

When to Plant Fruit Trees—Fall or Spring?

THE Fruit Growers' Association addressed this inquiry to every Horticultural and Agricultural society in Upper Canada, besides sending it to many gentlemen interested in the culture of fruit. About fifty replies were received, and the committee charged with the preparation of the report, state that not more than one-fourth of them were in favor of fall planting; a few expressed the opinion that the time when is not of as much importance as the manner how. A letter was received from a gentleman who stated that he had for some time been engaged in selling trees, and had made large deliveries, both in the fall and spring; that on going over the ground the following season, he had invariably found on all soils that the trees planted in the spring succeeded best; and states, as the result of his observation, that the spring is the most favorable by at least twelve per cent. Some of the answers received recommend that the trees should be procured in the fall, laid in by the heel during the winter, and planted out in the spring; others recommend the spring for stone fruit, while some again make it to depend upon the soil—preferring the spring if the soil be clay; on light soils, the fall. We prefer to set out in the spring; for the reason that the frosty winds, so prevalent during the winter, seem to dry up the trees when transplanted in the fall, thereby injuring and sometimes destroying their vitality. There can be no objection to taking up the tree in the fall and laying it in by the heel, if it be properly done, for in this way it is not exposed to wind and frost as much even as if left standing where it grew. It is often desirable to pursue this method in order to have the trees at hand, ready to be planted at any convenient time in the spring, and that we may obtain a better selection from the nurseries than sometimes it is possible to do in the spring. Before another season we shall endeavor to express our views of the proper method of heeling in, at least in Canada, and so illustrate the matter by appropriate engravings that the merest novice need not err.

Fruit Culture.

NEVER since the settlement of the country, we think, have the fruit growers of Western New York reaped such a golden harvest as the present season. The crop was large, the fruit fair, and the prices have been more than remunerative, for streets in the neighborhood of the docks and shipping warehouses have been blockaded with barrels of apples, and we observe the same state of things along the line of railroad and canal, all through the Western part of this State. The local papers in several of the leading villages have given estimates of the amounts received by the farmers in their several localities, and also the number of barrels shipped, but these, in most cases, are quite incomplete.

We have long thought that the leading business of Western New York would be the production of fruit for shipping. This opinion we have expressed on several occasions, and time only confirms the statement. Many this year will agree with us, who would not have done so before. The farmer who has in his pockets \$500 or \$1000, as the profits of a small orchard has an argument on this subject which he is not anxious to resist.—*Rural New Yorker*.

Cranberry Culture.

Why is it that this fruit is not cultivated and sent to market by more of our enterprising farmers? The *Boston Cultivator* gives an account of a swamp belonging to Dr. A. D. Miller, located about twenty-five miles from Boston, Mass., across which he constructed a dam; in the winter the swamp was flowed, and gravel drawn on to the ice and spread. In the spring the water was let off, and the ground planted with Cranberry plants, in drills, eighteen inches apart. The part planted contained about fourteen acres, and was so arranged that it could be covered with water, retained in a reservoir higher up on the brook, in a little more than an hour; thus protecting the plants from frost at any season. The crop this season was 1,100 barrels of very choice fruit, some of which brought fifteen dollars per barrel, though the average price was about twelve dollars per barrel. If the Canadian producer cannot get more than five dollars per barrel, in what way will he make fourteen acres of swamp yield him a harvest of five thousand dollars more easily than by planting it with cranberries?

Double Portulaca.



This beautiful novelty is proving itself worthy of all the praises that heralded its introduction last spring. It was hard to believe that we were to have portulacas as double as roses, and of not less than half a dozen different colours. But these astonishing promises were very satisfactorily fulfilled. About seventy-five of the plants produced perfectly double flowers, nearly an inch in diameter, of several shades of yellow and red, and a few of them striped. In habit, the plant resembles the common portulaca, flowering even more profusely. It does not bloom well in a cool or shady place, and in wet or protracted cloudy weather, the buds dropping off without opening; but under a cloudless sky, exposed to the full rays of the sun, it flowers abundantly. The seeds do not germinate fully, and, for the present at least, we must be satisfied if we succeed in getting more than half of them to grow.

Grape Culture.

THE *Maine Farmer*, speaking of the cultivation of grapes in that cold State, says that he is more than ever encouraged to believe that they will succeed in raising grapes not only for the table but for wine, and gives as his reasons, 1st, the introduction of new and earlier varieties, such as the Hartford Prolific, Clinton, Concord, Northern Muscadine and Delaware; 2nd, that although the past season was not a favorable one for the grape, the show of fruit was of a superior character; and 3rd, because they now had nurseries in the State where plants could be obtained that had become acclimated, and could, therefore, be planted with but little risk of loss.

If such expectations are correctly based upon such reasons, there surely can be no doubt but that we can grow grapes abundantly in Canada. Care is needed in the selection of vines to procure only those that have been grown from sound, healthy, well ripened wood; else the plants, if they live at all, will be feeble and unproductive.

Protecting Trees in Winter.

YORK trees are liable to the attacks of field-mice at this season, and no time should be lost in securing them from their ravages. Any one who has had a nice young orchard girdled by these little depredators, or even lost some favorite tree by reason of their sharp teeth, will appreciate the amount of mischief they are capable of doing. One very desirable point is to keep the ground in the vicinity of the trees so perfectly clean, free from weeds, grass, and all other material wherewith they can make themselves comfortable, that they will not stay with you, but seek their winter quarters where they can find something wherewith to build their "nests." But if this has not been done, a couple of horse-shoe draining tiles set so as to inclose the tree will prevent them from getting their teeth to the bark, though if the snow should fall so deep as to cover the tile, it would be necessary to add another story, lest they take advantage of the increased elevation afforded by the snow. Common wrapping paper thickly coated with tar, and wound around the trunk of each tree so as to reach from the ground above the snow line, and securely fastened by a little wire, will be found to keep them off. Heaping the earth around the tree to the height of a foot or so, and trampling the snow around the tree after each fall of snow, may be of some benefit, but is not a sure protection.

PREPARING SOIL FOR GARDENS.—There are several reasons why the soils of gardens should be made better than for ordinary farm crops. 1. Most of the products of gardens are of a succulent nature, or will otherwise bear high feeding, such as garden roots in general, plants whose leaves furnish food, as lettuce, cabbages, &c., or those which produce large and succulent fruits, as cucumbers, melons, squashes, &c. 2. As nearly all garden crops are the immediate food of man, while many farm crops are only the coarser food of animals, greater care and skill may properly be applied in bringing the former forward to a high degree of perfection. 3. The great amount of family

supplies which may be obtained from a half acre garden, provided the best soil is prepared for their growth, renders it a matter of equal importance and economy to give the soil the very best preparation. It rarely happens that there is much selection to be made in soils as we find them in nature, for gardening purposes, unless particular attention is given to the subject in choosing a site for a new dwelling. Generally, we have to take the land as we find it. Unless, therefore, we happen to find it just right, we should endeavor to improve it in the best manner. The principal means for making a perfect garden soil, are draining, trenching, and manuring.—*Annual Register*.

House Plants in Winter.

We present our readers with an engraving of a very neat, convenient, and cheap flower stand. It is made of wood, the sides glazed with ordinary window glass, and the top can be covered with a window sash, either fastened with hinges or not, just as you please.

This much better than an open stand is, the reason the plants are kept free from the dust, and the moisture is so that the plants have a constant humid atmosphere. The temperature is also made more uniform, the plants being in this way protected from sudden alternations of heat and cold that may take place in the room. The great difficulties in growing plants in the house are the excessive dryness of the air, the great heat of the rooms, and the frequent changes of temperature. All these are in a great degree obviated by this simple contrivance. Let it face the window where the bright sunlight streams in the longest, for plants will not be vigorous unless they have the direct sunlight during some part of the day. Never use a glazed pot or porcelain jar, but always a common clay pot. Let there be an inch of broken crock or charcoal at the bottom of the pot, that any surplus water may readily drain off; and never allow water to stand in the saucer, if you use one. At night, if there be danger of the plants being chilled by remaining near the window, the stand may be rolled out into the middle of the room. In this way there may be no lack of flowers all the winter.

A few of the profuse-blooming roses, such as *Hermosa*, which is a pale rose colour; *Aimee Vibert*, pure white; *Gloire de Dijon*, beautiful creamy yellow; and *Sanguinea*, a rich deep crimson; with the scarlet *Tom Thumb* geranium, and a few of the most distinct *Verbenas*, such as *Africa*, a dark purple; *Defiance*, a brilliant scarlet; *King of Sardinia*, a deep crimson; and *Evening Star*, a scarlet with lemon eye; will make a most delightful collection of plants that will keep up a constant bloom all the winter.

