

➤ Question Drawer. ◀

TREATMENT OF AZALEA.

579. SIR,—A friend of mine has a fine azalea which bloomed very profusely last spring and is now looking well and healthy. Will you kindly let us know what is the best way to treat it during the summer, and also when we may expect it to bloom again, and very much oblige,
GEO. D. GOODHUE, *Danville, P. Q.*

Reply by Mr. John Craig, Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

After blooming, the azalea should be watered freely and fertilized with liquid manure till its growth has been completed, when it should be allowed to harden off somewhat by lessening the amount of water and placing it in a somewhat drier and cooler situation. Previous to blooming, the plant should again be watered freely and well fertilized. During the period of its rapid growth, care should be taken to keep the plant in good form by pinching back the straggling shoots which are occasionally developed. Such treatment will probably bring it into flowering again in January or February.

THE BLACK KNOT.

580. SIR,—I have read a good deal about black knot as a fungus, but I cannot believe in the theory, because I always find white maggots in them, when the knots are about half grown. I enclose a sample. This evening I found a curculio in one of the knots, and I wonder if this insect deposited the eggs in the knot?

F. L. GERNDT, *Paris, Ont.*

Reply by John Craig, Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

It was originally supposed that the excrescences on plum and cherry trees which we call "black knots" were caused by insects, but microscopic examination proves beyond doubt that while insects may often infest and inhabit these knots, they do not occasion their development. The fungous origin of the black knot cannot be called a theory, but is an established fact. All gall-producing insects form their own characteristic galls exactly alike according to its species in each instance, while in the case of the black knot of the plum and cherry many insects of different kinds may be found harbored in the irregular crevices of these unsightly outgrowths. It is much wiser to cut out and destroy the knots than to search for an insect which may have formed them.

TOMATOES should not be picked too ripe nor too green, but should be all about the same ripeness or some will rot before others ripen. When shipped long distances from market they should be packed as soon as they begin to color and when nearer market they should be ripe. Let the size be even and pack tightly, so that they will not shake and become bruised.