

knot. Of course the branch or stock in which the bud is set remains just as it was before, no topping or cutting off.

The budding of peach trees is best deferred until August, and is always adopted instead of grafting, which is not recommended for this fruit.

#### Popular Fallacies About Insects.

There is a popular idea that a hard winter is very destructive to insects, and that they will be fewer in the summer following. The idea is not a true one. When our winters are steadily cold few insects hatch out of the egg or the chrysalis state; in those winters that are mild, large numbers of insects come forth on fine warm days and nights, and great numbers will perish before they can lay eggs or change their forms, by frost, storms, or birds. This is not theoretical, but proven by the observations of over forty years spent in the study of natural things. Any one may see on warm days and nights plenty of flies, moths, gnats, &c., in winter, and these are almost invariably destroyed before they can breed. In some springs we have a continuance of cold, ungenial winds which hinder a good state of growth in plants; at such times plants, shrubs, and even trees get infested with great quantities of insects, especially what is called the green and black aphid, or fly; many people still believe that these insects are brought in the winds but this is far from the truth; the plants by their slow state of growth are made more favorable places for insects. By those conditions every gardener who knows his business knows that insects get most upon his plants when they are in a low state of growth; the eggs and chrysalides are always somewhere around, and when circumstances are favorable they are ready for work.

An old gardener once expressed it, that only ignorance and idleness ever allowed insects to get "boss" in gardens or houses. The old man's words are true. Many good people have a happy knack in dealing with the insect world; they will see a few one day on their plants, and leave them to some other time before they undertake to stop them either from breeding or eating, and then often commence to save their plants when they are well crowded, and it takes as much to destroy the vermin as often fixes the plants also. Those who wish to keep insects in check must never have any "tomorrow" about their ways but must act as soon as the eggs, chrysalides, or vermin in any state are seen. Destroy the first lot and it is rare that there's much trouble after. Those who have only a few plants in a window can easily keep them clean. If the plants are not large take the pot in the right hand, by its bottom, and let the stem of the plant between the middle fingers; then souse the head in a pail or tub of soapsuds, and then rinse it in clear water. If this were done once or twice a week, it would benefit the plants even if no insects had to be killed.

It would be easy to write many chapters how to destroy insects, but a watchful eye and prompt action in destroying them is worth all that can be recommended, and the finger and thumb will often keep a large place pretty free from such pests. These are occasions when it is needful to apply wholesale (as it were) means. The English farmers could not grow turnips were it not for their free use of coal soot. As soon as their turnips get into a second leaf a little black fly comes in millions, and would destroy the crop (which is there an important one), but by covering the plants with soft coal soot they are saved. The soot don't kill the insects, but insects are somewhat like human beings; if they get well annoyed they shift, and the soot as it washes off the plants makes them grow faster. Soot is used over large areas of other crops to drive away insects, and as a fertilizer. It is not an uncommon thing to see ten or twelve car loads of soot leaving a town or city for the farmers in the country. Were the uses of soot more generally known we should have fewer complaints about insects.—[A Perambulating Gardener, in *Prairie Farmer*.

#### Mulching Newly-Planted Trees.

There are some people—among them good nurserymen—who doubt the value of mulching newly-planted trees, and offer excellent reasons for it. While we do not agree with them to the extent to which they carry this unbelief, we think they are partially correct. To pile around a young tree a mass of grass, weeds, manure, &c., and allow it to remain undisturbed through the whole or the greater part of the hot, dry season, may be of no service, rather an injury to the young tree,

as the fresh air is excluded from the soil and it becomes dry and hard. But this is not the way that we recommend mulching to be done. We recommend that the mulching should be removed four or five times during the season, give the earth around the tree a careful stirring, then water if the soil needs it, and apply a fresh mulch. It is a good plan, also, after planting a tree in the spring, to give the soil around the stem a dish shape, in order that it may receive a full supply of rain. This mode being followed, our own experience satisfies us that mulching is an excellent thing, and for us has saved many a tree perishing from drought.

#### Champion alias Beaconsfield Grape.

In the report of the "Fruit Growers Association" of Abbotsford, P. Q., the following is found concerning the "Champion or Beaconsfield" Grape:

"This variety was also on the table at Abbotsford, and on account of its earliness attracted special attention. It was also exhibited in 1877 by L. W. Decker, of Montreal, who had bought it in 1871. Since then it has been largely imported as the Champion, and sold as such; and more recently imported as the Champion and sold as the Beaconsfield. It combines the main characteristics of a market fruit. It is essentially a pioneer grape. It was in flavor the poorest, with one exception, of the thirty-three exhibited. It is, however, quite good enough to sell. The market does not demand quality in a grape any more than it does in a pear or in an apple. The Champion has the earliness, size and color, necessary for a commercial grape, and as such, and a forerunner of finer fruits, it may prove of great service to our northern country. As a commercial grape, however, it has a weak point in its shortness of season. The Champion drops from the bunch, somewhat—less so we think than the Hartford; but our knowledge on this point is limited. It is short in its season, though nothing like so short as a Peach Apple; but in a general way it is like the Peach and Astrachan apple, early and perishable, yet profitable. The money aspect of this Champion grape, the proprietors of the vineyard at Beaconsfield must surely have carefully weighed, and their firm belief in it they have proved by the fact that they have planted out seventeen acres or 12,100 vines.

#### The Time for Pruning Evergreens.

Many of our readers can remember when no one thought of pruning an evergreen with the view of bringing it into shape, save to cut away the lower limbs and bring it out of all decent shape. By evergreens we now refer to the cone-bearing trees and not to hollies, rhododendrons and other broad-leaved evergreens. Several recent letters ask the proper time for pruning these trees. A more important question should take precedence of, and also decide that—namely—"Why prune at all?" No one should cut a branch, large or small, evergreen or deciduous, without having a clear idea of what he does it for. Pruning may be done to accomplish the most opposite ends. We may prune to promote growth of limb, or we may prune to check the growth, and so on. Let us say, in the first place, whatever else is done to an evergreen do not cut it away below. Left to themselves, these trees form pyramids of verdure of the greatest beauty. A tree with its broad base resting upon the ground and tapering gracefully upwards is a most pleasing object and gratifying in its symmetry and apparent stability to every person of taste. Cut away the lower limbs, leaving a naked trunk of six to eight feet, and all beauty and symmetry are destroyed, and we have an object as graceless as a hay-cock upon a gate-post, a horticultural horror. This treatment is often excused by the plea that the trees were at first planted too closely, and now light and air are shut out, hence this cutting away of the lower branches. If the trees are too near the house, either remove or cut them down—but do not cut them up. There is no proper time for pruning of this kind. If the tree grows one-sided or irregularly, and it is desired to have an increased growth at any point, the proper way to secure this is to cut the branches back to induce a new growth to push vigorously. Pruning for this purpose should be done when the season of growth is well matured in early autumn. If the irregularity is due to an excess of growth, and it is necessary to repress this, then the proper time to do it is immediately after the growth in length has been completed, but before the wood has become hardened and matured. Much may often be done to improve the form of a tree and fill

out their places by bending some of their branches and tying them in the proper position, taking care that the ligatures are no where so tight as to check the enlargement of the branches. If held thus for a few years, they will retain their position. The pruning of evergreen hedges is governed by the same rules. In the first years of a hedge we wish it to grow as quickly as may be to the required height, therefore, if the growth can anywhere be encouraged by cutting back it is to be done in early autumn. When the hedge is as high and broad as desired, we then wish to repress further growth, and the main pruning is done as soon as the spring's growth has been made, but while the shoots are still tender. Cutting in that state tends to check the growth. This, in an established hedge, is the most important pruning, that performed in the fall being merely to correct and preserve the shape. In cutting all horizontal branches half an inch or more in diameter, make a sloping cut on the underside of the branch, so that in looking down upon it the wound is not seen.—[*American Agriculturist*.

#### The Phylloxera in America.

This insect so much dreaded by vine growers is now causing great injury to the vineyards of California. Some of the richest vine-bearing provinces in France have been devastated by its ravages, and of late it has spread greatly through the vine-growing districts of the Southern States, and if some remedy be not discovered and applied California wine will be only a luxury of past years.

The Legislature of California has recently passed an act in the interests of grape culture in that State. Under its provisions a commission has been appointed to investigate the diseases and insects affecting the vine, with power to establish a quarantine if found expedient, and otherwise regulate the traffic in and also the cultivation of vines throughout the State. The chief officer is to receive not more than \$150 per month for actual service, with travelling expenses added, which are not to exceed \$500 per annum. In addition to the above, the Commission have a certain sum of money placed at their disposal for incidental expenses. Their principal duty is to look into the phylloxera question, and discover, if possible, some way of checking the spread of this destructive parasite, which, of late, has become so prevalent in the vineyards of California.

#### Privacy of Gardens.

No private garden, however beautiful, ought to be too open to the public gaze. It looks too much like an effort at ostentatious display and invites miscellaneous and careless criticism too freely. We would not have enclosed in with excessive care by impervious hedges the whole frontage, as we see some gardens and many lawns, for that on the other hand looks like selfish exclusiveness. There should be some openings through which glimpses of the interior could be obtained, and, thus seen, a garden always shows to more advantage than if entirely exposed. The general principle is carefully observed by landscape-gardeners in laying out extensive grounds, openings being carefully made to allow of views near and remote. There is not much pleasure for guests to stroll in a garden that is entirely open on a public highway and always subject to impertinent gaze and idle remark. The slightest movement or pleasantries is sure to attract attention, which while it may suit a certain class who like display, is very distasteful to the cultivated and refined. Some openings should always be left to satisfy the curiosity of those who like to see beautiful grounds, and these will be quite sufficient to answer the purpose without exposing the whole place and making a vain display of everything.—[*Germantown Telegraph*.

Never forget that an orchard, as surely as a corn field, consumes the fertility of the soil, and that to starve the soil is as sure to prove unprofitable in the one case as in the other. Trees may live on from year to year upon what they can draw from an exhausted soil; but it will prove just as fallacious to expect a good crop of fruit under such circumstances as it would under similar circumstances to expect a full crop of corn or other grain. We have no doubt but that the vigor consequent upon abundant nourishment, will in some cases enable an orchard tree to carry its crop safely through unfavorable circumstances that would be fatal to the crop of a feeble one.