

Kitchen Garden for November.

This month warns us that winter is approaching, and preparations should be made towards carefully securing all products of the garden that are perishable by frost. Celery can be put away in trenches, which should be dug as narrow as possible, not more than 10 or 12 inches wide, and of the depth of the height of the celery. The celery is now placed in the trench in a perpendicular position so as to fill it up entirely, the green tops being on a level with the top of the trench. No earth is put to the roots other than what may adhere to them after being dug up. It being packed closely together, there is moisture enough always at the bottom of the trench to keep this plant from wilting. It must be gradually covered up from the middle of the month until winter sets in, when it will require at least a foot of covering of some light, dry material, hay, straw or leaves. It is important that the covering should be gradual, for if covered up at once it will prevent the passing of the heat generated by the closely packed mass of celery. Covered up in this manner it can be got out with ease during the coldest weather, and with perfect safety. The great difficulty most persons have is from stowing it away and covering it up too early. Beets, carrots and cabbages must be dug and secured this month. Horse radish, salsify and parsnips being entirely hardy and frost-proof, need not necessarily be dug, although from the danger of their being frozen in the ground the work had better be progressing. All clear ground should be dug or plowed and levelled, so that operations can be begun in spring with as little delay as possible. If draining is required, this is the most convenient time to do it. The sashes should be put on the cabbage and lettuce plants on cold nights, but on no account should they be kept on in the daytime, as it is of importance that they should not be made tender by being drawn up under the sashes. These plants are half hardy and it is only killing them with kindness protecting them from slight freezing.

Rhubarb and asparagus beds should be covered with from four to six inches of rough manure or other litter. The crops from beds thus covered will come in earlier and will be stronger than if left uncovered.

Beech Hedges.

I am a great admirer of hedges, whether intended for use or simply for ornament, and have been moved to recommend a hedge, no mention of which has appeared in print to my knowledge. This hedge is grown by sowing beech-nuts (in the fall, as they need the action of the frost) as you would sow peas, in a drill. It is better to break the sward slightly with some convenient tool, then to sow on the grass; but in either case the nuts should be slightly, not deeply, covered with leaves or straw. If the sprouts of sapling come up too thick, of course they should be thinned out, leaving the standing ones at a suitable distance from each other. They grow rapidly, and should be cut back as other hedges are, for a few years or until the trunk has sent out a sufficient number of lateral branches, though, if allowed to grow untrimmed, these branches will be thrown out; not as near the ground, to be sure, as if trimmed, but possibly, sufficiently low for all practical purposes in turning any stock larger than sheep. All who are acquainted with the growth of the beech in open land, know how scrubby its growth is, and that it seldom attains a height of more than 12 or 14 feet. I do not recommend this hedge for ornament, for it cannot be said to be very handsome; neither would I recommend it for cross-fencing; but for a line-fence, which is to be permanent, it is just the thing—rapid in growth, so hardy that it withstands the severest cold of winter and all climatic changes, and so tough and stiff in texture that, when it has grown to half the size of one's wrist, the largest, strongest and heaviest beast on the farm cannot break or bend it.

The beech hedge, when once firmly established, needs no repairs, and will last a "short forever."

and when it begins to die, death will first show itself upon the topmost branches, working slowly down, requiring perhaps years to kill the lower ones. Sowing the beechnut is comparatively an inexpensive process. One a little more expensive is to transplant very small saplings from the woods—which (if they do well, and are not much retarded by transplanting) take root and start quickly, will do equally as well as sowing the nut, and give a hedge sooner. For a permanent hedge, I should say try beech, either by transplanting or sowing the nut.—[C. E. Hewes in Cultivator.

Petunias for the House.

We have several common flowers—by that I mean flowers to be found growing in most gardens—which give excellent satisfaction in the house in winter. Most of these flowers are of the "accommodating" sort, using the word in the sense given it by country people, who mean by an "accommodating" person that he is one who will adapt himself to circumstances readily and not feel very much inconvenienced by any change from former circumstances.

Such a flower is the petunia. It has several features of merit: one is its profuse and constant blooming. In the garden it is generally covered with flowers, and it will do equally as well in the house if properly cared for. Another meritorious feature is its hardiness. It will stand extreme heat and the dryness of our usual sitting-room air, and also the low temperature of cold winter nights, when we carelessly let the fire die down. And a third point in its favor is, no insects ever trouble it.

It succeeds equally as well as a pot plant, trained to a trellis, or as a plant for basket use, allowed to droop. For the latter use it should be planted in a pot with some plant having more foliage, as the petunia does not have a great many leaves to cover the basket with. But in partnership with some plant that furnishes green while it supplies flowers it is very desirable.

For winter blooming lift the plant and the roots in an eight or ten-inch pot, cut back the top to within three or four inches from the ground; indeed, leave nothing but stubs. These will send forth plenty of new shoots and in three weeks you will have flowers on them. If you want a bushy plant keep the branches pinched in well. Use ordinary garden soil and give occasional waterings during the winter with some stimulant. Once in two weeks will answer. Keep the plant in a sunny window and remove all flowers as soon as they fade. The single varieties are the best. Cuttings can be rooted by the dozen in March to furnish a supply for the garden in summer.—[Farmers' Review.

Fuchsias.

Fuchsias, which have been blooming all summer, should now have a period of rest. Gradually quit watering them, and set them away in some dry, shady place for a few weeks when the leaves will drop off. Then the soil may be partly washed away from the roots, and then replanted in pots of a suitable size in fresh soil, composed largely of leaf mould and sand if possible. The plant may also be pruned some, if need be, to form a good shaped bush. Iron scales, to be found around a blacksmith's anvil, may be mixed with the soil to good advantage. Water sparingly at first, until new growth starts, which will be in about ten days, after which the plant should never be allowed to become dry, especially when the flower buds appear, or they will blast and drop off. The fuchsia does not require a full sunlight, and can be placed back some distance from the window. There are only a few varieties that are good winter bloomers: Speciosa, Carl Halt, Lustre and Madam Marshall are among the best.

Fruit trees procured from the nursery, if not planted out this fall, should be well heeled-in till spring. Many young trees are lost by doing this work carelessly. They may be injured in several ways. If the fine earth is not packed in solid among all the roots, air crevices will be left, and the roots will dry; and if the mice find their way into these crevices, they will finish what the drying has not done. The mice may be entirely excluded if the trees are placed in clean ground, away from weeds, grass or litter, and a ridge of smooth, solid earth is raised in the form of a ring about them. Mice will not ascend a smooth, solid bank of earth under the snow.

Window Flowers.

What would our homes be without flowers? Dull, cheerless and bereft of one of their principal adornments. That plants have a charm, is evidenced by the careful way in which they are watched, and tended even in windows, where they are frequently crowded in such a way as to almost shut out the light. Houses should be so designed that we may have a few plants, which under such circumstances would be a real pleasure to behold? The extra cost of say a bay window to a house would not be much, and the amount of enjoyment which it would afford is beyond measure. It may be asked, what can anyone without a glass structure do to keep up a supply of flowers? to which inquiry we reply, he might do a great deal, as there are many plants that up to near the time at which they come into bloom succeed best out-of-doors, where they not only come shorter jointed and stocky, but are more floriferous than when placed under cover. Take Fuchsias and Pelargoniums, for instance, which if grown in windows become one-sided and drawn, but which, if placed in suitable spots, the one in partial shade under the friendly shelter of a wall, and the other in full sun, are always sturdier and finer than they are in any other position. Besides these two there are hosts of other plants that may be raised from seed annually or kept as bulbs, and for winter there are plenty of hardy subjects that are quite equal in appearance to tender exotics. It will be a help to many, perhaps, if we enumerate some, and give a few particulars as to the way they should be managed, but the chief point at starting is not to attempt too much, as it is more satisfactory to grow a few well than to have a quantity inferior as regards merit. The great disadvantages under which many labor is not having suitable soil, and yet it is astonishing what results may be attained with even street scrapings, especially if in collecting them they are largely mixed with the droppings from horses, which, containing as they do so much vegetable matter, help greatly in keeping the whole open and porous. All that is necessary to make the compost perfect and suitable for most plants are a few nodules of turfy loam and peat, both of which may be obtained at any nursery at a moderate rate of cost. The mistakes generally made by inexperienced cultivators in potting plants are not using sufficient drainage, and filling the pots too full of soil, but a more frequent complaint, perhaps, than either is the quantity of water which they give, and the way they allow them to stand in it and drown. More plants are injured and lost in this way than in any other, as it not only soddens the earth, but causes the roots to decay. Some will stand it and enjoy it, but they are only the few which are half aquatic in character. Drainage, then, being such an important matter for the others, the first preliminary to potting is to carry that part of it out properly, which is best done by first placing an oyster shell over the hole, and covering it to a depth of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch or so with small cinders or charcoal. These will afford a ready outlet for the water, and if the pots do stand in the little that drains through at this time of year it will not be productive of any great harm. In winter, however, it should be poured away, or taken out of the saucers by means of a coarse piece of sponge, which dipped in, soon absorbs the whole without moving the plants. The common enquiry amongst amateurs is how often shall I water? Which leads one to suppose that they expect plants require water with the same regularity as we do our meals; but instead of this there are so many varying circumstances connected with the weather and the varying state of the atmosphere, that no set time can be stated. The amount of leafage, too, that a plant has, and the body of soil the roots are in, have much to do with the quantity of moisture it will take up, and the instructions therefore in regard to this matter must be general. There is one thing of great importance, which is, when water is given it should be sufficient to wet the entire ball, instead of being administered in dribbles, as is too generally done. A good test of a plant's condition is to try the weight, or rap the pot, which if dry will ring, owing to the shrinkage of soil from its side; but if wet the sound will be heavy and leaden. An experienced person, and one accustomed to look after the same plants, soon knows at a glance whether they want water or not, and until the necessary knowledge is gained it is better to err on the safe side than overdo them with water.

Cut off top end of beets, carrots, parsnips, etc., and put in dish of moss for winter house plants. You will be pleased.