

feeder. Therefore make your rose ground very rich and deep. Use any well-rotted manure for young plants, and plenty of it; and as your roses gain strength, you can give them almost any kind of manure, even to fresh night-soil. Watering with liquid manure occasionally you will find a great help.

In order to have fine flowers, you will find pruning a very important point in the cultivation, and this part, I am sorry to say, is but very poorly understood by most cultivators, for how often do you see a rose plant snubbed off at its extremity, in order to have the bush a nice, round head of very slender shoots, upon which you see a small, weak flower, not worthy of being called a flower, looking as if it was ashamed of itself (and I don't wonder that it is), instead of bringing out all the beauty of which it is capable.

To have fine, large and beautiful flowers, you must have plenty of good, healthy root-power, and not so much wood; and to obtain this, you must have the conditions previously mentioned. If your rose plant has had those conditions, you will have good, strong, healthy growth from the ground; and in the fall, or very early in the spring, when danger of severe frost is over (I prefer fall pruning, for by pruning then, you make the plant more capable of withstanding our severe frosts, because the late growths made by the rose are too tender and sappy to withstand our severe climate), commence pruning by cutting out all the old wood of the previous year, or at least all the wood of that year until you reach the new and strong wood of this, if the growth has been made upon any of it, as it very frequently will be, unless care has been used while growing. After you have cut out all of the old growth, then commence and reduce the new growth to three or four or more buds, according to the strength of your growth. Strong growing varieties may have more wood left upon them than the weaker growing varieties. If you follow out these instructions, my word for it, you need not be ashamed of your rose flowers. The remark has often been made to me in the month of June, when the rose is in its best estate, by persons visiting my place: "How is it that we don't have as fine flow-

ers upon our rose bushes as yours are? Mine are larger bushes than yours, and of the same kinds." And the only answer I could give them was: "They are not properly pruned." "Why," they would reply, "a gardener pruned them, and he ought to know." What a comment upon gardeners! Yes, he ought to know, and a good gardener does know, but the fact is, he is not always allowed to do as he knows it should be done, for many persons are afraid of seeing their pets cut down too close, supposing it will kill them; and again, many want large bushes, which they can easily obtain, but it must always be at the expense of the flowers; whilst others again desire quantity, and not quality. To all such I must say, "Don't blame your roses for not displaying the full beauty of which they are capable." I shall close this portion of my subject by saying in brief, if you want fine flowers, give your plants plenty of roots and short tops. You can get the former by rich soil and good cultivation, and the knife and good judgement will do the rest.

I now approach a very delicate part of my subject, that is, the best varieties to cultivate.

Now it will altogether depend upon what you want in a rose, before I proceed to enumerate the varieties. Do you want a rose of the most exquisite form, color, smell, strong growth and perfect hardiness, that will only give you such flowers once in the year, or at the most twice?

Then I will have to recommend you to grow the (so-called) Hybrid Perpetuals, which name, I think, is a misnomer. True, they are hybrids, but if the *perpetual* was left out of most of them, it would be better, I think. Do you want a rose tolerably hardy, not too rank a grower, and one that has not much fragrance, but of a beautiful form and color, and when in a healthy condition, one that you can always expect to find a flower upon? Then I will commend you to the Bourbon class. If you desire a strong growth, with great clusters of sweet flowers blooming upon the ends of long shoots, you must grow the Noisettes. But if you want flowers to cut for bouquets, for show, for decoration, and for useful purposes generally, and such that you are not afraid to cut and slash at as much as you desire,