far as possible, guard against all contingencies. Said a follower of Mahomet: 'I am so weary that I will not hobble my camel, but will commit him to God.' Mahomet replied: 'First hobble your camel, and then you can commit him to God.'

VINE-CLAD TREES.

Mr. W. Falconer, in reference to this subject, writes pleasantly in the *Rural New Yorker*.—"How suggestive are the old apple trees, over-spread and draped with grape vines, that we meet with now and again on Eastern farms: the vine-clad trees that skirt our woods and waysides, and grow by rivers, creeks and ponds. I never saw the trumpet creeper appear so beautiful as in the Southern States, where, on the outer edge of a river bottom timber belt, it almost hid from sight the tree it grew on. I never saw the wild clematis look so fine as in a wood in New Jersey, where Mr. Taplin pointed out to me a tree literally covered with the vine, which hung in massive drapery to the ground, and was then in bloom.

"It is a common thing to train Jackman's and other kinds of garden clematis up among the branches of trees, where, when in bloom, they have a fine effect. The Virginian creeper is sometimes treated in same fashion for the brilliant effect of its foliage in the fall. The Chinese wistaria is one of the best of vines for this use, and the periploca, akebia and honeysuckle may likewise be used to good advantage. The Canada moonseed and climbing waxwork will enjoy themselves exceedingly among the lower branches of the trees; and the Dutchman's pipe delights in such liberty. Bare stems of trees may be covered with Japanese ivy—*Ampelopsis tricuspidata*. On many a farm is a wooded ravine, and this is just the place for vine-clad trees.

"I remember, when visiting Robert Douglas, at Waukegan, Ill., with what glowing pride the veteran 'Forty-niner' brought me in front of a wooded ravine near his house, that I might see the splendid effect of the trees upon the distant

bank, whose limbs were bending with the load of drapery which they supported, and with what a gleam of satisfaction he pointed out the many trees—big trees now he had planted there, the vines that he had encouraged to grow up upon them, and the undergrowth, both herbs and shrubs, that he set out there. He had snatched from desolation an unsightly, gloomy chasm, and planted it with trees, and shrubs and vines, and thus secured what is to-day one of the prettiest ravines or glens in Illinois."

SUMMER PRUNING.

J. C. Plumb, in *Western Farmer*, says: "This should now be attended to promptly—both in nursery and orchard. Lawn and street trees may now be shaped up to suit, but no tree more needs this than the silver maple or white soft maple. Its tendency to be broken down by high winds when in full foliage may be overcome by a good heading back every five years. This tree is often badly infested with woolly aphis, and becomes disgusting and sickly. Now, the best remedy for this insect is to cut back one-half to three-fourths of the top, and thoroughly spray the remainder with a weak lye, or solution of caustic potash. This will clean off the young scale insect, and the tree will soon renew its beauty and health. This cutting back of all trees, both of evergreen and deciduous, is one of the most ready ways of adapting them to the requirements of the garden, lawn or street, not appreciated nor practised half it should be—and now is the time, if not already done, to give least shock to the tree and keep healthy wood unless it be done in October."

BARE PLACES IN LAWNS.

By "lawn" we mean any piece of grass kept solely for ornamental purposes. It may be merely a front yard, or on large places it may include many acres. These may from some cause show thin and poor places here and there. These may be mended by several methods. If the bare places are large, the surface may be worked over with a sharp rake, to take out dead stems and roots, and then, after fertilizing, be sown with grass seed of a kind similar to the rest of the lawn. If the bare patches are small, the quickest way to mend them is to lay in turf. In England a method is in use not only for restoring bare places in established lawns, but also for starting new ones, called "m-oculating." The ground being well prepared, bits of good turf (sod), about three inches square, are inserted a foot apart each way. These will take root and spread, soon covering the whole surface. In making or mending a lawn, recollect that the work is to last for years and that a good supply of fertilizing material will be a good investment.

AN UNEXPECTED RESULT.

Mr. Rice, at a meeting of the Western N. Y. Farmers' Club, said farmers often do things without thinking or considering what the results may be. He knew a man once who had a steam saw-mill, and a large pile of ashes and saw-dust had accumulated. He hired a farmer to draw them away in winter, who drew them on an old orchard, spreading them three or four inches thick. The orchard became very productive, and for seven years bore heavy crops of very fair fruit.

CUTTING ASPARAGUS.

Another of the mistakes of our ancestors which it is difficult to get rid of, is the belief that asparagus should be bleached, and to do this it must be cut several inches beneath the surface. I never see a person in vain endeavour to extract a little nourishment from such masses of tough woody

fibre without experiencing a desire to invite him to test a specimen of my luscious tender shoots out exclusively above ground. To procure the desired end, the old-fashioned plan was to bury the roots so deep that very many of them met a premature death, but I plant rather shallow than otherwise, and so far am satisfied with my system.

GARDEN LABELS.

If one must use labels upon trees and shrubs, the simplest we have found is sheet-zinc cut in the shape of a triangle. Let it be six or eight inches long, an inch at the broad end, and taper to a point. Write upon it, near the large end, with a common lead-pencil; coil the small end around a twig; it will expand without injuring the tree, and last for twenty or more years.

DANDELIONS have become the fashionable greens in all parts of the United States. They are being cultivated by market gardeners in the vicinity of all the eastern cities, and are served up in the leading hotels and restaurants.

MULCHING may be applied to such young trees as cannot be cultivated with a horse. A few inches of old straw, cut grass, long manure or sawdust, spread in a circle about newly set trees, will keep the ground moist, smother grass and weeds, and prevent injury by the drouth and hot sun. It is especially useful to young cherry trees.

THE most extensive and most experienced celery grower in the vicinity of Boston once said to me: "Take well-grown celery, and a man in the dark while eating it cannot tell whether it is blanched or unblanched." Of course when raising for market we must blanch, because customers demand it; but when for our own use, why take the trouble? *J. J. H. Gregory, in Country Gentleman.*

WEEDS should never be permitted to get an inch high. Go over the garden beds with a steel rake as often as once a week. The labour will be more than repaid by the increased growth of the crop, and the weeds will never make their appearance. The labour will be far less than is required to clear out weeds after they have grown several inches, and have checked and partly spoiled the crop.—*Country Gentleman.*

At the New Jersey Horticultural Society meeting at Vineland, the importance of enough room between asparagus plants was discussed. Among the different distances recommended was one foot by four, which is too near, three by four, which is much better; and four by six feet, which is best for all extensive culture, if plenty of manure can be applied. Shallow planting gave small shoots, and "there was more in the feed than in the breed." One plantation of three acres realized \$1,500 in a single season at wholesale prices.

I HAVE been in the habit of mulching my currant bushes with a liberal supply of barnyard manure, late in autumn, and forking it in the first of April, but last spring, owing to press of business, a part of the mulch was left undisturbed, and to my surprise the neglected bushes had no currant worms, while those where the manure was carefully forked in had their usual crop. The currant worms can be easily destroyed with white powdered hellebore and water at the rate of one tablespoonful to two gallons of water, mixed a few hours before using. The best time to apply is when the worms are very small, which can be ascertained by examining the lower leaves; if any are perforated with small holes be assured the worms are at work, and one thorough application will exterminate them. I should disagree with Mr. J. M. Smith in allowing Light Brahma hens and chickens to run the year round among my currant bushes; though they might devour the worms, mine would as readily eat the fruit.—*Cor. N. Y. Tribune.*