

## ❖ Question Drawer. ❖

### Fertilizers for Specific Purposes.

**1038.** SIR,—What kind of manure, either natural or artificial is best for bringing out in perfection, the distinctively blue colour of the Colorado Blue Spruce.

JOHN M. McAINSH, Belton, Ont.

*Reply by Frank T. Shutt, Chemist,  
Dom. Expl. Farms.*

In answer to the above question, I would say that in all probability the striking and beautiful colour of certain Colorado Blue Spruce trees is not caused by any peculiarities in the composition of the soil. Since in the same plantation and upon the same soil, only a few of these trees may develop this remarkable sheen, it cannot be considered as due to the predominance of any one element of plant food.

We, however, know very well that an abundance of nitrogen in the soil, as furnished by barnyard manure, nitrate of soda or sulphate of ammonia, intensifies and darkens the green colouring matter in the foliage of many flowering plants and farm crops. There is also good evidence to show that the presence in the soil of soluble iron, as, for instance, supplied by sulphate of iron (green vitriol), has a marked effect of a similar character.

Whether any change in the colour of the Colorado Blue Spruce can be induced by any such means is *extremely doubtful* to the writer, but it would be an interesting experiment for your correspondent to apply to the soil about a tree, say, 1 pound of nitrate of soda, and in another case half a pound of sulphate of iron, and note if any change in the colour of the foliage results. Evenness of distribution would be effected if the materials were powdered and mixed with five times their weight of dry loam and sand.

It may be well to point out that these

intensely blue spruce trees cannot with certainty be reproduced from seed, but may be propagated by cuttings.

### Cyclamen.

**1039.** SIR,—I noticed in the November number a reference to a new style of Cyclamens, and I should be glad to know from your contributor where the seed for this strain is to be obtained, and under what name it is known.

J. A. ROBERTSON,  
Chateauquay Basin, Que.

*Reply by Wm. Bacon, Orillia.*

The *Cyclamen giganteum grandiflorum* can at present be obtained of almost all first-class seedsmen, but if the subscriber should write to Wm. Ewing & Co., of Montreal, Que., and mention my name he would be likely to get the very best that the European, Canadian or American growers have produced. I sold him seeds of my choicest blooming plants at 1½ cts. per seed. Usually they get 27 to 35 seeds in a 25 cent packet.

### Hardy Fruits.

**1040.** SIR,—What are the names of some of the hardiest varieties of apples, pears and plums, that might stand 40° below freezing.

LEWIS WEIGAND,  
Upper Thorne Centre.

We have not yet completed our list of the best hardy varieties of fruits for the north; and therefore can only make our correspondent a partial reply. Of apples he should try Transparent, Duchess, Alexander, Wolf River, Wealthy, Gideon and Scott's Winter. Of pears, Flemish Beauty and Sapieganka. Of plums, Moore's Arctic, Miner and Kingston.

### Ornithogalum Arabicum.

**1041.** SIR.—Some of the members of the Hamilton Horticultural Society would like to know if any of your readers have forced the above named plant with success.

J. M. DICKSON, Hamilton.