

THE FRUIT GARDEN.

Grafting Grape-Vines.

Those who wish to graft their vines over with other kinds should remember that winter and not spring is the time for it—and in this the grape is different from most other trees. It is different in this, that in the spring of the year there is such a tremendous pressure upwards by the ascending sap, that the parts of the scion and stock, which to unite must of course touch one another, are forced by the sap apart. When the grafts are put in at this season there is little of this. The severed cells granulate and heal, and when the sap is ready to flow upward strongly, it goes up through its regular channels in the graft without any tendency to break out through the junction.

How to graft grape-vines, admits of many various replies. The best is probably that described years ago in our pages by Samuel Miller, then of Lebanon in this State, who was very successful as a grafter of the grape. He drew away the soil from the stock to be grafted, cut it down about two inches from the surface, then cut with a stout sharp knife a long and narrow wedge-shaped notch in the stock, and shaped the scion as a wedge to fit in the notch in the stock. The lips of the notch are then tied together and the earth drawn in around the hole, leaving the upper eye of the graft above the ground.

We may say that it is very astonishing that grape-grafting is not more generally practised, and especially since the discovery that the great success of the Concord, Clinton and a few other grapes, is not owing to any extra constitutional hardness, but to the fact that the power to throw out numerous fibrous roots is greater in these kinds. If this be true, and it seems to be really the case, we may have the choicest and the best of grapes by grafting them on these vigorous-rooting stocks.

For once the French seem to have taken a start ahead of us in this matter. They sent an agent to this country last year—a shrewd, observing fellow—and he took in the whole situation at once. The result has been that millions of cuttings of Concord and Clinton cuttings have been sent to France the past year, and in future the vines of that country will be brought to perfection, if not to our own shores, on "American bottoms," of the most substantial character.—*Germantown Telegraph*.

Grapes for Winter Keeping.

A correspondent writes to the *Rural New Yorker*, dating from Lockport, N. Y. :—

Fresh grapes in the family are a wholesome luxury at any season of the year; but it is only within a brief period that this delicious fruit has found its way to any extent upon the table, even in the ripening season. In hundreds of families good grapes, ripe grapes, at their season, are yet unknown. It is an easy task to grow grapes in abundance for family supply, yet how many neglect it. The introduction of new varieties within the last ten or twenty years and the consequent interest created in their culture, has done much to educate the public taste up to an appreciation of their value. In this latitude, from early September to December, we may easily have in succession a family supply of the different varieties, and with a proper selection of sorts this supply may be extended a much longer, or until March or April. I think the time is not far distant when well-regulated families will make it as much a point to lay in their winter supply of grapes as they now do of winter apples. But some of our most popular sorts, which are abundant in market during "grape season," are perishable and cannot be kept into winter.

Among these, and most widely known, are Hartford Concord and Delaware. Like the summer apples, they are good in their season and perish with their using. Another class, like Iona, Catawba, Diana and Isabella will ripen perfectly and uniformly only in a few favored localities. Some of these sorts are good keepers, but on account of lateness cannot be relied upon by the people at large. What we want, then, is varieties early enough to ripen almost everywhere, and having keeping qualities that may be relied on after the perishable ones are gone. Have we such varieties in cultivation to which to fill this void? I think we have, and that, till something better is introduced, some of the Rogers Hybrids may be safely adopted, as they have been to quite an extent. Although encountering some opposition, these sorts have been steadily gaining in public estimation. At the head of them in quality stands Salom; next among the red varieties, Aga-

wam, and Wilder and Merrimac among the black. These all ripen with me as early as Concord, and are of course available for early market or family supply, and if desired can, with but little care, be packed away for use all through the winter. They are excellent in quality, hardy in vine, requiring no winter protection, heavy and uniform bearers. There are other of Rogers which it may be desirable to grow, but these are the best calculated to fill the void in the particular I have named.

PROFIT OF QUINCES—An Olan, who has three-fourths of an acre of quince orchard, from which last year he sold 300 bushels of first-class fruit, spades the ground in spring, and scatters a peck of coal ashes around each tree, applying at the same time a quart of salt, and another quart when the quinces are half grown.

A NEW USE FOR COAL ASHES—A New York gardener has succeeded in keeping his currant and gooseberry bushes free from the currant worm by mulching heavily with coal ashes. The ashes also have another value not expected, viz.: keeping the ground cool and moist, so that even English gooseberries will bear heavy crops without sign of mildew. We judge also the use of coal ashes would be good for asters which need cool soil also.

THE FLOWER GARDEN.

Opuntia Rafinesquiana.

The cut which we give on this page is a representation of the *Opuntia Rafinesquiana*. We reproduce the cut and description from the catalogue of Mr. J. A. Simmers, of Toronto. This, says the catalogue, is "the only species of



Cactus or Indian Fig known as being hardy enough to stand severe winter weather, and ripening its fruit without more protection than a slight covering of straw. It is a native of the northern part of the Mississippi Valley, Illinois, Missouri and Wisconsin; of trailing habit; the leaves have no stings or prickles, like other cactus; the flowers, appearing in July, are bright citron yellow; the oblong fruits are dark red; the latter have rather a pleasant flavor, similar to gooseberries, are perfectly harmless, and much liked by children. The fruit takes a full year to ripen. The plants are propagated by breaking off the slips and inserting them in sandy soil in the open air, where they soon take root. A most valuable plant for rock-work."

Watering Flowers in Pots.

Many who have the care of window plants seem to think that the operation of watering is one of the simplest items incident to their care, and will hardly thank us for advice on this point, and yet we may safely hazard the assertion that more plants are injured and more fail to reach their greatest perfection from an improper mode of watering than from all other causes combined.

To water the various varieties that their different wants shall all be supplied and no more, is an art acquired by but few, and the credit which some receive for fine collections is often due to the proper observance of this one item.

It should be kept in mind that the duty of the water is to dissolve and convey to the roots of the plants the food which they need; some plants must have a season of comparative rest, and if such are watered liberally during this time they will keep on growing, and the necessary rest is not obtained. When any of my lady friends tell me that they succeed very well with certain classes of plants such as the Fuchsia, Calla, Lobelia and Ivies, and fail with others, I at once set them down as being profuse waterers, who by too much water injure or destroy such plants as will not bear it. On the other hand, there are those who fail with this class of plants and succeed well with others, because their mode of watering does not supply enough for the wants of one class, but is about the proper amount for another.

Many plants are permanently injured by water remaining in the saucer; others often suffer from a bad selection of the soil.

Some of our amateur florists fail with a certain class of plants, of which the Begonia may be taken as a type, because they shower the leaves with cold water, but for this very reason are eminently successful with another class, of which the Camellia will serve as a type.

As a general rule, from which there are few variations, the texture of the leaf may be taken as an index of their power to resist the application of water. Plants having porous, open, or fleshy leaves covered with soft down should be seldom, if ever, misted, while those having glossy or hard leaves will do all the better if washed frequently.

Our Ivies, Hoyas, and Cobæas seem to laugh at us after a good dashing, but the Begonias, Coleus, and plants of the same class do not appear to appreciate it.—*Horticult*.

In China a liquor is distilled from the flowers of the Chrysanthemum which is regarded as an elixir vitae, and in the Chinese pharmacopœia a powder of the flowers is prescribed as a cure for drunkenness.

LIQUID MANURE IN THE GREEN-HOUSE—Manure is best applied to plants in pots in a liquid form. That obtained from sheep droppings or from cow dung (with a little soot added if it can be had) is preferable to that obtained from chicken or pig manure, guano or even horse droppings; as it is less stimulating and does not cause such an excessive leaf and stem growth, or produce as serious injury if incautiously applied.—*American Garden*.

PLANT GROWING IN GLAZED POTS—It is generally believed that plants succeed best in pots which are most porous. Mr. Thomson, of Drumlanrig, entertains, however, a different opinion. More than half the Orchids, stove plants, Ferns, and even hard-wooded plants grown there are in pots which are thickly glazed from top to bottom, and the growth of each and all is wonderfully fine. The fine foliage plants are, indeed, marvels of health and bright color, and many of the Orchids are unequalled in the country. Mr. Thomson informed me that, as the other plants, which are in common clay pots, require shifting, he intends substituting glazed ones, so that very shortly there will be no other kind of pot in use about Drumlanrig but glazed ones. The latter never become green or dirty looking, and all they require to renew their original gloss, when soiled, is a rub with a rough cloth.—*Car. Garden*.

A LADY in Lake City, Fla., has growing in her garden a genuine cork-tree thirty feet high, the bark on which is sufficiently thick to make bottle-corks. There is also in the same garden a genuine black pepper bush, which yields regularly a full crop of berries.

LILAC DR. LINDLEY—This is by far the best addition which has been made of late years to our hardy forcing shrubs. Here we have a sort that will in a short time supersede the French production in the way of white lilac, since it sets its buds as small plants and opens freely, while the French plants are large before fit for forcing. We have some plants eighteen inches high, with a dozen clusters of bloom, and if forced in a shady house it comes a good white. When it is more plentiful and the plant gets up to say three feet or so in height, there will be no more showy plant for a greenhouse.—*Florist*.

FUCHSIAS IN IRELAND—An English paper speaks of the astounding luxuriance of the old red fuchsia in Ireland, near Carlingford Bay. It assumes the proportions of trees, mounts above the eaves and chimneys, and shades the windows with big clustering sprays of tiny, dark-green leaves, and deep scarlet, waxen bells. Many of these shrubs must be of patriarchal age, for their trunks are gnarled, and tough as oak; but the older they are, the more determined is their perseverance in showering around an exhaustless wealth of hardy grace and color. In one or two instances the dwellings were completely hidden, and turned into bowers, by this quantity beautiful plant or tree.

GARDEN LABELS—My experience is that wooden ones are, after all, the best, cheapest, and most enduring. I have some in use now quite five years old, and showing no sign of decay; perhaps the only drawback to them is the white paint so soon gets dirty, then the name is not so legible. My plan is to paint the label well all over, except the place for the name, with two coats of white paint, and when thoroughly dry and fit for use write the name with a heavy lead pencil well into the wood. Fix the label to the stake vertically, with a nail through the middle. When the stake rots, it is easily removed with a strong pruning knife, together with the nail, ready for the fresh stake. For dwarf plants use slips of slate and white paint to write the name in.—*Cor. Journal of Horticulture*.