

Garden and Orchard.

Seasonable Hints—November.

BY HORTUS.

OUT-DOORS.

The remarkable weather of the past month has been favorable for all out-door work, and no one can have any excuse in not being well prepared for the winter season. It is to be hoped that advantage was taken of it to do everything that will facilitate the spring work. There is still plenty of time in this month to do considerable in the way of planting, manuring, trenching and mulching. A walk through most gardens would reveal a very untidy state of affairs, as after the vegetables are gathered everything is left topsy-turvy to take care of itself till the renovating spring comes round. Now, it is but right to do a little "house-cleaning" in the garden, as it were, and commence by raking up all the leaves, tomato and potato vines, and weeds—piling all in a heap and burning, if no other use can be made of them. Pick up all stakes that have been used for training up plants, and tie in neat bundles for use next season. Save all the leaves and corn-stalks to use for mulching your strawberry beds or flower borders. If your rhubarb patch has been a long time planted, set out a new bed by digging up the old roots, dividing and re-planting the same. Give a liberal coat of manure to asparagus. Amongst the currants and gooseberries remove old bearing wood and shorten back new growth. Throw up the soil by spade or plow, leaving it in the rough for the frost to make it mellow and friable. Stiff soils may be advantageously treated in this way.

Planting may be done till the ground freezes. Many persons decry fall planting, but the experience of a life-long cultivator of fruit in our country is in favor of fall planting. The principal cause of failures in fall planting is that the trees have been dug too soon in the nursery, before their growth was completed; but let the trees mature their wood well, and there is no better time to plant them, whether for fruit or ornament, than from the 20th of October till the ground freezes, generally about the 20th of November.

Grape vines require pruning and laying down. Grape borders should be renewed by the addition of bones and rotted sods. Collect all the slaughter-house refuse you can get to feed your vines.

Hedges, both evergreen and deciduous, should have a final clipping. If done now it will strengthen the growth in spring. Remove any long grass or weeds from the hedge bottoms to prevent mice from harboring therein. Where mice are found to be very destructive a good plan is to set up decoys for them by putting a sheaf of oats or some corn-stalks in little cocks amongst your trees. A weekly inspection will furnish amusement for the boys and dogs and get rid of the vermin.

Pruning may be gone on with during fine days; so much time saved in spring. Apple trees should have the loose bark scraped off; thousands of insects in the chrysalis state will be destroyed by this work. Prepare for the Curculio amongst the plums by top-dressing heavily with ashes.

IN-DOORS.

All plants in the house will rise a hundred per cent. in interest since the frost came and destroyed the favorites of the garden. The scarlet *Salvia* seems to have deepened its color, while the sturdy *Geranium* grows and blooms as if in defiance of "Jack Frost." The abundance of flowers now grown in greenhouses, and the ease with which they all may be propagated, allows no excuse to any person for not having plants in winter. What

is first required towards having healthy plants indoors is to keep a moist atmosphere and an even temperature. In the early part of the season, beginning now, it is not desirable to force much growth on the plants; keep them as dormant as possible. Have them in clean pots, with fresh soil; keep the foliage free from dust and water sparingly. Under this treatment they will gain vigor, and when the days begin to lengthen your plants will commence growing and flowering.

Plants require all the sunshine to thrive, and it is useless to expect much growth during the short days of early winter.

Roses are the most desired for house culture, and sometimes are difficult to manage unless they receive proper care at the outset—and that is to keep them quiet, not forcing the growth till they are found to have plenty of working roots. Another thing is to use the knife and cut hard back all the old wood, causing an entirely new growth, which will have strong vigorous foliage, and give fine flowers.

Greenhouses, now that there is room to work in them, should be thoroughly cleaned and receive a coat of paint—this they require every year. The plates at the bottom of the rafters requiring it should be cleaned of the vegetable growth which arises from the secretions and drippings from the roof. Old plants covered with scale and mealy bug should be cut back and the foliage washed. Plants like *Camellias*, and other broad-leaved evergreens, require washing. A hateful sight in greenhouses is the presence of the mealy bug, a disgusting insect which infests soft-wooded plants, and once introduced it is extremely difficult to remove. persons receiving new plants should be careful to examine them and see that they are free from insects. An effective remedy for these pests among flowers is to syringe them frequently with coal oil and water. Commence with about a half pint of oil to two gallons of water, stirring it with the syringe till it becomes like soap suds, and apply.

Fruit requires frequent examinations in cellars. Apples became so ripe from the long hot fall that they will not winter well, and require decaying specimens promptly removed. Cellars and root-houses should be made frost-proof at once, and prepared for winter.

Black Knot on Plum Trees.

This disease is well known to be contagious. It is not caused by insects, but is found to be the work of a fungus, which is propagated by spores of seeds, and spreads in the young wood by its thread-like roots. These cause warty excrescences several inches long on the sides of the branches, and are greenish and soft during the early part of summer, which attracts the curculio to deposit its eggs therein, especially when the stone fruit is scarce. Other larvæ have also at times been found in these green knots, and this gave rise to the opinion heretofore held that insects were the cause of the mischief. It is found, however, that the disease originates under the bark, where insects can have no access. The spores of the fungus are said to ripen on the diseased trees during winter. Should the black knot be observed at any time, even in the bearing season, the knife should be at once applied and the knot burned.—[American Rural Home.

A WORD FOR THE PEAR.—There is another advantage in growing the pear. It usually throws its roots deep down into the earth, and does not seem to eat out the surface soil for a long way around as the apple does. After an apple-orchard comes fully into bearing we must give up the ground wholly to it; but we can crop up almost to the trunk of an old pear tree, and get very nearly as good vegetables there as in any other part of the garden ground. This is of course in allusion to old standard pear-trees where the branches have been trimmed up to a good height; as however rich the soil, good vegetable crops cannot be grown if shaded by branches. The main point is that the roots of the pear-tree do not rob the surface-earth near so much as the apple-roots do.—[Germantown Telegraph.

The Blossom Buds of Peach Trees.

The interest of our country in fruit growing is every year increasing. There are more trees planted; more coming into bearing and there is an increasing demand for their products. This is not limited to apples, plums and small fruits. No inconsiderable amount is received in our market for Canadian grown pears and peaches, and the growing of them is receiving increased attention. The Massachusetts Ploughman, writing of the blossom buds of pears, says careful observers know that a peach blossom in its proper state will endure a degree of cold which will nearly congeal the mercury in the thermometer, and that a frost will not injure the blossoms until they are fully expanded, and the fruit has begun to set.

The killing of the peach blossoms he attributes to the expanding of the fruit buds and the gum that holds the outer covering to the bud melting and leaving the buds exposed, the result of warm weather following cold weather about the last of October.

The remedy proposed is as follows:

How shall we avoid this destructive action? shall we go back and adopt the methods of by-gone days? But few are willing to do this; we are not willing to wait for a slow growth of wood, nor are we satisfied with medium sized fruit; the masses go for high pressure and two forty speed; so our peach trees must be kept in a high state of cultivation, even at the risk of losing the entire crop. Being determined not to go back, but to press onward, we must set our wits at work to overcome the difficulty. If the trouble is in the swelling of the buds in the autumn, then anything we can do to stop it will be a step in the right direction; to do this it seems to be necessary to keep the ground cool, so that no sap will ascend from the roots of the tree. This can be accomplished by mulching the land with a liberal quantity of any cooling material, like wood shavings, hay, leaves or brush. One of the best peach orchards we ever saw was mulched six inches in depth with white pine boughs; cedar, hemlock or even spruce brush, we presume would be equally good. Leaves make a very cool mulching, but it would be very difficult to get them in many places in quantities sufficient to mulch an orchard of any size, and to keep them from blowing away they must be covered with some other material. We have found wood shavings an excellent material and cool enough to prevent the buds swelling in the autumn. In the most of localities evergreen boughs are the most abundant material and can be obtained the cheapest of any of the above named.

When we fully understand the wants of the peach tree, there is but little doubt but that out of abundant material which our land affords we shall be able to supply them, and instead of sending south for such large quantities of peaches we shall raise a considerable portion of what we consume, and by so doing keep our money at home, and furnish work for our increasing population.

Growing Chinese Primroses.

In the cultivation of the *Primula*—Chinese Primrose—the *Gardeners' Chronicle* gives the compost used by a most successful English grower as follows: The soil is made up of well-decayed and sweetened leaf-mould, two parts; rich fibrous turfy loam, one part; with a good sprinkling of coarse sand added, to keep the whole free and porous. Later on, when the plants are shifted into their blooming pots, about one-sixth part of the cow manure, reduced to fine mould, is added, and a slight sprinkling of guano is found to be very beneficial to the plants. A thorough sweetening of the soil is considered of the first importance, and scarcely less important is good drainage, for the primula is very impatient of anything like a soddened soil.

The greatest care should be taken to prevent burning under the glass. The plants should be shifted into larger pots from time to time, as they fill them with roots, being finally put into six inch pots for blooming. It is essential that the plants do not receive any check in any stage of growth. Hence it is best to buy of the green-house man plants nearly ready for bloom, unless the amateurs have good conveniences for forcing them.