

sian apples, but it is hardier than the Fameuse.—*Rural New Yorker's Report of the American Pomological Society.*

### BLANCHING CELERY WITH DRAIN TILE.

BY FRED. GRUNDY.

The experience of another season has served to confirm my faith in this practice. It is certainly superior to the laborious banking process when intelligently managed.

Celery intended for early use should be set in trenches about three inches deep, which should be kept open in all subsequent cultivation of the ground. When ready for blanching, all the small outside stalks are removed, because they are of no value whatever, leaving but three or four stalks around the heart. Three or four-inch tile are then set over the plants, and the earth banked up against them about eight inches high. This banking must be done to prevent the tile from becoming too hot in the sun, which they will do to the great injury of the confined plants. Later on, when the weather becomes cooler, banking with earth is not required. The celery blanches perfectly inside the tile, and comes out clean, white and crisp.

Our family is small, and a few stalks are all we require for a meal. To get them I lift the tile, break off as many as needed, in the same manner as rhubarb stalks are broken, replace the tile and the plant continues to grow and supply fresh, nutty stalks, until the ground freezes. Fifty good plants set in rich soil give us a full supply of this delicious vegetable, from the time it tastes good until Christmas. At the beginning of freezing weather the plants are taken up with some roots and earth adhering, set in a long, narrow box, containing about four inches of sand, and placed in the cellar.

I find Golden Heart Dwarf and

Crimson Dwarf the most suitable varieties for this section, and I grow them exclusively. I use them with tile one foot long for bleaching. For the tall varieties of celery, tile eighteen or twenty inches long can be procured.—*Philadelphia Weekly Press.*

### MEALY BUG.

We have tried various emulsions of kerosene oil for this pest, but with indifferent results. Alcohol, which is the basis of most insecticides for mealy bug, will do the work, but it is too expensive for general use. The imported preparation known as "Fir-tree oil" is by far the best and most economical remedy we have yet tried. It kills the bug and its eggs, and does no practical injury to the plants. In using the fir-tree oil or similar insecticide, it is better, when practicable, to dip the plants in the preparation. In my experience one dipping is as good as ten syringings, and much more economical. A common error in the use of all insecticides is the want of persistence in their use. It is much better to use a weak application of any insecticide frequently than a stronger dose of it at less frequent periods. For example, we have always found it more effective and safe to fumigate with tobacco smoke our house twice a week lightly, rather than once a week and more heavily.—CHAS. HENDERSON, in the *Country Gentleman.*

### AUTUMNAL COLORED FOLIAGE.

All the gaylussacias and vaccinioms (huckleberries, cranberries, etc.) turn so brilliantly that for this reason alone they are worth a place in ornamental plantings. *V. corymbosum* (swamp blueberry) is sometimes ten feet high and six or eight feet in diameter. It is attractive in flower. The fruit is beautiful and tastes better than it