

Manure for the Grape.

The following, taken from a work on Manuring the Vineyard, is good advice. We are of the opinion that the application of a compost thus made, will benefit a vineyard, however rich or poor the soil may be.

"It is neither desirable nor necessary to impart to the vine too much luxuriantness. As yet, nothing of much importance is attached to a second method of manuring, often resorted to as it the growth of the vine, though an excessive use of manuring will delay the ripening of the fruit, and impair the quality and quantity of the wine produced.

"It is very important that the manure should not only furnish to the vine heat and nutriment, but also impart to it warmth. Further, no manure should be used which assists the growth of the wood, but which does not promote the yield of the vine.

"Fresh animal manure is not suitable for vineyards, as it contains too much nitrogenous nourishment of excessive richness. It is therefore advisable to mix with it masses of ground, for the purpose of properly dividing the manure. Good ground is mixed with animal manure; horn shavings, ashes, bones, sawdust, dry leaves, mud, etc., in heaps; which must be moistened frequently with water, etc., and frequently stirred or mixed together."—*Farm Journal*.

GRAPE TRELLIS.—For a few years past, I have used a spiral spring, made of No. 8 or 10 wire, fastened to the ends of the horizontal wires. This allows for all the strain which can be made by the changes of the weather. And, this method requires no fixing or adjusting as in the method recommended by Mr. B. M. Soule.—*La Rey's Standard, or Fruit & Garden*.

THE WINDOW GARDEN.

Hanging Baskets.

These baskets are among the prettiest ornaments a room can have. They are in universal use, and the florists keep a large supply of them. But these are quite expensive, and besides the florist is seldom seen in the country, where all through the summer flowers bloom by the wayside, in the fields, and grow in thick luxuriance through the woods, and where in winter every home has its own greenhouse plants. It is not to the florists one need go, when, with a few simple directions, any ingenious boy or girl can make pretty and inexpensive hanging baskets. We will give some such directions for those who desire them.

First, take a wooden bowl of any size you desire; then obtain from the woods a quantity of rough, crooked or knotty twigs or roots, soak them in water so as to make them pliable. Varnish the bowl with asphaltum varnish; screw in rings for the hanging-cords to pass through. When the varnish is dry, arrange and fasten these twigs or roots on the bowl in any way your taste may devise. The best way is to bend one of them round the top of the bowl and fasten it securely down; then tangle several pieces round the same way, till the whole surface of the bowl is covered. Fasten one round the top rim of the bowl, by way of finishing it, then varnish these branches like the bowl, and your basket will be completed. If you prefer, you can take, instead of twigs and roots, cones, acorns, &c., and arrange them on the outside of the bowl in the form of flowers, or any pattern your fancy may suggest, and then varnish them. Always use copper nails for fastening the twigs or cones on the bowl.

Baskets may also be made by procuring some small sticks of the oak or maple cut of equal lengths, according to the size of the basket desired. After the sticks are nailed together, a wooden bottom must be fastened down. This basket is easily made, and looks quite pretty when covered with creeping plants.

Other pretty baskets may be made by shaping wire in the form of a basket, painting it green, and intertwining moss through the wires. White, grey or green dry moss is the best for this purpose.

Cocoa-nut shells or sea shells, if you have them, can be made into small hanging baskets, and are very pretty.

All these baskets should be covered in the inside with thick, green moss, both to keep the soil moist and to make the basket look neater. Among the list of common plants suitable for these baskets are the Toad Flax, Ivy, and *Lobelia speciosa*, the trailing Moneywort (*Lysimachia Nummularia*), with its yellow flowers, is very beautiful.

A sort of fernery can be made by bringing from the woods ferns and mosses; then arranging them in

the basket, putting moss over the soil that covers the roots.

These baskets, with their green trailing branches and bright flowers, will materially lighten the pleasant aspect of a drawing-room or parlor, or furnish a verandah or window in the summer, as will be found should any of our numerous readers attempt to make them.—*Country Gentleman (U.S.)*

A Children's Flower Show.

In November last, several gentlemen in Manchester and Salford, England, formed themselves into a society with a view to encourage a taste among children for the cultivation of pot flowers. They accordingly purchased a number of plants in pots, and gave them to boys and girls who were likely to be as zealous in cultivating them. The first show of the flowers thus given was recently held, and about 250 children brought their plants for exhibition. The collection embraced Calceolarias, hyacinths, &c., some of which were very beautiful. Prizes of flower seeds were given to the boys and girls whose plants were in the best condition. The idea is certainly a good one.—*Horticulturalist*.

Care of House Plants.

A lady in Kansas gives her plan of caring for House Plants, as follows: "I live in a frame-house, and last winter kept fifty pots of different kinds of geraniums, roses, fuschias, and remontant pinks, all of which received the same kind of treatment, and in the spring my plants were more healthy and the leaves a lurk green color. Many came to me for slips in preference to the greenhouse. Every two weeks all winter I would take a handful of tobacco stems and steep them by pouring boiling water over them until it looked like strong tea, then when the tea cooled enough to bear the hand, I poured it over the plants. Sometimes the leaves would wilt for a few moments, and then straighten out and have that bright, fresh look they have in summer after a shower. Then I would weaken the tea a little more and wet the ground in the pots, and I had no red spider nor green fly."—*Pick's Floral Guide*.

Prepare for Window Gardening.

Those who wish for a good supply of window flowers next winter, should commence preparations about the first of the month. The Chinese primrose, cineraria, magnonette, alyssum, and other desirable plants should be sown in pots, and kept in a cool frame until they grow. Most people fail with these beautiful plants by sowing too late. The wallflower is a nice old-fashioned window flower, and cuttings of the double kinds should be struck at once. Cuttings of geraniums and other things for this coming winter's blooming may still be put in.

Keeping Geraniums through the Winter.

A writer in the *American Agriculturist* says: "I never have any trouble in keeping such geraniums as are worth keeping. They are taken up and cut back pretty severely, removing all the succulent and unripe wood. They are then stacked in a box with some dryish earth about the roots, and put in the cellar for the winter. The trouble is in putting them away too moist. The earth should be almost dust dry. I have a fine old Gloire de Nancy, which goes into the cellar for the fifth time."

THE FLOWER GARDEN.

A True Variegated Rose.

The Hudson N. Y., *Republican* notices the production of a new variegated rose by a florist of that city and says that this is the second one allowed to come into bloom of the cuttings from which he is propagating this rare novelty. It has been named the "Cora Macy," after one of his daughters, and promises to become a flower of great beauty and value. This rose originated as a "sport" from an ordinary monthly rose of deep red color in Mr. Macy's dooryard last season. It was transferred to his greenhouse and judiciously forced until several healthy plants have been obtained, and found true to color. The form and fragrance of the parent rose are fully preserved, while the leaves are all beautifully variegated in red and white, blending in the most perfect manner.

Ferneries.

In planting ferns of all kinds it is well to remember that they do best in coarse-grained, not sifted, soil, except, perhaps, for seedlings which are being started under glass. A very tasteful addition to the plants of this rock bed will be a few roots of our common evergreen ivy, which will flourish beautifully, and cling to the stones over which it clammers just as upon a wall.

Another design for a fernery in a small front-yard will be to build up a kind of pillar of rock-work, formed of old bricks or stones, whichever may be most convenient to obtain, leaving numerous openings on all sides, into which the ferns are to be planted, also *trachelium*, *scaberrima*, or any other hanging plant, a bunch of handsome wall-ferns, such as maiden-hair, forming a graceful tuft to crown the top. If in a very shady, damp place, the bricks will soon become green and mossy, which will greatly improve the general effect.—*Harpur's Bazaar*.

Roses.

The following list is sent us by an amateur, who says it makes the "crème de la crème" of roses; and that while some will differ from him, if there are better ones, he wants to buy:

Hybrid Perpetuals.—Gen. Jacqueminot, John Hopper, Charles Lefebvre, Anna de Diesbach, Jules Margottin, Victor Verdier, Geant des Batailles, Maurice Bernardin, Monte Christo, Prince Canille de Rohan, La France, Comtesse de Chabrilant.

Bourbon.—Appoline, Emotion, Hermosa, Souvenir de Malmaison, Sombreuil, Imperatrice Eugénie.

Tra.—Marechal Niel, Gloire de Dijon, Safrano, Viscomtesse de Cazes, Bon Silene, Demonisensis.

Noisette.—Amie Vibert, Mademoiselle Aristide, Woodland Margaret, Celine Forestier, Solfatara, Lamarque—W. S. T., in *Am. Farmer*.

Training Petunias.

A writer in the *Garden* says that a fine effect is obtained by this method of training Petunias. He procures a number of hazel rods, each about two feet long, bends them like croquet hoops, and drives both ends into the bed, placing them at suitable intervals all over it. On these he ties and trains his Petunias, which blossom more abundantly than usual under this treatment. We have seen Petunias successfully treated as if they were sweet pea vines, and trained on a slanting trellis. The trailing habit of this plant, especially late in the season, is not always sufficiently considered.

Warm Water for Plants.

There is no mistaking the perfect effect of warm spring rains upon young grass and plants, and its influence upon the germination of seeds; whilst autumn rains—unless they, too, are warm—produce no such sudden and vivifying effect. Let us learn care from these effects in Nature, and not chill our flowers with cold water, nor poison them with filthy water.

ACACIA RICIANA.—This beautiful species of Acacia, says the *Rural New-Yorker*, has a habit of growth something like that of a Weeping Willow. Its deep green foliage, its long, whip-like pendant branches clothed with golden flowers, the facility with which it can be trained over columns and arches, and the length of time during which it remains in flower, render it one of the most desirable acquisitions for a conservatory. The seeds should be soaked in warm water twenty-four hours before sowing, otherwise they will be a long time germinating.

The autumn competition of fruit, hollyhocks, and dahlias, in connection with the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society, took place on Wednesday. As on previous occasions, the exhibition was held in the Music Hall, George Street, Edinburgh. The long range of tables which occupied the floor, presented a display of plants and fruits which, if perhaps a little disappointing in some respects to those practical members of the Society who did not care to look beyond the merit of the competition itself, could not fail to prove satisfactory to most of the visitors who thronged the hall throughout the afternoon and evening.