

pects. A cold May and June made it impossible that we should have a good Wheat crop; and, from the clay soils especially of our chief wheat-growing districts, the reports were very gloomy. During a few hot weeks in July the appearance of the grain crops generally, however, very greatly improved, but the cold and rain which have since befallen us, have done harm. In hardly any year have we had so many second returns sent in correction of the first report, which had been more favourable than subsequent examination could allow. On the whole it will be seen that nearly half our Wheat returns state the crop to be below an average—less than half the returns report an average—and only one-tenth of our correspondents are able to state that the crop in their neighborhood is over average. The Wheat crop, then, we can hardly doubt, must be considerably below its usual productiveness.

Of the returns of the Oat crop, 80 put it as below the average, 72 declared it to be average, and 22 put it at beyond an average crop. And Barley, too, though our reports of it are not so unfavourable as those of the other grains, can hardly be pronounced an average crop. Seventy of our correspondents, indeed, do so pronounce it but of 91 others only 31 put it as being over average, and 60 declare it to be under average. It at one time promised to be a great Bean and Pea year; and probably these crops are better than we generally have them; but they have both become covered with aphids during the past few days, and neither of them will yield so well as was at one time expected.

The following is the tabular account of the reports with which our correspondents have favored us; and we place it alongside the corresponding figures for 1868, that the great contrast, especially in the Wheat crop, may be seen:—

	1868.			1869.		
	Over Average.	Average.	Under Average.	Over Average.	Average.	Under Average.
Wheat.....	126	67	13	18	73	28
Barley.....	5	74	140	31	70	63
Oats.....	3	37	138	22	72	65
Beans.....	0	22	137	26	75	75
Peas.....	6	79	41	8	58	72

As regards all succulent growth, we believe the country may be congratulated. There is a capital plant of both Mangel Wurzel and Swedes, and recent rains have saved much that seemed ready to die. There has been a great hay crop, and though pastures are somewhat bare just now, there is no such complaint as there was last year. The Potato crop promises to be good and healthy.—*Gardener's Chronicle.*

HINTS FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER.

FLOWER GARDEN AND PLEASURE GROUND.

Annually as the seasons roll round are we impressed with the great fact which we have been for years urging on the American public, that the European styles of gardening so commonly adopted in America, in our best places, are alto-

gether wrong. True art was made to minister to man's wants, not that man should be made to serve it; yet our best specimens of Landscape gardening make it a divinity, and human nature a sacrifice offered up to it. Recently we visited a tract whereon money had been lavished with an unsparing hand to make it beautiful. The walks are measured by miles; and we walked with the proprietor some hours through the grounds. Except that the curves of the road and the surface contour, or the size of the trees and shrubs were not *exactly* the same, we are not conscious that we imbibed one new fact, or had one new idea inspired by that weary walk that we did not receive during the first few moments there. We are quite sure that we should have derived more pleasure from a few hours stroll through some wild wood than we could ever get from such weary wonderings under a sultry sun, no matter how magnificent such "art" might be deemed.

We have before said in these pages that for a month or two in spring, when all nature is gushing forth joyously into life, we are content to look on and enjoy the wondrous sights; and when, in fall, the whole universe sparkles in autumnal tints, we gaze on the splendid pageant passing away without a selfish thought; but broiling, sweltering, roasting under our August suns, we feel that our garden art must do something more for us than show us beautiful sights like these.

We have learned to protect ourselves from cold wintry winds, but the art of making a place cool in summer is yet in its infancy. There is nothing accomplishes this better than *plenty of grass*, and the neat deciduous tree foliage. The making of flowerbeds with box edgings and gravel walks suits Dutch and French gardening, but it is too hot for us.

The beds should be cut in grass. The walks round about a place should also be in grass as much as possible; only those likely to be frequently used should be gravel walks. Even these, where tan can be obtained, are much cooler when this material can be used, than when gravelled. In the planting of roads, art, as we read it in the books, plants only in corners, and makes its most striking effects to be seen from the drives; but American art as it should be, plants all the chief drives with deciduous shade trees, and yet allows you to look through beneath them to the beauties beyond.

The best kind of deciduous trees for this purpose are the Silver, Sugar, Sycamore and Norway Maples; American, and where the borer is not troublesome, the English Linden; and American and European Ash, Horse Chestnut, and Oaks of all kinds. For farm roads the Cherry, Black English and White Walnuts, Chestnuts, and even the Pear may be employed. Besides these in the South there are the

Mimosa, the Melia Zederack, Magnolia grandiflora, which though an evergreen has the lightness of a deciduous tree besides Live Oaks, &c.

But besides the selection of trees for drives, weeping trees should be liberally introduced, some of which like weeping ashes, make cool and shady arbors preferable to any the carpenter's hand could make. Of these are the large varieties of Weeping Willow, Weeping Sophora, Weeping Birch, Lindens, Elms, &c. though none equal the Ash for arbor purposes.

Then again very much may be done by planting two or three trees together so that as they grow up, they will form natural seat backs. For this purpose there is nothing like the Oak tribe.

Sometimes we cannot get the coveted shade because we have planted slow growing trees—generally the prettiest and best worth waiting for,—this may be effected by planting liberally of Alders, Poplars and similar ephemeral trees, to be cut away as they gradually interfere with the permanent kinds.

The planting season will soon come round, and now is the time to look about and select the durable kinds, and to decide on the proper places to set them.

The latter end of August is one of the best seasons of the year to transplant evergreens. The young growth of the past season has got pretty well hardened so as to permit of but very little evaporation,—and the earth being warm, new roots push with great rapidity, and the tree becomes established in the ground before cool autumn winds begin. The chief difficulty is that the soil is usually very dry, which prevents much speed with the operation; and the weather being very warm, the trees have to be set again in the ground almost as fast as they are taken up; so that it is not safe to bring them from a distance. It is as well, therefore, to make all ready in anticipation of a rain, when no time may be lost in having the work pushed through. Should a spell of dry weather ensue,—which in September and October is very likely,—one good watering should be given, sufficient to soak well through the soil and well about the roots. A basin should be made to keep the water from running away from the spot, and to assist its soaking in. After being well watered the loose soil, should be drawn in lightly over the watered soil, which will then aid in preventing the water from drying out soon again.

As soon in the fall as bulbs can be obtained, they should be planted—though this will not generally be the case till October,—but it is as well to bear in mind that the earlier they are planted, the finer they will flower.

Towards the end of the month, and in September, evergreen hedges should re-